

ASHREIGNEY PARISH COUNCIL.

Minutes of the meeting of Ashreigney Parish Council held on

Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2020, commencing at 7.30pm,

in Ashreigney Village Hall.

1. Chairman's welcome: The Chairman, Mr. Hellyer, welcomed Parish Councillors to the February meeting of Ashreigney Parish Council.  
Councillors in attendance were: County Councillor Andrew Saywell, District Councillor Simon Newton and Parish Councillors Dr. Kirkup, Mrs. Tillyer, Mr. Cole, Mr. Johns, Mr. P. Middleton, Mr. S. Middleton and Mr. Thorne.  
There were no members of the public in attendance.
2. Public Question Time: There was no PQT.
3. Apologies: There were no apologies.
4. Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held in January 2020 had been circulated prior to the meeting, and were approved by Councillors allowing the Chairman to sign them as an accurate record of events.
5. Matters arising:  
Relocation of fitness equipment: Relocating an item of fitness equipment from its current position at the Village Hall was discussed. Advice had been sought from TK Play, and a site visit will be made with Mr. Warrington and Councillors to discuss further. Mr Thorne to speak to Mrs. Middleton regarding a prospective site. It was also suggested that a bench could be positioned in an appropriate site on the verge from Ashreigney towards Hook Farm.  
Roads: Attention was drawn to the poor state of the roads in the Parish. It was agreed that the recent appalling weather conditions has aggravated the situation.  
Eaglescott: The issues at Eaglescott, as raised at the meeting held in January, were briefly discussed. There has been no correspondence from ND Council relating to the matter. Councillors noted that the planes in question don't land at the airfield, but hover and loop which creates the noise disturbance.  
Climate Working Groups: Some parishes have created Climate Change Working Groups, and Torridge District Council are offering support to these groups.  
Mrs. Tillyer and Mr. S. Middleton expressed their interest in this.
6. Planning: The situation at Stonechat Meadow was discussed (1/0032/2020/COU).  
District Councillor Newton confirmed that he has looked in to the history of the application, and past history dictates that careful decision making is required. The question was also asked if planning permission is required for the siting of tents on a commercial basis. Parish Councillors confirmed their reluctance to carry out a site visit, owing to history.  
D.C Newton will take the matter back to the Planning Department at TDC, de-code  
And report back to Ashreigney Parish Council.
7. P3: The Clerk requested that Councillors be mindful of any PROW issues that may require addressing. It was confirmed that some areas require strimming (Lake and Chichisters).  
Chris Herniman will be contacted. It was suggested that a booklet, detailing walks in the Parish, would be of local benefit. D.C. Newton confirmed that Dolton Parish have such a publication, which has been well received - a copy, and any further information will be sent to the Clerk.  
Mr. Hillier will be contacted, by the Clerk, and invited to help the Parish Council with this.

8. Financials: An invoice raised by TK Play was due to be paid. The sum of £4350.00 was due for a picnic table and benches. Payment was proposed by Mr. Parfitt and seconded by Mrs. Tillyer.
9. Village Hall Meeting: The recent meeting of Ashreigney Village Hall Committee was attended by Mr. Hellyer on behalf of Ashreigney Parish Council. Mr. Hellyer clarified the Trustee situation, and reported that the original constitution should be updated. Mr. Hellyer also noted that Parish Council procedure varies from that of the Village Hall Committee.  
Mr. Hellyer clarified points of the revised constitution.  
Mr. Hellyer and Mr. Parfitt will attend the next Village Hall Committee meeting as Parish Council Representatives.
10. County Councillor's Report: County Councillor Saywell confirmed the situation with the Plough Arts Centre at Torrington. A crowd funding appeal has been launched, which is working towards a successful outcome. C.C Saywell stressed the importance of The Plough to the locality from a health and well being prospective. The current financial difficulties have been caused by a combination of factors, including an increase in running costs.

C.C Saywell confirmed that the recent Devon County Council full Council Meeting agreed an increase in budget. (Increasing from £498m to £541m).

There has also been a significant increase in the Adult & Social Care budget – 10% increase to 23.7m. Children's services have a budget increase of 8.5%. Highways will benefit from a 5% increase to 2.8m, with an additional budget for drainage.

DCC have to balance the high demand for Adult Social Care and Children's services with the demands from highways etc.

There will be a 1.99% increase on Precept to offer additional support to the fire service. The fire stations at Budleigh and Topsham are to be relocated with staff redeployed. The payment structure will also be adjusted for staff, particularly retained staff, with 'payment by availability' introduced. The fire service will also be working in the community promoting safety and prevention.

C.C Saywell described potholes as being like the flu – a pandemic. The ground is saturated adding to drainage issues. Councillors were encouraged to continue to report surface defects on the online portal - repairs are carried out when strict criteria is met. (Contact C.C Saywell directly if repairs are not carried out a month or so after reporting. DCC is a 'demand led' organisation). Making roads safe is a priority, and ongoing.

11. District Councillor's Report: D.C Newton confirmed that the Resources Committee at TDC are meeting regarding the future of The Plough. There is sympathy within TDC, but finances are tight. A budget and business plan are available, and they support the fact that this is a regional issue, not just a TDC concern. Cultural centres on the scale of The Plough are rare – similar organisations in other areas receive Local Government Grant funding.

Budget setting – it is likely that TDC will set the maximum precept available to balance the books.

The strategic plan for the next four years is being worked on, and progress is being made.

12. Any Other Business: The Chairman confirmed that the next meeting of Ashreigney Parish Council will be held on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.30. Councillors were thanked for their attendance, and the meeting was declared closed at 9.30pm.

