

## **ASHPRINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the PARISH COUNCIL MEETING on Thursday January 3<sup>rd</sup>. 2019 at 7.30 pm in Ashprington Village Hall

Present; Cllr Stocks {Chair}, Cllr M Pearey, Cllr L.Green, Cllr T.Green, Cllr Thompson {Vice Chair}.

Also present Michael Read, Clerk, County Cllr J.Hawkins.

1. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda
2. Apologies. Cllr Seeley, P Macy, P3 Co Ordinator, District Cllr Tucker,
3. The minutes of the Parish Council meeting dated December 6th, 2018 were approved.
4. Matters arising from the meeting of December 6th<sup>th</sup> 2018, not on the agenda.

### Budget Briefing from SHDC and DCC

The Chair and Vice Chair attended the above meeting. John Hart, DCC Leader, outlined the challenges facing the Council most particularly that their budget will have to be reduced by £11 million next year. John Tucker SHDC then addressed the room advising that they too would have to make savings of £1 million. Both leaders then took questions from the floor.

### Parish Lengthsman

The Chair reported interest in the role from two tradesmen although the position will need to be advertised. It was agreed that whoever was appointed, it would be essential that they have received {or will receive} Chapter 8 training and have relevant insurance and tools. They will be self employed and the Council agreed that they should be paid in the range between £15 and £20 per hour dependent on a number of factors. Initially it is proposed that circa 30 hours per annum might be required including survey work prior to the winter period. The Chair will produce a sample recruitment advertisement based on one produced by Staverton Parish Council and the Clerk will ascertain costs of advertisement from Totnes News Group.

### 5. County Councillor Report

Cllr Hawkins lamented the shortage of funds for work such as pothole repairs and other maintenance. He reported that budgets are again very tight for Devon County Council a fact reiterated at the briefing attended by the Chair and Vice chair.

### District Councillor Report

Cllr Tucker was unable to attend.

### 6. Tree Warden Report

Nothing to report. Wardens not present.

### 7. Planning

3710/18/TCA Ashprington House. Coppice T1 Cypress. No Objections SHDC.

3694/18/FUL Coombe Park. Erection of solar array. Support.

3481/18/VAR Menzies, Duck Cottage. Variation of Condition. Conditional Approval SHDC

Post Barn, Ashprington. Potential Planning Breach. SHDC acknowledged receipt. Update on Holly Villas. The Clerk reported that there was no planning breach regarding replacement windows but agreed to obtain clarification on an Article Four Direction.

#### 8. Correspondence.

Letter of thanks received from Citizens Advice for the donation. An email with photographic evidence attached, has been received from a parishioner complaining about selfish and inconsiderate parking in the vicinity of Hill Park and Orchard Close. He felt that patrons on the Durant Arms might be responsible. The Chair has spoken to the complainant and the publican. Parishioners over the years have stated preference to avoid double yellow lines as unsightly and expensive to arrange. It was agreed that a notice be placed in the Parish Magazine, laminated notices be placed at the Durant and elsewhere in the village requesting that villagers and residents park safely {so as to allow free passage for emergency vehicles and the gritting lorry} AVH Committee will also debate at their meeting on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### 9. Finance.

Bank Balances Treasures. A/c £15675.78, P3 - £353.84, Cemetery A/C- £487.71. Accounts Approved and Payable - A/cs payable - Clerks Salary for October 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>.- Net -£655.30-, Income tax thereon - £437.20. Parish Expenses, October 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. - £151.49. Cemetery Grass cutting and inside hedges for 2018, J. Todd - £600.00. Income - Cemetery Fees - £120.0

#### 10. Village Hall Report

The Winter Lunch run by the Village Hall Committee was, as usual, a very successful event. 74 people were provided with an excellent meal and £215 was raised in the raffle that will go to Totnes Caring.

#### 11. Ash Meadow Report.

Very busy working on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan as many people as possible needed between 10 and 12. Barry to use hired digger to prepare trench at back of composting bin and then sleepers have to be reset, this is very heavy work and volunteers should come armed with spades etc. Other tasks to be completed include some chain sawing, fence repair and composting. Reminder of Wassail , Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> January - meet at war memorial at 5-45 see posters for more details. Apple cakes needed.

#### 12. P3 Report

Pam Macey could not be present but reported that the footpath surveys would be completed by the due date. Contact will be made this week to commission the remedial work on Lime Lane. {a meeting has since been arranged to inspect the lane and agree the work required.}

#### 13.1 2019/2020 Precept Consideration

The Council discussed at length where to set the Parish Precept Figure for the next financial year and unanimously agreed to raise the figure to £8500 with effect from April 2019. Additional funds need to be set aside for amongst others, parish maintenance {at least £600}, 50% of the likely cost of the May Elections {c. £375}, additional salary already agreed for the clerk in 2018 {£280.00}. Cemetery maintenance costs have gone up and income is currently down. The parish may also need to

purchase a projector for use in parish meetings next financial year at a cost of at least £300.00.

The overall effect of the increase will mean that an average Band D council tax payer will see their parish tax rise to £32.83 per annum or 63 pence per week. This figure being lower than most adjacent parishes.

### **13.2 Reviewing Planning Applications Electronically.**

With effect from April 1<sup>st</sup>, SHDC have decided to issue all planning application electronically with no paper back up. The Council may need to purchase a projector to do this {see above}

### **13.3 Snow Warden**

A "Snow Planning Document" has been prepared by Kevan Throgmorton, our Warden, and a copy is on every noticeboard and will be on our website. Our winter supply of grit has been received.

### **13.4 Support Letter for Commercial Pontoon at Kingswear.**

A letter of support for the above project will be submitted by the Council and signed by the Chair.

The Chair is pursuing the gentleman who painted signs on our roads for an event last year which should have been washed away.

We still await a date for the re positioning by BT of a telegraph pole and line at Tuckenhay.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Next Meeting -Thursday February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm, Ashprington Village Hall  
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