**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CLYST ST GEORGE PARISH COUNCIL held on 13h January 2021 at 7.30pm by the Zoom Platform**

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

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

 **County Councillors: Cllr S. Randall-Johnson joined 19.55,**

 **District Councillor: Cllr M. Howe**

 **Clerk: Mrs. Cathryn Newbery**

 **2 Members of Public (Member of Public 2 joined during meeting)**

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr R. Bloxham, Cllr A. Williamson

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

**3**. **Declaration of Interest - none**

**4. Open Forum –**

**Member of the Public 1** enquired of Cllr Howe if there was a reason the oldfashioned amber streetlights were still on at 9am. Cllr Howe responded indicating this was a Highways issue and should be reported to them. Cllr Howe confirmed that Devon County Council’s policy is to turn off lights at midnight. Cllr Marks agreed this was the case with the light in his area.

**5. County Councillor’s Report –**

Cllr Randall-Johnson had emailed her report earlier indicating she may not be available in time to present it. She confirmed that Devon County staff were mainly working from home. She was pleased to report that Cllr Bloxham was making good progress but would not be attending meetings at present.

Cllr Randall Johnson joined the meeting at 7.55pm.

She confirmed that Devon County Council were looking at budgets and was pleased to indicate that the Government funding was slightly increased, better than envisaged – better with health, care and young people.

She said that the vaccine roll out was going well, and it was envisaged that all octogenarians would be done by mid-February, and others will follow on. The take up on assistance was good. She was sorry to report that, at present, the situation with the virus was not good.

Cllr Bowen enquired whether she had been able to report back on the width of the pathways from Ebford to Clyst St George. Cllr Randall Johnson will follow that up. She confirmed she was still keen on the Woodbury Road pelican crossing.

Cllr Piper enquired whether the enquiry regarding the speed of traffic had any answers, but Cllr Randall Johnson confirmed that was ongoing at present.

**District Councillor’s Report** –

Cllr Howe reported that staff were presently concentrating on supporting the COVID19 matters. At present there had been no meetings on setting the budgets, but he did expect the Precept to go over the maximum allowed.

**6. Correspondence – Clerk to Report**

Several emails from Devon County Council & Others re the Coronavirus with updates

On the rise on cases, notification of tiers etc.

Email re Parish Paths Partnership Winter 2020

Email from Colin Trudgeon Community Advocate with Minutes

Email warning of doorstep callers in the area.

Email from Exe Estuary with Winter Edition 57

Email from Ros Davies with Natural England Survey regarding Countryside Code.

Email from resident in Old Ebford Lane notifying of Water Leak in area.

Email from Cllr Trudgeon re PCC on Facebook Live on 8 January 2021.

Email from Exe Estuary re Exe Estuary Winter Virtual Forum 2 February 2021.

Email from Colin Trudgeon attaching details enabling members of the public to report breach of the COVID 19 rules to the Police.

 The Clerk confirmed all the above had been circulated.

**7. Finance – Clerk to Report**

The Clerk had forwarded the accounts, and spreadsheet prior to the meeting. There was a repayment of VAT from HM Customs and Excise in the sum of £1763.79. This left us with a healthy credit in hand at the start of the year of £3734.29, together with the CIL money of £1192.12. At this point, the month’s interest had not been added. There are no accounts outstanding. The Clerk called for a vote accepting the accounts and a vote for the payment of the Clerk’s salary.

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

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

Cllr Manser circulated his proposals for the Draft Precept last month. He explained that as we had now received £1763 back from HM Customs and Excise for our VAT payments, he considered it prudent in the present climate to make our claim the same as for last year £9135. A short discussion ensued.

**Unanimous Vote to Keep Precept Claim as previous year.**

 **9. Quotes for Grass Cutting – Cllr Manser to report**

Cllr Manser reported that he had requested three companies to quote and two had responded. Plandscape were the cheapest by £250. We had used them in previous years. Countrywide, who had done the work in the previous year had quoted £2,700. Cllr Hazell enquired whether this included spraying the pavements. Cllr Manser said it did and included cutting around the bus stop. Following a discussion, it was agreed to accept the Plandscape quote.

 **Unanimous Vote to instruct Plandscape**

10. Cllr Bowen requested a little clarification on the needs of the Parish Council for the

Community Resilience Planning and what our obligations were to make the plan. Cllr Manser and Cllr Bragg agreed that any plan should be appropriate to the local community. Cllr Howe explained that because of finances being tighter, we needed to be more self-reliant and communities needed to be aware of self help in case something happened and there were no emergency services available. For this reason, there needed to be a plan in action. Cllr Bowen understood this, and after a short discussion he would explore the WhatsApp group and will explore options that could fulfil our needs. Cllr Hazell enquired whether there could be finance available for this, but this was considered to be unnecessary at this stage, as WhatsApp is free. Cllr Bowen will consider what is available and report at the next meeting.

