**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CLYST ST GEORGE PARISH COUNCIL held on 11th November 2020 at 7.30pm by the Zoom Platform**

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

**Councillors: P. Bragg, A. Marks, D. Hazell, G. Bowen, S.Piper**

**County Councillors: Cllr R. Bloxham**

**District Councillor: Cllr M. Howe**

**Clerk: Mrs. Cathryn Newbery**

**2 Members of Public**

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Randall-Johnson, Cllr Williamson

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

**3**. Cllr Piper duly signed the Acceptance of Office.

**4. Declaration of Interest –** none

**5. Open Forum –**

**Member of Public 1** expressed shock and concern of the impact that the Clyst Valley Trail, and the Cycle and Footpath Route would be running through the farm that they had tried to keep in one piece. No notice had been received of the proposed cycle path or footpath but had read that up to 100 – 500 people could be using each path daily, this would mean up to 1000 people going through the farm. There are sheep and lambs on the farm. One plan shows that the path would be going straight through the entrance, a narrow lane which is currently used greatly with tractors and heavy farm machinery. This could prove extremely dangerous for cyclists who are renown not to stop, and a fatal accident could occur. There had been no notification from Simon Bates about these two paths, which would cut through the farm in two places. The member of public had been to Odhams Wharf and was disturbed by the impact on the residents of the footpath. The impact of the two paths on the farmland would be massive – there are four small businesses plus a caravan and camping site there presently. A new septic tank at the cost of over £10,000 had recently been installed, together with electricity and it was a worry that this could be deemed insufficient/inadequate. Apparently EDDC had said they would consider permission to enlarge the caravan site, but this is not acceptable, and the grants probably would not be adequate to cover the extra charges for drainage, and electricity. There was a real concern for the security of the farm owner and the impact will be tremendous. Cllr Manser responded indicating he understood and agreed with the sentiments of the member of public. This was a working farm. Cllr Bragg agreed with Cllr Manser and thought that the site would not be so welcoming and cause considerable grief to the farmer. The impact on the business could not be compensated. Cllr Manser confirmed this would be discussed further in the Agenda item to follow. He reassured that the Parish Council understood fully the predicament of the landowner.

**Member of Public 2 –** expressed his concern at planning applications and attitudes regarding new properties or extensions applied for. He considered that there should be a more relaxed view and properties should not be cast off as not in keeping and therefore planning refused. He thought this was the case with many Parish and Town Councils, we are not on our own. It would be good to encourage some modern structures. Not in favour of largescale developments, but in individual developments there is opportunity to diversify, and a less blinkered approach should be encouraged when dealing with applications.

**6. County Councillor’s Report –** Cllr Bloxham had kindly circulated his report for the month.

However, he wished to add that since the School Meals communication, the Government had released more funding. He said the next Police Liaison Meeting was on the 3rd December. He was aware of the damage to the bridge at Oil Mill Lane, and this had been reported. Cllr Bloxham expressed his concern regarding the comments above on the public footpath. He had heard nothing from Simon Bates, but he was adamant a footpath would not go through a landowner’s private land without agreement. Cllr Manser asked Cllr Bloxham whether he could assist with the traffic speed in Woodbury Road, Clyst St George, as this was still a problem, and wondered whether the Police could be involved. Cllr Bloxham said that he was faced with this kind of behaviour frequently and it was impossible to deal with. Cllr Marks enquired whether signage outside the school could be installed to encourage parents refraining parking. Cllr Bloxham explained that Highways were reluctant to change the signage. The people ignoring the signs should be dealt with. Cllr Bowen enquired whether the road surface markings would be replaced outside the school, but Cllr Bloxham confirmed that Highways considered the markings still visible. Cllr Manser suggested photographs be taken of the markings and the dotted lines at the junction and put on the Highways website for their information. Cllr Hazell enquired whether the school gave guidance to parents on the parking. Cllr Bowen replied that the school had tried physical presence and cones, but he would investigate further.

