**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CLYST ST GEORGE PARISH COUNCIL
 held on 9 October 2019 at 8.05pm in the Village Hall, Clyst St George.**

**Present: Chairman Cllr J Manser**

 **Councillors**  **Cllr P. Bragg**

 **Cllr. A. Marks**

 **Cllr. A. Williamson**

 **Cllr. D. Hazell**

 **District Councillor Cllr. M. Howe**

 **Clerk Mrs. Cathryn Newbery**

**3 Members of Public**

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs S. Randall-Johnson, R. Bloxham, D. Baker and G. Bowen

**2. Approval of Minutes** – Unanimous approval.

**3. Declaration of Interest – None**

**4. Open Forum**

Member of Public **–** wished to speak about Application 19/1771/ADV which had very recently been notified. The application states that the sign is on land owned by the Developers Burrington Homes, but the stanchions are on the verge of the A376. The sign should have been removed two years ago and was considered to be a hazard to the fast moving traffic along the A376. The sign continually has changes to the advertisement of developments and causes an unnecessary distraction to drivers. The member of the public urged the Parish Council to object to this application.

 Mr. John Milverton spoke on behalf of Application 19/1849/MFul. He wished to highlight the differences between the previous application and the current application. The current application had been scaled back considerably. He explained the differences in detail. Following this, Cllr Manser enquired whether anyone in the meeting had any questions for Mr. Milverton. There were none. Cllr Manser confirmed the application would be discussed under Planning.

**5. District Councillor’s Report**

 **Cllr Howe** confirmed that the Planning Application 19/1771ADV referred to above he will be objected to it. He reported that currently the District Council are discussing car parking fee increases. He said that he was pleased to say that the £2.7million shortfall in East Devon District Council’s budget has been turned around by 50%, and this is continuing. He was pleased to report that the price obtained for the old HQ offices in Sidmouth was £9million and not £7.5million. The new offices were running more efficiently, and there had been no capital borrowing to complete the move to Honiton.

**6.**  **Correspondence**.

 Email indicating Community Insight Survey is running until 22.12.2019. Been

 circulated.

 Email saying M and S Energy to give away £10K on two community projects

 nationwide, and looking to bring benefits of renewables and energy efficiency

 measures to their communities.

 Email from Devon County Council encouraging planting of trees. This is on the

 Agenda.

 Email from Cllr Bloxham re laison with the Police. This has been circulated.

 Email re: Devon Dark Skies Evening Event on 31.10.2019. Circulated.

 Email from Bishops Clyst re update on pavement parking.

 Email re Climate Emergency Council Seminar from Ottery St Mary Town Council.

**7. Finance –** The Clerk reported that she has circulated the bank statements together with the spreadsheet. The balances reconciled. After payments made, there is a balance in hand of £6372.11. There is one account outstanding from Countrywide for £704.10. Printer inks have been purchased costing £39.99, and the Microsoft account from July 2018 – October 2019 in the totalling £127.84 (£7.99 per month).

 **Vote on Accounts and payment of three accounts – Unanimous**

The Clerk then reported that a request for a Grant had been received from the School. The request states that equipment for the playground was necessary. Funds were already in hand in the sum of £3,500, fundraising was hoped to raise £1,000, and therefore it appeared £500 was required. A discussion followed, after which the Clerk was requested to write to the School indicating the Parish Council were prepared to allow the Grant, but would like the figure confirmed as being £500. This matter would be on next month’s Agenda.

**8. Clyst Road Self Help Plan –** Cllr Manser reported that no response had been received from the owner of the land, and therefore unfortunately the matter could not proceed further.

 **9. Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Services –** Cllr Manser had drafted letter and it was confirmed all were happy with the contents.

 **10. Update on the transfer of land:** Cllr Manser confirmed that he had requested Cllr Baker to continue with the Planning Application. It was understood that the costs for this application were in the region of £231, as there was a 50% discount from the figure of £462. The matter will be on next month’s Agenda.

 **11. Sign on A376 –** This matter was discussed in the Open Forum, and the Planning Application will be discussed in Planning.

 **12. Roadside Bank in Lower Lane, Ebford.** A discussion ensued on the situation. It was pointed out that other hedges and ditches in Lower Lane were being kept tidy by the house owners, but the properties that had been developed by RBL were not keeping the banks tidy and the area was an eyesore.Cllr Manser confirmed that Devon County Council were not prepared to assist. It was agreed that a quote would be obtained to ascertain the cost of the upkeep for the next year, it was feared that it may be expensive, but once the quote was to hand, the matter could be discussed further. There was concern that this could set a precedent.

