**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CLYST ST GEORGE PARISH COUNCIL held on 9th December 2020 at 7.30pm by the Zoom Platform**

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

 **Councillors: P. Bragg, A. Marks, G. Bowen,**

 **County Councillors: Cllr S. Randall-Johnson**

 **Clerk: Mrs. Cathryn Newbery**

 **8 Members of Public**

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr R. Bloxham, Cllrs. Williamson, Hazell & Piper

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

**3**. **Clyst Valley Trail**

Simon Bates from East Devon District Council and Darren Davey from Devon Highways attended the meeting to discuss and put forward ideas regarding this Trail. Simon shared a screen shot showing the wider community of East Devon and Exeter and said the links were very complex. They needed to get agreement with landowners and he welcomed the attendance of Philip and Jenny Broom at the meeting. He said they were working on three possible routes in our area – the Clyst St George Route, the Valley Route and the Ridge Route. The Clyst St George Route was the most favourable at this time. He explained there were six tests and the Clyst St George Route passed the majority but hinges on getting across Woodbury Road and Exmouth Road, and there was not agreement with Devon County Council yet – it was hopeful that by mid January there will be agreement. After further discussions, it was obvious that further conversations were necessary in order to reach agreement of the passage of the footpath past Kenniford Farm with Philip and Jenny Broom. Darren Davey had suggested that the footpath here hugged the boundary land, and did not go through the field, but again, more discussions were necessary with Philip and Jenny Broom over this suggestion. Difficulties with grazing of cattle needed to be prevented at all costs. Darren Davey considered there were restrictions with the gradient and that is the reason why he considered that hugging to be the best. The crossing proposed on the B3179 needed to be a controlled crossing, traffic needed stacking room. Member of the public commented that the traffic was stacked regularly in any event. Cllr Manser commented there was a 40 mile an hour limit along that road now. Cllr Randall Johnson understood there was a great deal of demand from the villagers for a safe crossing. It would not be possible to get a pelican crossing. At present where the crossing would go is academic, this idea must be supported and must be signed up. There needs to be 3000 people crossing the road in order to get the request supported and it needs to be reinforced with a cycle path and where that will run. Simon Bates asked that he be sent a map with a line on it showing the possible route and he will consider it. Member of the Public who lived in Seawards Park commented that a lot of residents there do not feel safe crossing the road, and feel they were given unfulfilled assurances that a crossing would be provided. This has never been done, and it was generally felt that the local community were in desperate need for this to be put in place. Cllr Manser enquired how can we prove the need in the village, to which Simon Bates replied that the demand is proven but it was difficult in weighing matters in balance with limited funds. Cllr Bowen enquired whether the speed could be reduced on the turning into Woodbury Road. Cllr Randall Johnson considered light controlled crossing could be the answer. Simon was asked whether he had had any further conversations with Darts Farm. over this, but he replied that he had spoken with Michael Dart two years ago but has since been unable to get any response from him. Member of the Public also mentioned the speed of traffic from Kenniford Farm leading to the Ford, the road was too narrow from the Ford up the hill and it was impossible to walk safely along that road, with tractors in continuous use as well as cars. Cllr Marks asked what was intended to be done at the Ford as it was, after all, the most photogenic point in the village. Darren Davey replied that the path would be widened, and stone would be reused to give it the same appearance. There was comment that the Ford is a listed structure. Simon Bates assured the meeting they will find a solution to retain the character.

Simon Bates confirmed he would have further conversations with Philip and Jenny Broom, and after that he would make contact. Cllr Manser thanked Simon and Darren for their attendance and input and reiterated that he hoped they realised that road crossings were very important to the Parishes.

**4. Open Forum –** None

**5. Declaration of Interest –** none

**6. County Councillor’s Report –**

Cllr Randall-Johnson updated the meeting that Cllr Ray Bloxham had now been discharged from hospital and was at home recuperating. Cllr Manser wished her to convey to him the Parish Council’s kindest regards for a speedy return to good health. Cllr Randall-Johnson requested that she be the point of contact until the return of Cllr Bloxham. This may be towards the end of January, but we will be updated on the situation. Cllr Randall-Johnson thanked Cllr Manser for attending the Police Liaison Meeting. She confirmed that these meetings will continue. There is crime data on <https://www.police.uk> and this site can be accessed by all. She was pleased to hear that the public are concerned about crossings – they are very expensive – but the Council are presently producing budgets for the year. Some funding had been received to cover COVID but not all. She encouraged people to comment on the necessity for crossings to preserve the safety and encourage children to be walked to and from school. She asked if a photograph showing the problems of the pavement at Ebford/ Clyst St George could be forwarded to her so that she can assist us with this. Cllr Bowen confirmed he would do this. Cllr Randall-Johnson reported that our COVID19 figures are very good indeed. Cllr Manser thanked Cllr Randall-Johnson for her input and confirmed the Parish Council had sent a Get Well Card to Cllr Bloxham – we all wished him well. He confirmed the Police Liaison Meeting had gone well, and he would attend any future meetings.

**District Councillor’s Report** – none.

**Cllr Randall**-**Johnson left the Meeting**

**7. Correspondence – Clerk to Report**

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

Email re Asian Influenza, and a follow up with a Housing Order on this.

Email from Sulina Tallock requesting confirmation of the CIL moneys in hand with the annual form to return, and for display on our website prior to year end.