**District Councillor’s Report** Cllr Howe reported that the Clyst Valley Trail was due for consultation. He had got the footpath through Kenniford Farm put back in at the public’s request. Cllr Howe confirmed he would be speaking to Simon Bates regarding the cycle path and foot path, and the decision is not yet finalised. There were many issues to consider, landowners were unhappy, and there were two possible routes. He agreed with Cllr Bloxham that the paths could not be taken through the middle of a farmer’s field without their agreement. He also warned about fraudsters trying to obtain money. He confirmed that during this lockdown, the refuse trucks were working well and there were no problems with them.

**7. Correspondence – Clerk to Report**

Several emails from Devon County Council re the Coronavirus with advices.

Email re Clyst St Mary Flood Defence Improvements update.

Email re Devon Communities Resilience Forum Survey

Email re Recycling Household Waste Centre

Email from Cllr Bloxham sending notes on the Police Liaison Meeting

Email from Cllr Bloxham re Hardship/Supporting Food Banks, and further reminder

Email from DCC re Local Flood Risk Management Strategy and Newsletter

Email re a Public Footpath at OdhamsWharf from an Odhams Wharf resident concerned at restricting access to a field

Email from Cllr Bloxham confirming that Recycling Centres being open during the present lockdown.

Email from Devon CC with Devon Climate Emergency Newsletter for October

Email from Devon CC re Progress Report on North Devon Link Road Project

Email from Exe Estuary Management Project with latest guidance

Email from Simon Bates, Green Infrastructure Project Manager, EDDC, with details of Clyst Valley Regional Park Management and inviting people to have their say.

All the above have been circulated.

**8. Finance – Clerk to Report**

Following payments approved last month, we are left with a balance in hand of £3703.16. The CIL account stands at £1192.11, having earnt the 1p interest. I have forwarded you are the accounts, together with the bank statements and would appreciate a vote on their acceptance. The account from the Woodland Trust in the sum of £171.20, which Cllr Manser had kindly paid on our behalf, and the Clerk’s salary are due for payment. The Clerk called for a vote on acceptance of the accounts circulated, together with the payment of the account and the Clerk’s salary.

**Unanimous Vote on acceptance of accounts and payment of accounts.**

**9. Footpath - Cllr Manser to report and discussion**

Cllr Manser called for any comments. Cllr Marks considered that common sense must prevail. Cllr Manser said he had also emailed Simon Bates earlier in the week and he confirmed he would like to join our next meeting to discuss. We will invite him to come along and discuss. Cllr Manser said he would also like to see a road crossing at the A376 and Woodbury Road. At present the villagers felt cut off from the pub and Darts Farm and the Exe Valley Trail. It is worth keeping this matter on the table as the consultation runs for at least a month, until 7th January, and we should wait to hear what Simon says before we make comment. Cllr Bloxham confirmed he would be speaking to Simon Bates. Cllr Manser confirmed the Clyst Valley Trail would be on the Agenda next month.

**Cllr Bloxham left the Meeting. Cllr Manser thanked him for his input.**

**10. Update on the Community Resilience Planning – Cllr Manser to report**

Cllr Manser reported that he considered this to be email appropriate, and it was possible we could get a grant. He will investigate this further and report back next month. Cllr Bowen offered his assistance, if required. This would be an Agenda item next month.

**11. Update on the Transfer of Land at the rear of the Village Hall**

The Clerk reported that the matter was progressing and hoped to hear from the Solicitors shortly. She was aware the Solicitors were hampered by the virus, staff working from home etc. Cllr Bowen considered the Solicitors were using the pandemic as an excuse for their delay, and they should be put under more pressure with this matter, especially in view of the fact that the Parish Council had paid £300 upfront towards their fees. Cllr Bragg said he would call his solicitor in the morning to ascertain the position with him. The Clerk would put this matter on the Agenda for next month.

