**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CLYST ST GEORGE PARISH COUNCIL**

**held on 13th May 2020 at 7.30pm on the Zoom Platform**

 **Present: Chairman & Host : Cllr J Manser**

 **Councillors: : P. Bragg, A. Marks, G. Bowen, A. Williamson & D. Hazell**

 **County Councillors : Cllr. R. Bloxham**

 **Clerk : Mrs. Cathryn Newbery**

 **1 Member of Public**

1. **Apologies for Absence: Cllr S. Randall-Johnson, Cllr M. Howe**

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

**3. Declaration of Interest –** none

**4. Open Forum –** Member of the public wished to bring to the attention of the Parish Council the problem with speeding traffic along Woodbury Road. The speed was frequently up to 50mph and could cause a serious accident. He suggested that perhaps more signage could be installed. There was a problem with the present sign facing in the wrong way, but it was agreed that this could be remedied. Cllr Bloxham said that there were speeding problems on the roads at present due to the lack of traffic around and the clear roads. Cllr Hazell enquired whether the same system could be adopted as in Ebford in the past. Cllr Manser considered the matter could be raised with the police, although there was a difficulty with the length of the road. He said this was a perennial problem in Clyst St George. Further discussion followed and it was agreed that the 20mph speed cannot be enforced. Cllr Bloxham considered that at present with high internet shopping and deliveries being undertaken by a great deal of casual workers under pressure with getting parcels delivered in a short time. He would consider what could be done, but he suggested residents park their cars in the road to make such speeding more difficult. He will check with Highways the situation with putting chicanes in, but he advised attempts be made to resolve the situation locally.

 **5. County Councillor’s Report**

 **Cllr Bloxham** had filed his report, which has been circulated. Cllr Manser thanked him for this.

 **District Councillor’s Report none available**

**6. Correspondence**. Clerk to Report

* + - Email informing that Household Waste sites are now opening.
		- Email offering a grant of £200 for a Defibrillator
		- Email from Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner notifying that
		Virtual Courts are open in Devon and Cornwall.
		- We have received a draft proposal to get the drainage repairs underway at
		Clyst St Mary Roundabout, detailing the traffic restrictions. This has been circulated.
		- Notification that the Planning Application No. 20/035/ADV. Redlands Garage
		has been refused.
		- Notification Exe Estuary Water Use Restrictions from Exeter Port Authority
		- We have received an email regarding the overgrown hedgerows on Ebford
		Lane. Cllr Manser will expand on this.

**7. Finance** Clerk to Report:

 Following payment of the accounts authorised at our last meeting, and the

 receipt of the sum of £250 from Devon County Council in respect of the Parish

 Paths Partnership Grant, we are left with a balance in hand of £4316.65. I have

 distributed to you the bank statements, together with spreadsheets confirming

 these figures. We have received an invoice from Devon County Council for £109

 in respect of the Exe Estuary Management Partnership for 2020/21 (this

 contribution had already been agreed) also an invoice for the hire of

 the Village Hall for February in the sum of £24.

 **Vote on Accounts and the two payments advised – Unanimous Vote**

 The Clerk continued:

 Although the matter is on the Agenda further on, I would please like a vote on the

 upfront payment of £300 requested from Cartridges Law in respect of our legal

 fees. This is a normal procedure in transactions of this nature. At present no

 upfront payment has been requested by Gilbert Stephens, but this may be

 requested at a later stage. Once the £300 has been received, then Cartridges will

 proceed with the transaction with no delay. Therefore, please may I have your

 vote to pay Cartridges the £300 requested in order they commence the transfer?

 **Unanimous** **Vote on payment to Cartridges Law the sum of £300 on account of fees**

 **8. Update on Co-Option of a Parish Councillor**

The Clerk reported that unfortunately we have had to postpone the co-option of a Parish Councillor for the foreseeable future due to the coronavirus situation. She confirmed she had taken advice from East Devon District Council Democratic Services who state that all elections are postponed until May 2021. However, they stated there may be a change in legislation to allow elections to be held sooner than that, depending on how the Covid-19 situation develops. They will keep the Parish Council informed on the situation. It is hoped that a new Councillor will be in place as soon as it is possible.

 **9. Update on Transfer of Land – Clerk to report on instruction of Solicitors
 and details of any upfront fees required from the Solicitors acting for each party.**

 Following our previous meeting, Cartridges Law have now been instructed to represent the

 Parish Council in the transfer of the land. However, having liaised with Sulina Tallock of

 East Devon District Council, she has advised that our Planning Application costs, together

 with all Legal Fees for both parties will be paid on the receipt of the corresponding

 documentation (from S106 funds). However as outlined in my Financial Report we do

 have to make an upfront payment in respect of Cartridges, and possibly Gilbert Stephens.

 Once the matter is completed and the fees are settled, I will invoice Sulina with supporting

 invoices, including the Planning Application costs. We will then be reimbursed.

 **11. PLANNING, Alcohol Licence Application;**

 **Ref No. 050780 Premises Dart Fresh, Marsh Barton Farm House, Clyst St George.**

Cllr Manser reported that Dart Fresh were now undertaking online shopping during the lockdown and doing home deliveries. A discussion ensued regarding the early morning start and it was agreed that this was required for preparation for the deliveries. It was agreed it was good to support local business.

**Unanimous Vote No Objection**

 **14. Councillors’ Reports**

 **Cllr Marks** confirmed he had nothing to report other than the P3 Grant had been received.

 **Cllr Williamson** enquired whether it was known whether there were queues at the tips now they were open. Cllr Bloxham confirmed the tips were at present working very efficiently.

 **Cllr Bowen** reported that the hedge on the main road, at Rosario, was very overgrown.

 **Cllr Hazell** agreed with Cllr Bowen and considered it unsafe to attempt to walk along the very narrow path. Cllr Hazell enquired whether there were any grants available for extra pathways, or could a crossing be considered. Cllr Bowen agreed with this. A discussion ensued on the footpaths locally, and it was noted that some footpaths were narrow and caused problems, especially along the path to Topsham where cyclists also rode. This was mainly due to overgrowth and it was suggested that a test be made to see how far the overgrowth went over the path. Cllr Bloxham noted that although new pavements had to be a legal width, there was no jurisdiction over inherited paths, where there were no rules and regulations. He suggested the problem be recorded on Devon County Council website. Cllr Bloxham considered this was an important route and the matter was constantly under observation as this was a busy area.

 **Cllr Bragg** had nothing to report.

 **Cllr Manser** reported that two residents’ hedges had stray branches and also opposite Higher Thatch along Ebford Lane there were problems with the hedge and cars were having problems passing, having to drive too closely to the opposite property in order to pass. The property was presently empty, and he was considering delivering a letter. After discussion, it was suggested that the Agents be contacted about the matter. Although it was the wrong time of year to be trimming a hedge, it was necessary that this be carried out without any further incidents. Cllr Bloxham advised that if no success, we could notify Devon Highways via their website.

  **Comments** – Member of the public also commented on the path towards Topsham and agreed with the comments made above

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

**The Meeting closed at 8.30 pm**

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 10 June 2020 at 7.30pm (on Zoom if necessary)**