 **Unanimous Vote to obtain Quote for further discussion.**

 **13. Weeds on A376 –** This matter was discussed following last month’s meeting. Cllr Manser suggested that the cost for this could be included in next year’s budget. Cllr Howe suggested the Parish Council consider wildflower planting which would change the emphasis and save funds.

 **Unanimous Vote to discuss further prior to next year’s budget.**

**14. To Consider a Planting of Trees Next Year.**  Cllr Manser confirmed he had obtained information from Devon County Council and East Devon District Council. Devon County Council has highlighted that the Parish Council would be responsible for all the upkeep of any trees planted. Cllr Manser had ascertained from the Woodland Trust that whips (2ft high) would cost £6.95 each. It was envisaged 10 – 12 low maintenance trees such as maple, lime and birch (not ash) could be placed along the A376, and along Woodbury Road. This would have to be authorised by Highways.

 **Unanimous Vote for Cllr Manser to continue with his enquiries for the planation of trees.**

 **14. PLANNING**

**19/1849/MFUL – Dart Business Park, Clyst St George**

Cllr Manser reported that the application follows previous applications. The Meeting had heard from Mr. Milverton in the Open Forum that the application has been scaled back from the previous application. There had been good reports on the landscape and visual report. A discussion ensued. It was noted that despite the application being contrary to our Neighbourhood Plan Policy CSG6, the reasons and landscaping plan put forward were compelling. The removal of trees above a high pressure gas pipeline is a matter of safety. Only a few trees are to be removed to facilitate the building of the new business units, The replanting along the line of the gas pipeline with native shrubs will create woodland edge conditions, good for biodiversity. The flood alleviation ‘Swale’ planted with various tree species and shrubs should do likewise. Views from the footpath to the west of the site will be of the swale, an improvement from the present overgrown fence and ditch. Additionally, the new units will create jobs and allow some local businesses to grow.

**Unanimous Vote to support.**

**19/1783/FUL Kenniford Farm, Clyst St Mary EX5 1AQ and 19/1784/LBS Kenniford Farm.**

Cllr Manser confirmed these applications were for change of use of building from farm shop (Use Class A1) to offices (Use Class B1) including installation of door and window and construction of gas store (retrospective application)

**Unanimous Vote to support, no objections.**

 **19/1771/ADV (Land West of) Addlepool Business Centre, Clyst St George.**

Cllr Manser reported that this application was for the retention of the sign that was already in place on the A376. There was a discussion wherein all agreed that this application should be refused.

 **Unanimous Vote to Object.**

**15. Councillors’ Reports**

Cllr Marks reported that the dog bins had not been collected for five days, and there was an overspill. He subsequently established that this was due to staff illness. He would, however, make a report each time the bins are not emptied. He reported he had collected the sandbags and confirmed that it was only the bags supplied and not sand.

 Cllr Bragg had nothing to report.

 Cllr Williamson had nothing to report.

 Cllr Hazell reported there had been fly tipping in Ebford Lane, but Street Scene had removed the items quickly. Cllr Manser confirmed that there had been another reporting of fly tipping in gateways.

 Cllr Manser reported that he had attended the Exe Estuary Partnership meeting, and that Cllr. Howe had been voted in as Vice Chairman. He also reported that he would be attending the Neighbourhood Plan meeting at East Devon District Council offices on the 10th October. There had been a notification from Cllr Bloxham of a possibility of Bi-Monthly Meetings being attended by local Police Officers, and the plan was for this to be rotated amongst the Parishes. There was unanimous support for this, Cllr Manser to respond.

**Other Business –** following discussion at Item 12 on the hedges and ditch at the properties in Lower Lane, Ebford, a member of the public wished to express views that the homeowners should maintain the hedge and ditch outside each of the four properties in question. It was pointed out that other homeowners in Lower Lane tended to their hedges and ditches. It was finally agreed that Cllr Manser would write to the new homeowners to ascertain whether they would be prepared to keep the hedge and ditch adjacent to their property in trim.

**Signed………………………………………………………………Dated……………………………**

**The Meeting closed at 8.45pm**

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 13th November 2019 at 7.30pm**