**12. Planning**

**Ref No. 20/2151/FUL The Limes, Old Ebford Lane, Ebford**

Cllr Manser reported that this application had attracted many comments online, mainly regarding privacy. Cllr Hazell confirmed he considered privacy to be a major concern. Cllr Marks agreed with Cllr Hazell adding that it would be an intrusion to neighbouring property. The size planned appeared extremely large. Cllr Bowen considered the property required modernising, but should remain as a bungalow, and agreed with the privacy issues already mentioned. Cllr Manser thought it would dominate the area, as it is on a mound, and that Maple Leaf Cottage is lower and it will be over power by The Limes. The boundaries would be about six foot by Maple Leaf Cottage and twenty feet by Manor House. He thought the design to be good, but the plot of land is far too small and bigger grounds were needed. The area would be completely changed. A discussion ensued.

**Unanimous Vote to object**

**20/1001/MOUT and 20/1003/LBC Winslade Park, Clyst St Mary**

Cllr Manser reported this was a Bishops Clyst matter, and that these plans were amended again, there were 671 documents. Cllr Hazell considered the excess traffic and the local school being fully subscribed already would cause problems for neighbouring villages. The impact could be immense. Cllr Manser asked Cllr Howe when it was likely this matter could go before the Committee. Cllr Howe replied it could possibly be next month. Cllr Piper enquired about the felling of trees in Zone J, by Oilmill Lane, but Cllr Howe replied that the trees would be thinned out not felled. Cllr Howe also commented that many pupils at the school were from outside of the catchment area, and these pupils would have to be removed to make room for local pupils should it be necessary.

**It was agreed that the Parish Council support Bishops Clyst.**

**13. Councillors’ Reports**

**Cllr Marks** reported that apart from the footpath at Odhams Wharf he had nothing more to report. Cllr Manser said that he had walked that path for some ten to twelve years and did not consider that the wall was causing any obstruction. Cllr Manser will visit again and have a look at the situation. The landowner appeared to be driving down the footpath, with a trailer attached to a 4 x 4 and leaving rubbish and wood pallets in the field. Cllr Howe enquired whether it was fly tipping or intention to have a bonfire as this is not allowed by businesses and that landfill cannot be created either. Cllr Manser will follow this matter through. Cllr Marks had also been approached by a resident who considered a Christmas Tree could be planted, somewhere prominent in the village where it could be decorated at Christmas and be a focal point for carol services and public gatherings. Cllr Manser responded saying that if a reasonable position could be sought, he would consider it.

**Cllr Hazell** reported that there had been another fly tipping at Higher Bagmores on the owner’s farm, and it was still there. It appeared to be a repeat offence and was quite a large quantity. He enquired whether there was anything the Parish Council could do to deter. Cllr Manser confirmed he considered there was little that we could do.

**Cllr Bragg** reported that he had located the salt bin by the church. It is now accessible and was green and not yellow.

**Cllr Bowen** confirmed that he had sent an email prior to the meeting regarding the Jurassic Fibre. He said that half the village had been installed, but they were now awaiting Western Power to do their work. New poles were replacing the old ones. Cllr Piper enquired whether fibre in Clyst St George had been completed. Cllr Marks said it had been completed. Cllr Manser enquired about fibre in the Village Hall and Cllr Marks said he would enquire and update Cllr Manser.

**Cllr Manser** enquired of Cllr Bowen when the link to the Neighbourhood Plan could be

restored. Cllr Bowen confirmed this would be done.

**Any Comments**

Member of the public enquired about the Clyst Valley Trail Proposals – Cllr Howe replied that these could be found on the website. That planning permission had already been obtained. He had put back in the original Kenniford Farm path. Cllr Manser confirmed that Simon Bates will be attending the next meeting and we can all listen to him before we make any comments on this.

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

**The Meeting closed at 9pm**

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 09 December 2020 at 7.30pm**