

ASHREIGNEY PARISH COUNCIL.

A meeting of Ashreigney Parish Council was held on Tuesday, 17th March 2020, commencing at 7.30pm, in Ashreigney Village Hall.

1. Chairman's welcome: The Chairman, Mr. Hellyer, welcomed Members of the Parish, as well as Councillors to the March 2020 meeting of Ashreigney Parish Council.
Councillors present were: District Councillor Newton, Mr. Cole, Dr. Kirkup and Mr. Parfitt.
Members of the Parish/Public: Mrs. Barker, Mr. Lewis, Mr. & Mrs. Partridge, Mrs. Paterson-Deacon, Mr. Quinn and Rachael Taylor (Community Worker).
Owing to the fastmoving developments of the Coronavirus/Covid 19 situation the meeting took the form of an emergency meeting.

2. Public Question Time: The Chairman confirmed that the original agenda was no longer relevant, and opened the meeting to the floor for PQT.

The Coronavirus situation, and the Parish Council response was brought forward for discussion.

The Chairman explained that the Clerk had been largely responsible for the emergency arrangements, and invited her to update the meeting on the situation.

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Emergency Plan (PEP) includes plans for a pandemic flu outbreak and this has formed the basis of the plans already in place.

It was confirmed that 'an open letter' type document, from the Parish Council, had been composed for circulation around the Parish. As self-isolation was a distinct possibility for some members of the community the letter aimed to reassure Parishioners as well as confirm that emergency protocol will be in place, and a support network set up and available to anyone requiring help. Draft copies were available for perusal, and immediate distribution.

A Coronavirus fact sheet, with advice on preventative measures etc was available.

Wallingbrook Health Centre had been contacted and protocol confirmed regarding third parties collecting medication. Draft letters had been prepared, which had been composed with guidance from the Health Centre, for volunteers collecting prescriptions for others.

The Clerk went on to say that the Parish Council website has been updated with information, and it will be updated regularly.

At this point a Member of the Parish questioned the validity of the Parish Council website.

The Clerk explained that it is a legal requirement for all Parish Councils to have their own, independent website.

The Clerk went on to say that current advice is to utilize all means of communication. With this in mind an Ashreigney Parish Facebook page has been set up to exploit social media.

The Clerk added that she is concerned that any Parishioners who are not confident with IT will miss important information. Hard copies of information will be available on the noticeboards in the bus shelters in Ashreigney and Riddlecombe.

Representatives from the Village Hall Committee, who were present, voted for the Hall to be kept open during daylight hours to allow information to be available. This will be reviewed as the situation develops.

The Clerk concluded by stating that she considered the groundwork was in place to allow the PEP to be moved forward by creating a 'pyramid system' to maintain two-way information throughout the Parish.

A period of intense Q&A followed resulting in Mr. Richard Quinn coming forward and introducing himself to Parish Councillors. Mr. Quinn went on to say that his background is in dealing with emergency situations, and he offered his support in the current situation. The Clerk pointed out that Mr. Moody had worked with the Parish Council on preparing the PEP thus far, and she felt that he should be contacted.

Mr. Quinn confirmed that he would contact Mr. Moody himself, and suggested that he meet with the Clerk the following morning to discuss the Emergency Plan further.

Mr. Parfitt proposed that Mr. Quinn become involved with developing the plan.

This concluded the business of PQT.

3. Apologies: Apologies were offered from Mrs. S. Tillyer, Mr. S. Johns, Mr. P. Middleton, Mr. S. Middleton and Mr. Thorne.
4. Planning: Planning application 1/0059/2020/FUL has been submitted to Torridge District Council. This application is for the development of 'Service roads to provide access to existing pheasant rearing huts' on land at Oakmead, Dolton, Devon. Councillors discussed the application and questioned the access of the new roads. The access point of the new road on to the existing main road (A3124) is considered dangerous by Councillors, and their concerns will be reported back to TDC.
5. VE Day Celebrations: The Clerk reported that the Ashreigney Village Hall Steering Group are organising a vintage themed tea party for VE Day and have asked if the Parish Council would provide prosecco for the event, as a contribution to the celebrations. Councillors agreed that they consider it important to mark the significant occasion, but would prefer to organise an event and present the children in the parish with a commemorative medal/mug. It was noted that the present Coronavirus situation is likely to affect all events planned in the near future. The Clerk to confirm prices etc of commemorative items.
6. Matters to be carried forward: The date of the next routine meeting is Tuesday, 21st April. This is likely to change and will be adjusted according to the developing situation. The Chairman thanked Councillors for their attendance, and wished them well in the current crisis. The meeting was declared closed at 9.20pm.