**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF CLYST ST GEORGE PARISH COUNCIL held on 10 March 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**

**District Councillor: Cllr M. Howe**

**Clerk: Mrs. Cathryn Newbery**

**Members of Public -2**

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

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

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

**4. Open Forum – None**

**5. County Councillors Report –** Cllr Randall-Johnson had already circulated her report.

**District Councillor’s Report** – Cllr Howe reported that the Local Plan Consultation was open until 15 March and urged everyone to read it and ensure they respond as this will dictate the policies for the future.

Cllr Howe also confirmed that The Limes planning application had been withdrawn, and if it returns, the Officers have taken a new line that no comments can be registered, by anyone, even Ward Members. Cllr Manser said the Council was not aware The Limes were asking for Lawful Development. There was little space there, and he understood some residents were concerned about this. It was felt the public should have been notified, that it was a backward step in transparency. Cllr Howe will raise this matter at a full Council meeting. He said it was purely to do with the Certificate of Lawfulness where no consultations were due. Nonetheless, he too felt people should know what is happening.

Following a Scrutiny Meeting, Cllr Howe also said he was disappointed to report senior officers were complaining of bullying. No direct claims of who – but he felt it very sad as everyone was doing their best in very difficult times, and he was hopeful of getting back to some kind of normality very soon.

**6. Correspondence – Clerk to Report**

Email received from Exe Estuary Partnership Committee Meeting

Emails from East Devon District Council on the East Devon Plan and Local Plan Consultation and New Local Plan for East Devon.

Email from Jamie Buckley with information on the Census 2021.

Email re Cyber Crime Training Opportunity

Email with Draft Resource and Waste Strategy for Devon and Torbay

Email with Monthly Report from Devon County Council on School Return

Two emails from Colin Trudgeon – one on National ANPR Survey and one on Police Cyber Protect Team Issue Warnings.

Email from Cllr Bloxham with temporary traffic notice at Station Road

The Clerk confirmed all the above had been circulated.

**7. Finance – Clerk to Report**

The Clerk reported that the spreadsheet, with reconciled statements had been distributed. There has only been one payment made, the Clerk’s salary and the balance in hand is £3109.97, and £1192.14 in the CIL account. There were accounts due to be paid this month: Henry Pagliero had completed the repairs to the Noticeboard and only wished for the materials used to be refunded to him. This was £17.10. All Councillors were grateful for the completion of this, the noticeboard looked very good. The Clerk was requested to write to Henry with thanks. Also due is the sum of £59.39 for the website hosting which Cllr Bowen had paid on our behalf, and he should be refunded, plus, of course, the Clerk’s salary.

Cllr Bowen noted a discrepancy in the spreadsheet circulated – which made no difference to the final total – the Clerk would correct and recirculate.

The Clerk requested a vote on the acceptance of the accounts, and the payment of the various accounts detailed.

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

**8. Update on Community Resilience Planning – Cllr Bowen to Report**

Cllr Bowen had circulated details of his update prior to the meeting.

He confirmed he had been looking at various options to send out a mass communication to the Parish, in case of an emergency situation. This falls within the concept of having a Community Emergency Plan. He explained that his initial focus was on the potential of a WhatsApp Group. However, further research has suggested this would not be a good option due to privacy concerns. All members of a group would be able to see each other’s profile pictures, phone numbers and possibly other identifiable information.

He said another option is a WhatsApp Broadcast group. This has the benefit of being able to send a bulk message to a group of people, without the members of the list being able to see each other. The downsides were (a) users would need to add the Clerk as a ‘Contact’ in order to receive messages and (b) in the case of power outages or periods where there is a high demand on WhatsApp, it might be less reliable than SMS/text.

Cllr Bowen said that the current situation is that he has discovered a Government service called Gov.uk Notify – https://www.notifications.service.gov.uk/ - which would be free for a group of our size, and obviously comes with the security of being an official service. He has contacted their support team to enquire how we would qualify for access to the service and will report back on hearing further.

