**ASHREIGNEY PARISH COUNCIL**.

A meeting of Ashreigney Parish Council was held on Tuesday, 18th May 2021 at 7.30pm in Ashreigney Village Hall.

This was the Parish Council Annual Meeting and followed the Annual Parish Meeting.

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| Councillors Present at Meeting: Clerk: Katherine Cole. |
| Mr. Cole.  Mr. Hellyer.  Mr. Johns.  Dr. S. Kirkup.  Mr. P. Middleton.  Mr. S. Middleton.  Mr. J. Parfitt.  Mr. A. Thorne.  Mrs. S. Tillyer.  District Councillor Newton. |

1. Election of Chairman: The Vice-Chairman Mr. Parfitt opened the meeting and requested nominations for Chairman of Ashreigney Parish Council. Dr. Kirkup proposed that Mr. Hellyer continue as Chairman, and this was seconded by Mr. Cole. Councillors approved this unanimously and Mr. Hellyer accepted the nomination.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman: The Chairman took the Chair and asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Cole proposed the Mr. Parfitt be re-elected and this was seconded by Mr. Johns.

Councillors all agreed this proposal and Mr. Parfitt agreed to stand again.

3. Election of PC Representatives on the Village Hall Committee: The Parish Council are currently represented on the Village Hall Committee by Mr. Hellyer (as Chairman of Parish Council) and Mr. Parfitt. It was agreed that the Parish Council need to be represented on the VH Committee and both Councillors agreed to stand again. (Mr. Parfitt expressed his concerns that work pressures may prevent him attending some meetings).

It was proposed and seconded unanimously by Councillors that the Parish Council Representatives remain the same. Both Councillors agreed to continue acting as representatives of the Parish Council.

3.1: The Clerk read a letter received from the Village Hall Steering Group regarding minor changes made to the preferred plans for the refurbishment of the Village Hall. The amended plans were available at the meeting, and Councillors all agreed that the proposed change was beneficial.

(The Chairman expressed his concerns regarding emergency exits, which will be addressed in the future as the plans are finalised). The Clerk to write to the Steering Group to confirm the Parish Council’s support.

Councillors agreed that the refurbishment of the Village Hall needs to be endorsed by the Parish Council, and both parties need to be engaged for the benefit of the community.

It was also agreed that it would be beneficial for the Parish Council to receive minutes of the Steering Group meetings for their information.

The Clerk reported that she has attended a VAT training course to be up to date with the current VAT regulations regarding parish projects, such as the hall renovation.

4. P3 Representatives/Officers: The Clerk reported that Mr. & Mrs. S. Dart are happy to walk the PROW in the parish and communicate with Mrs. Boundy who will continue as P3 Officer Councillors were all supportive of this arrangement.

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4.1: The Clerk proposed including an article in the Ashcombe to ask for contributions from Parishioners to be included in a book of Parish walks. (A request on social media, and the success of books of this nature in neighbouring parishes, indicates that this would be well received in the community. There are funds that will help cover the costs of production, and it could a useful means of requesting walkers to keep to the designated footpaths and follow the Country Code).

5. Apologies for absence: Apologies were offered from County Councillor Saywell.

6. Public Question Time: None.

7. Declarations of interest in Agenda items: Councillors Mr. P. Middleton and Mr. S. Middleton declared an interest on an agenda item listed in planning to discuss the proposed Coldharbour Solar Park.

8. Dog bins: The Clerk confirmed that thanks to input from DC Newton information has been received from TDC regarding the installation of additional dog bins in the Parish. The cost is £142.94 (including VAT) per bin which includes fitting and maintenance.

A list was compiled of suitable sites for additional bins which include Bush Corner, Ham Barn, Burridge Cross as well as sites in Riddlecombe and on the footpath at Tiddywater. The Clerk to complete the necessary paperwork and submit to TDC.

Mrs. Tillyer made the point that Riddlecombe have been proactive with signs and have seen an improvement in dog fouling.

9. Correspondence: The Clerk reported that a complaint has been received regarding the bus shelter in Ashreigney, and its state of repair. The Clerk confirmed that she has mentioned the work required to Mr. Parker. Mr. Thorne to speak to Mr. Parker on behalf of the P.Council.

9.1: A newsletter was available which included information regarding patient transport. It was proposed that this may be a subject worth exploring in the future as transport arrangements to hospital seem to cause issues occasionally with in the Parish. This is not a Covid related issue.

The Clerk confirmed that she has done some research and discovered additional contact information which may prove to be useful and worth publishing.

10. Planning: Application Ref 1/0498/2021/FUL – Proposed extension to converted barn at Bridge Farm. Councillors were requested to look at the application on the TDC website. A site visit is to be conducted by Mr. Johns and Mr. Parfitt.

10.1: Proposed Solar Farm at Coldharbour Farm. The improved Community Benefit Offer was discussed. The deadline for responding is the 15th June and Councillors discussed the financial offer. Comparisons were drawn with an almost identical project in the area of Fremington, Horwood, Fremington and Newton Tracey which has been awarded a Community Benefit Payment which is considerably higher than the offer relating to the Coldharbour project.

Mr. S. Middleton pointed out that the landowners involved in the project are not party to Community Payment discussions.

Councillors were clear that this is a difficult situation, and the Parish must have no doubt that the Parish Council has done everything in its power to secure a satisfactory result. Further advise to be sought.

10.2: Firsdon Farm: Mr. S. Middleton reported that he had carried out a site visit at Firsdon Farm. There were no issues anticipated with access, though there were some queries with roof drainage.

11. Financials: There were no invoices to be paid.

11.1: Insurance renewals. The Clerk reported that the insurance renewals will be received shortly. It was agreed that if the policy was not tied into a three year agreement quotes should be obtained.

12: Contributions to the Ashcombe: The Clerk requested approval for the following items to be included in the June edition of the Ashcombe:

a. A reminder of the responsibilities of being a dog owner.

b. A request for input for compiling the book of Parish Walks.

c. A diary date for a celebration of the children’s play area in Ashreigney-31st July 2021. More details to follow.

13: Matters to be carried forward. None.

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14: It was agreed to hold a remote meeting on 2nd June at 8pm to discuss the Community Benefit Payment. The next full Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 15th June 2021.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed:

Dated:

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