**11. Planning - 20/2866/VAR Armada House, Odhams Wharf, Ebford**

Cllr Manser reported this application was for the removal of Condition 4 of previous application which prevented working in winter months. Bird counts and surveys had been completed. Cllr Bowen requested clarification of the application. Cllr Manser explained that Condition 4 prevented working during winter months because of birds, and the present application was to remove that Condition so that work can be carried throughout the year. Cllr Bragg considered their request was reasonable. A discussion ensued on the bird counts and the benefit to people walking in the area during lockdown period.

 **Split Vote – Agreed to make No Comment on this Application**

**Member of Public 2 Joined the Meeting**

Cllr Manser asked the Member of Public if he wished to say anything about the Application to be discussed. Member of Public declined, indicating the letter he had written was sufficient to indicate his objections.

 **20/2832/FUL Fairfield House, Shepherds Court, Ebford EX3 0FD**

Cllr Manser reported that this application was to erect a garden room of a good size in the back garden of Fairfield House. A letter of objection had been received from Mr. Parrish, which suggested moving trees, and drainage problems. Cllr Manser recalled that when developed, there was a great deal of discussion on surface water, the ground was clay and when saturated the rain would run straight off. Member of Public 2 was asked if his property would be overlooked by the proposed building. He said not, but the proposed building was of a considerate size for the plot. He explained that the drainage was very poor and much worse since Shepherds Court had been built. A discussion ensued, where the pre-existing hedge of thick and high proportions had been in situ for over fifty years. A drainage system had been put in place for each property on the development of Shepherds Court, and this was a condition of the planning approval. It was discussed that the plans for this application did not include any drainage proposals nor plans for trees. Cllr Manser proposed enquiring from East Devon District Council if both trees and drainage are conditional, so there is no impact on neighbouring properties. Cllr Marks enquired about the Local Plan. Cllr Manser replied that the Local Plan does indicate over development – the houses are very large and this proposal is similar to putting a bungalow in the garden. It was feared that once the ground was wet, this water will run straight off into the neighbours’ gardens. Cllr Manser will check our Neighbourhood Plan in order to clarify matters. Cllr Manser will circulate his comments for agreement prior to responding and will ensure East Devon District Council are aware of this.

**Unanimous Vote to Object due to lack of information on Drainage and Trees**.

EDDC Planning have sent us notification **21/0005/PDQ** for a Barn Conversion behind Barley Way Ebford Lane Ebford, this was discussed and agreed we supported the application

 **12. Councillors’ Reports**

**Cllr Marks** had nothing to report but indicated he would check on the progress of the Noticeboard repairs. Cllr Bragg confirmed the materials had already been provided.

**Cllr Bowen** reported the fly tipping at Higher Bagmores was still there and enquired who was responsible for the removal. Cllr Howe confirmed it was the owner’s responsibility to remove it. Cllr Bragg thought it would be removed as soon as circumstances allowed. Cllr Bowen also confirmed that the water leak at the bottom of Lower Lane had now been repaired – a new pipe section was necessary – it was a standard water leak with no complications.

**Cllr Hazell** reported he had, again been engaged in litter picking and picking up dog poo in hedges, this was a constant concern. Cllr Hazell said that the road closure was now moving towards his house – his recycling had not been collected – Cllr Howe advised that he report this using the APP and his neighbours do the same. He explained that the crews were struggling with fewer staff at present due to sickness. Cllr Manser said the next collection was on Saturday and he would inform neighbours of this.

**Cllr Bragg** reported he had received report on the footpath, and Highways would be looking at it. He asked Cllr Piper if the Oak saplings were still available. Cllr Piper would make enquiries and let him know.

**Cllr Manser** said he had circulated a letter to Simon Bates regarding his attendance at last month’s meeting and asked whether it was agreed the letter could be sent. All Agreed.

**Any Comments**

Member of the Public 1 wished to express his gratitude to Cllr Howe for the excellent work done on the recycling at this time.

Member of the Public 1 wished to make observations on the Planning Application for Armada House 20/2866/VAR and the fact no one had mentioned bio-diversity. Cllr Howe responded indicating it was a high benchmark, and the Planning Officers would scrutinise this.

Member of Public 1 queried whether a decision had been made on the Planning Application for Fairfield House 20/2832/FUL – as it was not lawful to make a decision outside of a meeting. Cllr Manser responded indicating an issue had been raised on drainage and trees and the Neighbourhood Plan. It is for these reasons this application will be objected to because there are no details available on these points. Cllr Marks confirmed that it was unanimous to object to this application.

Cllr Howe wished to point out to the Meeting a word of caution regarding barn conversions, as it was often the case that despite no approval necessary for PDQ change of use of agricultural building to a dwelling house, once the change of use had been carried out, this property could be demolished and rebuild of a brand new house could be carried out without further consent. However, Member of Public 1 pointed out that this could not be the case with a Listed Barn in a Conservation Area,

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

**The Meeting closed at 9.20pm**

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 10 February 2021 at 7.30pm**