It was confirmed authorisation needs clarification with East Devon District Council.

Cllr Hazell considered this was a very good opt-in system.

Cllr Manser thanked Cllr Bowen for his efforts. The matter will be on the Agenda next month for further update.

**9. Tree Warden/Officer**

Cllr Marks confirmed that he had read the information provided by East Devon District Council and would be happy to accept the position of Tree Warden, Cllr Hazell confirmed he was willing to assist. Cllr Manser said he was pleased to have one Warden in each area, it made sense and can lead on community planting. Cllr Marks said he hoped very much it would lead to trees being offered. Cllr Piper indicated that he hoped to be in a position to be able to assist with the supply of some trees next year.

The Clerk confirmed she would report the appointments to East Devon District Council.

**10. East Devon District Council’s Local Plan Consultation**

Cllr Manser reported that he was impressed with the inter-active Local Plan sent around, and he would recommend that Parish Councillors complete this. He confirmed he had signed his off as Councillor, although not representing the Parish Council. He enquired whether anyone else had completed theirs. It was confirmed that some had read it and would complete it. Cllr Howe emphasised this was meant for individuals to complete. Cllr Manser understood this and said that it was subjective and it would be very difficult to get whole decisions on Parish Council on the form. He thinks that with our Parish in particular, the presumption is it will need planning, so he opted for low planning. He felt that green space on the drive from a busy city job to Exmouth was very necessary at this time. Cllr Piper agreed with Cllr Manser’s view on green space was a very important factor.

Cllr Manser urged again that the Councillors consider completing this, that all our views need to be heard, but it must be remembered that the Parish has no facilities other than the school the Church and the Public House, there was no surgery or supermarket. Cllr Hazell commented on climate challenges on a more local level, in that there was no crossing etc. Cllr Howe replied indicating a footpath would be a great addition, but in order to facilitate this more houses would need to be bult – that is the price we would have to pay. He also said that good design makes housing much more acceptable. Everything comes at a price – more facilities equal more houses. Cllr Bragg considered the size of the houses and whether they would be affordable. Cllr Howe agreed, and said self builds were beneficial too. It was a m atter of trying to put in targets of number of self builds in developments. Cllr Piper said he understood the Government were considering encouraging local small scale developers. Cllr Howe agreed, saying if we live, work and shop locally, it works out, we need to support local building companies.

Cllr Manser ended the discussion by saying please get online and complete the Consultation.

**11.** **Planning**

**21/0546/FUL Newcourt Barton, Clyst Road, Topsham**

Cllr Manser reported that this application was for change of use of land from agricultural to a gym. He said that XL Planning were wrong – they are not in agreement with Clyst St George Neighbourhood Plan. The whole area along Clyst is Country Wildlife site biodiversity and CSG 19 regarding business parks. A discussion ensued regarding excess traffic and it was noted that a previous application for dog training was refused on the number of traffic it would encourage. It was agreed to highlight the views of the Local Plan and that it transgresses from the Neighbourhood Plan.

**Vote Unanimous to Object**

**21/0628/FUL South Lodge, Old Rydon Lane, Exeter**

Cllr Manser reported this application was to convert garage to bedroom, although the plans were not too full. He asked Cllr Howe whether it would have to meet Building Control. Cllr Howe replied that it did have to confirm to safety standards. A discussion ensued on the lack of detail, no elevation was shown and no windows appeared to be planned. A query was made whether this application was complete, there was so little information.

**Vote unanimous on too little detail to make a decision.**

**12. Councillors’ Reports**

**Cllr Bragg** reported that the gate to the Nature Garden had now been adjusted, and thanked Philip Broom for his input in this.

