

Ashbrittle Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 15th July 2019 at 7.00 p.m.

Councillors Present:

Charles Doble (Chairman), Helena Massie, Jeremy Robbins, Vicky Hughes.

Also Present: Dave Mansell, District Councillor, Somerset West and Taunton.

1. Apologies for absence: Rob Simpson

2. Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2019 were agreed as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising: i) The clock repairer has been informed about the mis-timing and will be coming to fix this. ii) The PCC will discuss the management of the churchyard for parishioners and wildlife.

4. Reports from Councillors:

- i) **Highways and Planning** (Charles Doble) PLANNING i) Two separate applications from Mr Beard at Burrow Farm had been received and were discussed. Comments, where relevant, would be passed to the planning department. A planning application for Hele Farm at Waterrow was also discussed. HIGHWAYS i) Advice has been received that the speed limit through Ashbrittle village cannot be changed. Tracebridge residents have installed 'Twenty is plenty' and 'Slow: children and animals' signs. We will continue to monitor and inform our PCSO of any speeding issues. ii) CD is seeking contactors' quotes for clearing the ditch at the west side/Rectory Road end of the village. It has become blocked with silt and hedge cuttings. The Parish Council will have to fund this work as few funds available from District Council.
- ii) **Finance** (Helena Massie) i) HM presented the accounts to date. Payment had been made to the Village Hall for room hire. Ashbrittle Parish Council will donate £100 annually to the Parish News as it was agreed this is such a positive asset in the community. CD and VH (as members of the PCC) left the room while the grants were discussed. A grant was made for the upkeep of the church and a sum of £50 for church cleaning supplies.
- iii) **Footpaths** HM reported meeting a large party of walkers who were looking for a footpath from Tracebridge, along the river below Ashbrittle Stud. As far as the councillors are aware, no footpath exists here and none is shown on the OS map, but checks will be made.
- iv) **Community Matters** i) HM reported that the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service had been awarded to the Wiveliscombe Area Partnership for managing Wivey Link. Congratulations to them. ii) HM is the Emergency Committee member for our community.

v) **SWaT update** Dave Mansell, as SWaT District Councillor updated the Parish Council. The merge of the two councils has been completed, with 20% job losses and new departmental structures. The planning department is particularly stretched and all planning will be electronically processed from now on. The council raised concerns about downloading speeds for large documents so Dave will address faster broadband at the District Council. Dave still has an environmental scrutiny brief and is examining waste management. The council has a stronger environmental focus; all councils have 'climate emergency motions' as nationally and locally, the move is towards carbon neutrality. Dave said there was a demand for a new performance venue in Taunton, possibly at the Firepool development where housing was being completed first. JR asked about the community levy on such large developments and whether benefits filter down to rural communities such as ours. Dave was warmly thanked for his interesting report.

5. **Any other business** None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 7pm on Thursday 12th September 2019

The meeting closed at 8.50pm.