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

**held on 8th July 2020 at 7.30pm by the Zoom Platform**

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

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

**County Councillors: Cllr. R. Bloxham, Cllr S. Randall-Johnson**

**District Councillor: Cllr. M. Howe**

**Clerk: Mrs. Cathryn Newbery**

**1 Member of Public joined during the Meeting**

1. **Apologies for Absence: none**

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

**3. Declaration of Interest –** none

**4. Open Forum – none**

**5. County Councillor’s Report**

**Cllr Bloxham** had filed his report, which has been circulated. He updated the report by reporting that if there continues to be a reduction in deaths and hospital admittances, due to Covid19 virus, shielding will be discontinued at the end of August. He reported that the Government funded packages will drop away at this time too. The Nightingale Hospital will be used as a diagnostic centre for cancer, it had not been used for any Covid19 cases. He said all mental health, wellbeing, poverty lines would be kept open for the foreseeable future. He considered the focus will be on recovery and how we move forward now. Cllr Williamson voiced his experience with the Estuary League of Friends and was concerned at the high numbers they were assisting, over a hundred most days, and their finances had been rescued by a National Lottery Grant. Cllr Manser said that people were still concerned about coming out of lockdown, which was understandable. Cllr Randall-Johnson indicated she agreed with Cllr Bloxham’s report, and only wished to add that to date Devon was the second lowest in the country of Covid19 deaths, there had not been one death in our division. She said that the bad news is that job seekers is rocketing by a 240% increase in the South Hams and 195% increase in East Devon. Cllr Manser confirmed that the recent closure of Flybe and the associated chain affected there from has been of great concern. Cllr Randall Johnson responded that there was flying again at Exeter Airport, and other airlines could take over more flights in due course, which could help alleviate the situation. She did not consider there would be a full spread of services though.

**District Councillor’s Report –**

**Cllr Howe** reported that it was still unsettled at East Devon District Council; he reported he had was no longer Chairman of Planning but retained his seat on that and Strategic Planning. He reported there had been a good rise in recycling which was up by 64%, especially cardboard he hoped this situation would continue.

**6. Correspondence**. Clerk to Report

Emails relating to the Covid19 virus, all of which have been circulated.

Details of Contacting PCSO Team – this has been circulated.

Email from Devon Communities Together re the opening of village halls.

Email re the contact details of our local Policing Team – circulated.

Email notifying of Appeal of display of 2 freestanding advertisement signs at

Newcourt Barton, Clyst Road, Topsham EX3 0DB. Circulated.

Email re the Healthy Start Programme Free Food Vouchers – circulated.

Email re Together Drug and Alcohol Services on Offer – circulated

**7. Finance** Clerk to Report:

Following the payments approved at last month’s meeting, there is a balance in hand

of £2460.29, and in the CIL account £1191.99. Bank Statements had been circulated

confirming these figures. This month there are no outstanding accounts other than the Clerk’s salary.

**Unanimous Vote to accept accounts and make payment to the Clerk.**

**Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20 –** the Clerk confirmed that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 209/20 had been circulated together with full explanation of the replies, the Assets List and accompanying accounts. The Clerk explained that submission of this Report had been extended due to the Covid19 Virus. The Certificate of Exemption for Smaller Authorities whose gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25,000 was also explained by the Clerk. The votes taken

**Unanimous Vote on the Approval of the Annual Governance Statement of the Certificate of Exemption.**

**Unanimous Vote on the Acceptance of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2019/20.**

**The Chairman duly signed the Return on Pages 3, 5 and 6.**

**8. GESP – Report by Cllr M. Howe**

Cllr Howe explained the plan to build some 18,000 homes over the next twenty years. He reported that there were two allocations in our collective parishes – Topsham Clyst Road 1500 homes and Oil Mill Lane 4000 homes. He said that East Devon needs to find up to 17,000 homes (some from the next local plan). This Plan will go to East Devon District Council Strategic Planning Committee on the 23rd July 2020, who will then decide whether it will go out for consultation. This has to be agreed by all. Cllr Howe said he had concerns that not everything had been considered, and the Highways plan was not stacking up – the roads cannot cope now. There were some very hard choices to make, but it must be understood we have to deliver homes for the growing population. Cllr Williamson said he was very aware of the Topsham plans, but it is worrying when it is known that each house has two plus cars, and this could cause grave problems, especially in Oil Mill Lane. Cllr Howe responded that Oil Mill Lane will be totally changed as it is known now, and it is highly probable it would have a new link to the A3052. Cllr Bloxham stated that climate change has to be considered, and we must all think differently. There will be many changes in the next fifteen years. Cllr Randall Johnson agreed, and said there must be absolute transparency on the needs and this will come at a high cost, and if granted, funding is provided. A lengthy discussion ensued indicating that the traffic survey of 2011 was out of date and needed updating. It was discussed that sporadic development increases traffic, whereas larger developments have to provide more facilities such as schools etc., and the need to be self-contained. Cllr How explained that there were two choices - we wait for the Public Meeting or come to the Meeting on the 23rd July 2020. He urged the Parish Councillors to read the document and to let him know their thoughts. He expressed his concern that 17,000 homes have to be provided, and they had to be built somewhere. These homes have to be sustainable and have public transport links.

