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| **ASHFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  PARISH CLERK: MRS SUE SQUIRE, HAXLEA, 2 THREEWAYS, BRATTON FLEMING, BARNSTAPLE, DEVON. EX31 4TG.  TEL: 01598 710526. E-MAIL: sue@suesquire.com  CHAIRMAN: Councillor Philip Hughes, Firs Croft, Strand Lane, Ashford, EX31 4BY.  Tel: 01271 345378 | |
| **TO ALL COUNCILLORS:**  You are hereby summoned to a Parish Council Meeting on Thursday, 19 December 2019 **in the Church Hall at 7.30pm.** The Agenda is detailed below.  Sue Squire, Parish Clerk. 14 December 2019 | |
| **No.** | **Item** |
| 1. | **Items raised by members of the public.** *It should be noted that representations by members of the public are permitted for a maximum of 3 minutes.* |
| 2. | **Apologies.** |
| 3. | **Declarations of Interest.** |
| 4. | **Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 November 2019.** |
| 5. | **Reports:**  **5.1 Police.**  The December 2019 Newsletter has been received and circulated.  PCSO Kingdon has advised that he has been transferred to the Barnstaple Neighbourhood Beat Area for the time being.  **5.2 County Councillor Mrs C Chugg.**  **5.3 District Councillor Mrs A Davis.**    **5.4 Councillor V Lawson.** Defibrillator Check.  The Clerk has submitted the monthly report to South Western Ambulance Service.  **5.5 Councillor M Moss, Wildlife Warden.** To receive any report relevant to the Parish.  **5.6 Communications Committee.** Councillor Hall.  To note that five companies have been invited to quote to establish a village email network. The deadline date for quotations to be received is 31/12/19. The Terms of Reference for this Committee allows expenses up to £500 to be incurred. Should the quotes exceed £500 agreement from full Council will be required to proceed.  **5.7 Climate Emergency Declaration.** Councillor Moss.  A document ‘How to become Carbon Neutral’ has been circulated to Councillors for information and further attention.  To note that the Clerk has sent the current Emergency Plan to Mr M Rich of Communities Together.  **5.8 Councillor Hughes:**   * Report on site meeting with Highway Officers * Speeding car through the village, in collision with horse on the Ashford to Heanton top road * Carpet cleaning scam   **5.9 Councillor Moss** will suggest as a result of an article in North Devon Council Weekly Information Sheet that the Parish Council investigate the possibility of following up obtaining free landmark trees (maximum of two). A suitable site would need to be found. |
| 6. | **Matters Arising:**  **6.1 School Transport for children living in Ashford.** To note that a letter of representation to DCC was drafted by Councillor Hughes and forwarded by the Clerk to DCC and a reply received where the stance of DCC has not changed.  **6.2 Three emails of representation read at the last meeting.** To note that these have been responded to.  **6.3 Land at Meadowside proposed for a wildflower area.** To note that co-ordinates have been sent to County Councillor Mrs Chugg which she has followed up and a reply received that DCC would not just give up land which is highway maintained at public expense. It would need to go through a Stopping Up Order which is legal, lengthy and costly process.  If the project is in connection with Life on the Verge ecology project, it would need to be directed to another officer.  Information on the initiative and what DCC are asking communities to do can be found on the DCC website –  https://www.devon.gov.uk/environment/wildlife/managing-verges-for-wildlife  **6.4 Ashford Welcome Leaflet.** Councillor Mrs Bosley to confirm that she has updated the document.  **6.5 North Devon Council Community Governance Review.**  To note that the Clerk has conveyed the feeling of Councillors to North Devon Council for the present arrangements to stay the same.  **6.5 Tree Planting / Free Trees.** To note that Councillor Mrs Sampson has advised the type of trees required which the Clerk will order on 6/1/20 when the Woodland Trust are accepting orders again.  **6.6 Grit Bin at Strand Lane.** To note if the bin is in place. |
| 7. | **Planning & Planning Correspondence.** To consider the following Application:  **7.1 Planning Applications.** At the time of preparing the Agenda, there were no Planning Applications to consider.  **7.2 Planning Correspondence.** To note the following North Devon Council Decision Notice: **APPROVAL** for Application 70589 – alterations and extension to dwelling – Solway, Ashfield Lane, Ashford.  **7.3 Visit of Mr M Tichford, Head of Place, North Devon Council.**  No reply has yet been received in connection with items raised at the October meeting.  **7.4 Reporting of alleged unauthorized planning issues to the Enforcement Department.** The Clerk will give further details. |
| 8. | **Finance.**  **8.1 Balances.** To be tabled at the Meeting. Budgetary figures up to the end of November 2019 will be circulated to Councillors.  **8.2 To authorise the following payments:**  **Mrs S Squire** December Salary (Councillors will be given the details) **Redacted under DPA**  **HMRC**  November PAYE **£40.40**  **North Devon Council** Recharge for Parish Election on 2 May 2019 **£607.05**  **8.3 Grass Cutting Contract.** To note that the successful and unsuccessful contractors have been advised.  **8.4 Lengthsman Type Duties.** To note that the successful and unsuccessful contractors have been advised.  **8.5 2020/21 Budget Precept.** To note that the paperwork has been completed and submitted to North Devon Council.  **8.6 Amendment of Bank Mandate to include additional cheque signatories.** The Clerk is waiting for a paper copy of the Mandate to be received from the Business Banking Department. |
| 9. | **Correspondence.** Notices and publications received will be put on the table to see, read and go in the circulation bag.  **9.1 DCC.** Grass cutting 2020/21 Agreement paperwork received. The allocation towards the cost will be £121.  To agree that the Clerk completes and returns the paperwork.  **9.2 BT.** Proposal to remove the public telephone kiosk at Strand Lane due to little use. The number of calls in the last 12 months total 8. |
| 10. | **Matters raised by Councillors / Clerk.**  **10.1 Councillor Mrs Bosley.** To consider the suggestion of approaching Pilton PCC regarding a joint Cemetery as it is understood that Pilton Churchyard is, like Ashford’s, almost full. |
| 11. | **Matters raised by the Chairman.** |
| 12. | **Items for the next Agenda.** |
| 13. | **Date of next Meeting:** Thursday, 16 January 2020 in the Church Hall at 7.30pm. |