

Ashbrittle Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 11th September 2017

Present:

Councillors: Charles Doble (Chairman), Helena Massie, Jeremy Robbins, Rob Simpson, Vicky Hughes.

Apologies for absence: None

1. **Minutes of previous meeting:** The minutes of the meeting held on 5th June 2017 were agreed by all as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
2. **Matters arising:** i) CD has contacted the highways department about the missing Pool Hill road sign, advising that it is unsuitable for lorries. One of the missing signs has been located thrown in the hedge in Dark Lane so that one will be reinstated. ii) The fallen trees on the Devon side of the stream at Marcombe Lake have been cleared off the footpath and JR said that the broken gate of the bridge would be removed. iii) The Council's thanks were given to Mrs Claire Robbins for repairing the vimpel flying from the church tower. Payment was authorised to JR for the purchase of a replacement vimpel which will be put up after the winter. iv) There was an initial discussion about the aims of a new parish plan and this will be discussed further at the next meeting.
3. **Correspondence received:** i) the crime report was received from PCSO Louise Fyne and distributed to all councillors. ii) A letter had been received from the village hall committee thanking the Parish Council for our donation to the village fair.
4. **Reports from Councillors:**
 - i) **Highways** (Charles Doble): i) The Ashbrittle village sign appears to have been stolen after its unauthorised removal due to the building works at Hawthorns at the end of Rectory Road. The two village signs featuring the Yew were made and designed to a specific pattern and the remaining one would now have to be removed to see if a copy could be made. ii) Discussion was had about road safety, excessive driving speeds and courtesies, especially when needing to reverse or pull in on our narrow lanes.
 - ii) **Footpaths and The Village Walk** (Jeremy Robbins and Rob Simpson) The popular annual Village Walk will take place on Sunday 1st October, meeting at 2pm at the village hall. Tea will be served afterwards so all donations of sandwiches and cakes, setting up and clearing away will be gratefully received.
 - iii) **Affordable Housing** (Jeremy Robbins): JR has updated the report on affordable housing following new legislation and guidance. This report will be circulated to other members of the AHWP.
 - iv) **Finance** (Helena Massie) HM presented the accounts to date and has successfully arranged for paper statements to be issued by the bank. The annual accounts are currently with the external auditors, Grant Thornton.

- v) **Environmental issues** (Vicky Hughes) i) Bonfires are more prevalent at this time of year and discussion was had about burning different materials which cause pollution. Consideration for the environment is encouraged as there are suitable recycling and garden-waste composting facilities available locally.
- ii) concerns had been raised about the spread of Himalayan balsam (*impatiens glandulifera*) along the verges and waterways. Although this plant is popular with bees and other insects, it is classed as an invasive non-native species. HM and VH will discuss how to approach landowners to suggest a removal working party if landowners are unable to remove it themselves.
5. **Any Other Business** Due to other working commitments, RS is no longer able to be the Council's footpaths officer so this role would now be shared between other councillors. RS was thanked for his work on the footpaths and his continuing contribution as a councillor is highly valued.
6. **Date of next meeting:** Monday 13th November 2017 at 7.30pm

7. **The meeting closed at 9pm.**