Cllr Manser thanked Cllr Howe for his report and the information provided.

**9. Electric Charge Points in Parish – Update by Cllr Hazell**

Cllr Hazell reported that following last month’s meeting, he had written to the George and Dragon Inn at Clyst St George and the Blue Ball Inn in Clyst Road and was awaiting their response. He hoped to be in a position to report further at the next meeting. Cllr Manser agreed it would be on the Agenda for the next meeting.

**10. Additional Tree Planting – Cllr Manser to Report**

Cllr Manser reported that he would get more information from the Woodland Trust, but at present there were not many trees on the website. He confirmed he and Cllr Hazell will be discussing this. Cllr Bragg enquired whether maintenance of any trees planted on the A376 dual carriageway had been considered. A discussion ensued on this and the possible assistance from Devon County Council. Cllr Howe suggested that the Parish Council could work together with Bishops Clyst on this matter, as they were considering planting trees in Clyst St Mary at the roundabout and continuing down the dual carriageway of the A376. Cllr Manser considered this could help with flooding and he would email Cllr Hatton at Bishops Clyst and report back on this. The matter would be on the next Agenda for further update and discussion.

**Cllr Randall Johnson left the Meeting**

**11. PLANNING**

**Ref No. 20/1087/FUL Lloret, Old Rydon Lane, Exeter EX2 7JW**

Cllr Manser reported that this application was for the demolition of the present bungalow. There had been a previous application for extensive extension. He considered the height would not be a problem, maybe slightly lower than the previous application. He added that it would be considerate to the neighbours to leave the hedge intact. After discussion of the present application

**Unanimous Vote to support no objection.**

**20/1263/VAR Redlands, Clyst St Mary**

Cllr Manser reported this application was a variation in the sales previously permitted. Following discussion

**Unanimous Vote to support no objection**

**20/1219/FUL Lower Ebford Barton, Ebford EX3 ORA**

Cllr Manser explained that this application was for the replacement of a aluminium shed by building a slightly larger wood shed. This new shed would not be visible from outside. After discussion;

**Unanimous Vote to support no objection.**

**12. Councillors’ Reports**

**Cllr Bowen** asked why the transfer of land behind the Village Hall was not included on the Agenda, as it was not on the Agenda last month either. The Clerk replied that Cllr Manser and herself had completed the necessary forms for the Solicitors and these were returned on the 24th June. She confirmed that the Solicitors would be in touch when they had something to report back to the Parish Council. It was confirmed that the matter would be included on the Agenda for an update at the next meeting, if necessary. Cllr Bowen also commented that he considered Countrywide should not be paid when some work is not undertaken by them. Cllr Manser responded that the work was undertaken before the account was submitted for payment. The vote on the payment of their account was taken at last month’s meeting, and the payment made shortly thereafter. Cllr Bowen enquired whether it was possible that Countrywide could submit a timetable indicating when they were intending to undertake the work, and if certain work was not completed, then a deduction be made. Cllr Manser will request they let us know prior to their next visit, but he considered that it would be imminent. Cllr Marks considered it may be more beneficial if Countrywide were asked when they had done the work.

**Cllr Bragg** reported that a tree had fallen down by Pytte. It was not causing a problem and it was envisaged that East Devon District Council would be dealing with it. It is uncertain whose land the tree was on.

**Cllr Hazell** had nothing to report.

**Cllr Williamson** reported that he was expecting the Cricket Club Bar would be opened on Friday.

**Cllr Marks** had nothing to report, other than to say the school has had wood erected and queried the cost of this. Cllr Bragg expressed concern at this being erected under a lime tree. Cllr Bowen would speak to the school about this concern.

**Cllr Manser** reported that he would be representing the Parish Council at the installation of the new Vicar on the 13th July 2020. He also reported that he would like to speak to a representative at the Cricket Club about Footpath 10. He had been asked by Alison Smith of a possible route across the field. Advised he speak to Bob Pond of the East Devon Ramblers Group. He was also intending to speak to Alison Smith regarding the footpath behind the Village Hall, which was included in the small parcel of land being transferred to the Parish Council. Cllr Manser confirmed that, so far, he had not had any residents contact him regarding whose services had been good during the Pandemic, which was disappointing. It was suggested he post on the Clyst St George Facebook page which should elicit some responses.

**Comments from Member of Public**

Member of public commented on the dog fowling on the Cricket Pitch and the clearing up of this by the dog owners. He also commented that no paper copy of the Clyst Valley News was being received. Cllr Manser confirmed this was the case, but it would be on our website and he would forward a copy too.

The Member of Public also wished to comment on the necessity of charging points within the Village Hall grounds. He considered it could cause traffic problems within the village with queuing, and residents in the village would have the space to have their own charging points should it be necessary. He felt it was too commercial for the Parish Council and unnecessary. Cllr Hazell responded saying he thought it could be advantageous to all. Member of Public disagreed, indicating it could cause problems with some cars taking up to two hours to charge.

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

**The Meeting closed at 8.50pm**

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 9 September 2020 at 7.30pm**

**N.B. Greater Exeter Strategic Plan** can be found at[**www.GESP.org.uk**](http://www.GESP.org.uk)