**Cllr Hazell** said that he had reported to Highways that the road markings and cat’s-eyes on the dual carriageway towards Clyst St. George roundabout needed updating. He had also noticed that a large mirror had appeared on the south bound carriageway and enquired whether it required planning permission. He considered it could be a hazard. Cllrs. Manser, Piper and Bowen had also noticed this and a discussion ensured wherein it was considered a necessity, but needed to adhere to Health and Safety. At present a cyclist could hit it and cause injury. Cllr Howe confirmed that Highways should be consulted prior to mirrors being erected.

**Cllr Hazell** also enquired on the current position with the transfer of land at the rear of the Village Hall. He, and Cllr Bowen both considered that too much time had elapsed and nothing had been completed. Cllr Bowen said he thought it worth exploring putting the playground on the land prior to the legal work being completed, with a form of agreement signed by both parties. Cllr Manser emphasised that Probate had to be granted prior to the transfer of the land being completed. Nothing would go ahead in any form prior to Probate being granted. He said we needed to be patient. The Clerk agreed with this, and said that, due to the present COVID19 situation, there were great delays in the Land and Probate Registry and it could take months. Cllr Bragg also confirmed the Probate journey was arduous and would take time. The position with the Section 106 money was raised. Cllr Howe confirmed that provided the Officer at East Devon District Council was kept updated on the situation, and the money had already been allocated, then he could not see a problem – it will be available when we are in a position to commence the work. The Clerk will report when there is further news, but until then, the matter would not be on the Agenda.

**Cllr Bowen** had nothing to report.

**Cllr Piper** reported that he had been in touch with Helen Selby with regard to the grass cutting. Ms. Selby confirmed that when the budget allowed, the grass would be cut. Cllr Bowen enquired whether Cllr Piper had asked about the width – Cllr Piper confirmed he did and that Ms. Selby confirmed it was correct at present.

**Cllr Marks** had nothing to report.

**Cllr Manser** reported that he had written to Darts re Clyst Valley Trail from Knowle Hill down

to the shop but has had no response. Neither has he heard from Simon Bates on this. Philip

Bowen also confirmed he had nothing on the footpath, since the meeting wherein Simon

Bates had said he would report back. Cllr Howe indicated that he would like to see the

Clyst Valley Trail completed, but there are challenges all along the way. There are frequent

meetings and also to progress the matter they have to work with landowners, but they

were not at that stage presently. Cllr Piper thought that the Darts would welcome a path

down to their shop, which Cllr Manser agreed with and why he wrote to them. He was

disappointed to only receive an acknowledgement to his email, and no follow up. Cllr Bragg

said their big field was earmarked for development – the site had been forward for

planning as far back as 2009 and again in 2017.

**Cllr Manser** also was disappointed to report that the numbers of toads had plummeted –

he fears they have declined due to number of factors.

**Any Comments**

**Member of the Public 1** said the tree by Brook Cottages is still there, lying across the stream, and also the road surface on the dual carriageway was extremely poor, especially near Redlands Garage. Cllr Hazell confirmed he had raised this with Devon Highways, but so far had had no response other than acknowledge. Cllr Manser said that hopefully when the new funds were received in Aril, this would be a priority. He suggested the Member of the Public also reports this to the Devon Highways. As for the tree, Cllr Manser understood it was the landowner’s responsibility. Member of Public confirmed the tree in question was on the verge/roadside. Cllr Marks confirmed he will report this once more. Member of Public was concerned if the tree falls into the stream, there will be a blockage of water.

**Member of Public 2** confirmed that he and his wife had had two meetings with Michael Dart with regard to the footpath, and asked if he would fulfil the promise he made in 2015 that if permission granted for Seaward Park he would put in a footpath. Unfortunately, he had heard nothing more about this. Member of Public 2 also confirmed to Cllr Howe that with self-build houses, not only would these be cheaper but they could be eco-friendly too. Cllr Howe confirmed he had no disagreement with that, but he was talking about the New Local Plan, whereas this would have to be allowed under the current policy of the Local Plan.

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

**The Meeting closed at 9.00pm**

**Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 14 April 2021 at 7.30pm**