**ASHREIGNEY PARISH COUNCIL.**

Minutes of the meeting of Ashreigney Parish Council which was held on

Tuesday, 17th August 2021 at 8pm in Ashreigney Village Hall.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Present: | Agenda: |
| Mr. Hellyer – Chairman.Mr. S. Johns.Dr. S. Kirkup.Mr. P.Middleton.Mr. S. Middleton.Mr. A. Thorne.Mrs. S. Tillyer.C. Councillor A. Saywell.D.Councillor S. Newton. | 1. Chairman’s welcome.2. Public Question Time.3. Apologies.4. Minutes.5. Matters Arising.6. Correspondence.7. Planning.8. Financials.9. Highways.10. Reports.11. Date of next meeting. |

1. Chairman’s welcome: The Chairman welcomed attendees to the meeting.

2. Public Question Time: There was no PQT.

3. Apologies: Apologies were received from Mr. Cole and Mr. Parfitt.

4. Minutes: The Clerk apologised for the late circulation of minutes of the Parish Council meeting held in July 2021. It was agreed to confirm these minutes at the September meeting to allow Councillors adequate time to peruse them.

5. Matters Arising:

5.1: The Clerk reported that following the meeting held in July which Mr. Avery from TDC attended details of funding opportunities have been received. This information has been forwarded to the Village Hall Restoration Committee as well as the Church Council for their information.

5.2: The Opening of the Play Area: The Chairman reported that the event was attended by those that there pivotal in raising the necessary funds to create the play area in Ashreigney. It was noted how the area benefited the parish during the Covid 19 lockdowns. A financial report to be provided following the payment of expenses.

5.3: The Clerk reported that drainage issues close to High Trees and Forget Me Not Cottage have been reported to DCC via the website facility.

5.4: There was a discussion on the re-instatement of white lines in Ashreigney, close to the bus shelter, as well as in Riddlecombe where changes in road markings have altered priority at a junction on the outskirts of the village.

5.5: The repairs required to the Ashreigney bus shelter were discussed. It was proposed that

Mr. French be contacted regarding the work required.

It was also proposed that Mr. Morris be asked to move the emergency equipment boxes in both bus shelters to increase room now that the school bus routes have increased.

5.6: The creation of a hybrid/remote meeting facility in Ashreigney Village Hall:

The Clerk reported that she has contacted a local company regarding the project. The dimensions of the Village Hall are to be provided and quotes for suitable equipment will then be calculated.

6. Correspondence:

6.1: The Clerk reported that a complaint has been made that some plants have been strimmed on the boundary of the Village Green. This is believed to have happened when the Village Green was being mowed. Councillors agreed that there are no defined boundaries on the Village Green, and though the incident is unfortunate it is not the responsibility of the Parish Council.

6.2: A Parishioner has requested that the route of a footpath to be confirmed to avoid walkers passing close to their property. The PROW Warden, at DCC, who is responsible for the area is to be contacted for advice.

*Page 1 of 3*

7. Planning:

7.1: Eaglescott Airfield.

 Councillor Johns declared a personal interest in the agenda item.

The application to increase the size of the Clubhouse was discussed, together with the flying activity from the airfield. DC Newton was clear that a) the MOD require landowner’s permission to land and b) the owner of Eaglescott must be involved at some level with flying procedures.

An action group have been actively pursuing complaints of low flying aircraft and are seeking legal advice. The Chief Executive of NDC. Ken Miles, is very aware of the situation as are local MPs Saline Saxby and Geoffrey Cox. The situation is very much ongoing.

7.2: The proposed Solar Park at Coldharbour Farm. Application 1/0823/2021/FULM.

Councillors Philip Middleton and Stephen Middleton each declared a pecuniary interest in the planning application as they are involved in the proposed development.

The application was discussed by Councillors and concerns were expressed regarding the lack of community engagement as well as the lack of communication from the representative of the company dealing with the application.

The potential community benefit payment for Ashreigney and Riddlecombe was also discussed, and comparisons were drawn to the sum offered in association with a solar development of a similar size on the outskirts of Barnstaple. It has become clear that there are no set protocol for payments relating to projects of this nature, and advice is hard to find.

Councillors agreed to request an extension to the response time from TDC, as Consultees to the project.

7.3: Stonechat Meadow:

The Clerk reported that the application for change of use at Stonechat Meadow has been withdrawn.

8. Financials:

8.1: The Clerk reported that grant funding of £600 has been received from TDC as part of the Councillor Grant Scheme. (An application was made for financial support to create a hybrid meeting facility at the Village Hall). However, owing to an error on the part of TDC a refund is due of £254 to rectify the over payment. Payment was proposed by Mr. Thorne and seconded by

Mrs. Tillyer. ( Cheque 739). District Councillor Newton was thanked for offering his support for the project.

8.2: Reimbursement of expenses – A payment of £29.60p was due to Mrs. Tillyer in respect of expenses incurred for the opening of the parish play area. Payment was proposed by Mr. S. Middleton and Mr. S. Johns. (Cheque 740).

Dr. Kirkup waived the expenses due to her and Mr. Hellyer sponsored the meat purchased for the event by reimbursing Mr. & Mrs. Cole.

9. Highways:

The location of salt boxes were confirmed. It was agreed that owing to the newly resurfaced road surface from Ham Cross to Tiddywater a salt box is required on the route.

The Clerk was asked to enquire about providing salt boxes in Riddlecombe and on the road from Moorwater to Colehouse where an accident has already occurred in freezing conditions.

10. Reports|:

10.1: County Councillor’s Report:

County Councillor Saywell reported that devolution talks are underway.

The Covid 19 infection rate in Devon was confirmed as high, but hospital admissions are low. Councillors were encouraged to promote vaccination, wherever possible, to maintain the high response and manage the rate of infection.

C. Councillor Saywell is to confirm who is the Highways Officer for Ashreigney and Riddlecombe and provide contact details to the Clerk.

10.2: District Councillor’s Report:

District Councillor Newton reported that Torridge District Council are working to renew the leisure centre service contracts in the area.

*Page 2 of 3*

A consultation exercise is to take place to explore providing low cost housing as the current system is not working effectively. It is clear that there is a social requirement to meet needs, and District Councils in some areas are building their own houses which requires cash backing.

A site for a new environmental centre has been procured which will increase capacity and create financial benefits for TDC as well as an environmental benefit for the district.

The next budget is being worked on. Covid has affected finances and though the Government have maintained financial support surpluses are to be repaid. Business rate income has fallen but this has been compensated by the Government. Torridge District have coped well with the Covid storm in comparison with some other District Councils.

11. Date of next meeting: The date of the next meeting of Ashreigney Parish Council was confirmed as Tuesday, 21st September 2021 at 8pm in Ashreigney Village Hall.

The Chairman thanked Councillors for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Signed: Dated:

*Page 3 of 3.*