Email re Intérim Devon Carbon Plan Consultation Coms Pack

Email from Colin Trudgeon Community Advocate to OPCC Newsletter

Email from Devon County Council re Traffic Regulations showing no waiting at any time on lengths of Chapel Hill, Clyst St George

Letter from Jamie Buckley re Businesses in Town and Parish need to have their say.

Email containing a virtual tour around the new Exeter Police Station.

The Clerk confirmed all the above had been circulated, with the exception of the email from Sulina Tallock requesting the CIL information. This matter will be completed by the Clerk.

**8. Finance – Clerk to Report**

The Clerk had forwarded the accounts, and spreadsheet previous to the meeting. During the month, as well as the authorised payments, the road posts were purchased costing £158.22. After payment of these accounts, the balance in hand was £3061.58, plus of course, the CIL money of £1192.11. At this point, the month’s interest had not been added. There is an account outstanding for Grounds Maintenance from Countrywide in the sum of £778.92, plus the Clerk’s salary. The Clerk reported that she had finalised the claim for repayment of the VAT paid, and this amounted to around £1700. She was awaiting agreement of this from HM Customs and Revenue and envisaged that the money would be paid within the next six weeks.

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

**9. Precept2021/2022 – Cllr Manser to report**

Cllr Manser had circulated a draft of the Precept he proposed. Cllr Manser explained his calculations and requested comments. Cllr Bragg enquired whether the posts that would be required for the new piece of land would be included in the Precept. Cllr Manser explained that Section 106 money will adequately cover any costs for the work to be completed. A discussion ensued whether grass cutting figure could be extended to take into account the grass at Ebford traffic lights on either side of the road. Cllr Manser agreed to get estimates for this extra work to be carried out monthly, and report back to the next meeting. The Precept needed to be returned by mid-January – this would be an Agenda item next month.

**10. Update on the Grass Cutting – Cllr Manser to report**

Cllr Manser reported that he had had a request that the residents would like to see the area around the bus stop and the post box cut monthly. He explained that the cutting around Model Cottages was completed monthly already. This matter had been discussed in the previous item, and Cllr Manser will report back at the next meeting.

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

Cllr Manser reported that at present he had no update on this. Cllr Bowen offered to take this matter over. He considered with his knowledge it could be of benefit to the Parish Council. He suggested he make enquiries and considered it could be beneficial to find out what other Parish Councils actions are in this matter. Cllr Manser was grateful for this offer and asked that Cllr Bowen produces a proposal in due course. The matter would be an Agenda item for the next meeting for further update from Cllr Bowen.

**12. Update on the Transfer of Land at the rear of the Village Hall – Clerk to report**

The Clerk reported unfortunately that there had been no progress. She had spoken with our Solicitor a couple of times during the month, and especially following last month’s meeting. The last time they spoke was Friday, 4th December. The Solicitor confirmed that no costs are racking up at present. The Clerk pointed out that even if the transfer took place now, there is nothing that could be done to the land until March/April next year due to the weather conditions. She explained that under the circumstances, she had agreed with the Solicitor to await to hear from him when he is in a position to progress the matter, and until that time, it will not be an Agenda item. The Solicitor confirmed that he is holding the £300 on account of our costs. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the matter be left as per the Clerk’s suggestion.

**12. Planning – 20/2678/FUL Little Knowle Chapel Hill, Clyst St George EX3 0NN**

Cllr Manser reported that this was for a straightforward extension to the property and did not appear to overlook or be conspicuous to anyone. Cllr Bragg said his brother lived in the adjoining property and he had no criticism of this extension. After a short discussion it was agreed to support.

 **Unanimous Vote to support**

 **13. Councillors’ Reports**

**Cllr Marks** reported that he and Cllr Bragg had cleared the path and put a Christmas Tree on the Village Green with battery lights.

**Cllr Bowen on behalf of Cllr Hazell** requested that the lady who cleared the footpath at Clyst St George be acknowledged. Cllr Bragg said it was Mrs Owen. The Clerk was requested to write to Mrs. Owen thanking her.

**Cllr Bragg** had nothing to report.

**Cllr Manser** reported that he had requested an increase in the number of trees that could be planted. Devon County Council agreed that eight or nine more can be planted. Cllr Manser will try to get this done now but would like advices on where these trees could be obtained. Cllr Bragg suggested Perrie Hale Nurseries at Honiton. Cllr Marks recalled that Cllr Piper had mentioned at last month’s meeting there may be some oak trees being given away, and he would speak with him.

Cllr Manser also reported that he attended the Police Liaison Group Meeting – Antonia Weekes covers this division. It was an interesting meeting, and it was confirmed that they appreciated seeing Parish Councillors engaging with the Police. The crime statistics are accurate for this area, the differences online are very minor. He suggested that in the New Year we sign up to the OPCC Scheme (Office to Police and Crime Commissioner Scheme). They are looking to make it a two way conversation and we can mention our concerns - policing by consent. Cllr Marks enquired whether more than one Councillor can attend, and Cllr Bowen asked whether Councillors could attend on an ad hoc basis, but Cllr Manser thinks they are looking to build up a relationship. He will find out the details. He will attend the next meeting in January

**Any Comments**

Member of the public reported that Cllr Marks had looked at the tree, but nothing had been done, it will be reported to Highways.

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

**The Meeting closed at 9.10pm**

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 13 January 2020 at 7.30pm**