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

**PARISH COUNCIL**

**held on 11 May 2022 following the Annual General Meeting commencing 7.30pm in the Parish Hall**

 **Present: Chairman: Cllr J Manser**

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

 **J MacDonald, I Stubbs**

 **District Councillor: Cllr M. Howe**

 **Clerk: Mrs. Cathryn Newbery**

 **Members of Public - three**

1. **Apologies for Absence**: Cllr H. Gent, Cllr Randall-Johnson,
2. **Approval of Minutes** – Unanimous approval.
3. **Declaration of Interest –** none

**4. Open Forum** – Member of the public enquired who the Tree Officer was at East Devon District Council. Cllr Howe suggested a letter be sent to the arboriculturist at EDDC.

**5 County Councillor’s Report –** Cllr Howe reported that the local plan is still ongoing. There had been no meetings of late. The refuse and recycling were doing well at the moment. There was an acute housing shortage in Exmouth, with one-bedroom homes being in desperate need.

**6. Emails Clerk to Report:**

* Email from Highways re temporary traffic order on A376 from Exmouth towards
Clyst St George.
* Email from Devon County Council with May Newsletter.
* Two telephone calls asking whether I have any information on the field west of the A376Towards Clyst St Mary, where the hedge has been taken down, oak trees felled and the ground has been flattened and ploughed up. I have informed callers that I have Not been informed and had requested whether our Local Councillor knew.
* Email from Henry Lennox of EDDC with Members Code of Conduct, which we may Or may not wish to adopt. Will make this an Agenda item next month.

The Clerk confirmed the above emails had been circulated.

**7. Finance Clerk to Report**

 The accounts for the month, together with reconciliation of bank statements. There

 is a balance left in hand of £7500.85 and £1192.28 in the CIL account. This follows

 payment of £830.40 for mugs ordered as requested.

 There are accounts outstanding for the Village Hall £18, Countrywide Account from

 5.1.22 – 31.5.22 in the sum of £936, Thomas Westcott, Accountants £210, the Clerk’s

 salary and it appears the really final payment from Chic Flower Designs in the sum of

 £244.84. Their last cutting was in April and this account is apparently for that. The

 Parish Council had been requested to chip in with £100 towards the fees of Jo

 Widdecombe, the planning consultant hired by Bishops Clyst to look at the proposals to

 build the second new town.

 To summarise, the accounts outstanding are:

 Village Hall Hire £ 18.00

 Chic Flower Design 244.84

 Countrywide 936.00

 Thomas Westcott 210.00

 Clerk Salary 375.83

 Bishops Clyst 100.00

 TOTAL £ 1884.67

 A discussion ensued and the Clerk was requested to investigate the payments made to

 Chic Flower Designs, to ascertain whether the final payment was due or not, and if this

 was due, then it was the final payment to them and the end of our agreement with them.

 The payment to Bishops Clyst was also discussed. Following this discussion it was agreed

 to decline to make the payment of £100 to Bishops Clyst.

 The Clerk called for a vote on the acceptance of the accounts, and the payments as

 detailed above.

 **Unanimous Vote on Acceptance of the Accounts.**

 **Unanimous vote on the payment of the accounts as listed, and if Chic Flower Designs**

 **Account is correct, then to pay that account. Vote not to pay Bishops Clyst £100**

 **towards consultants’ fees by four to three.**

 **7 (a)**The Clerk then turned to the Annual Governance and Accountability form which had

 been distributed. The Clerk confirmed the Accounts had now been certified by our

 internal auditor, the same as for the past years, Mr. Brian Hampson.

 The Clerk called for a vote on:

 Certificate of Exemption and Approval of the Annual Internal Audit

 Approval of the Annual Governance Statement and Accounts.

 **Unanimous Vote on both the Certificate of Exemption and Approval of the Annual**

 **Internal Audit and**

 **Unanimous Vote on the Approval of the Annual Governance Statement of Accounts**

 The Clerk signed the forms followed by the Chairman signing.

 The Clerk confirmed the forms would be sent promptly.

**8 SMS Alert System -** Cllr Bowen confirmed he would submit the necessary details. There

had been no more additions to the system.

**9. Parking at School –** Cllr Bowen had no further update on this. He had heard no further from the headmaster. There appeared to be less parking outside the school, but there were still problems concerning parking on the corner. A discussion ensued, and cones were suggested as a deterrent. Cllr Manser enquired whether notices had been put up, but Cllr Bowen had not seen any. The matter will be reviewed and an Agenda item next month.

**10. Queen’s Platinum Jubilee –** The Clerk confirmed the mugs had been received. The Headmaster had confirmed that they would be presented to the pupils on Thursday, 26th May at their Jubilee Tea Party from 2.15pm to 3.15pm. Following discussion, Cllr Bowen proposed that Cllr Manser, as our Chairman, present these mugs to the pupils.

**11. Transfer of Land**

Cllr Manser reported that he had had a discussion with Cllr Bragg and his family, and they have very generously allowed the Parish Council to purchase extra land. This would make the open space the whole strip of land which would be a wonderful addition. It was envisaged that the Section 106 moneys will be available for this project, and there will be sufficient funds to assist payment towards the grounds and the fencing. Cllr Manser wished this matter to be an Agenda item next month, after measurements and further details were available following his discussions with Cllr Bragg and family.

**12. Planning**

**22/0954/TRE Bourneville, Clyst St George**

Cllr Manser reported that this application was for the reduction of the crown of a Californian Laurel. Following discussion, it was felt that this decision should be left to the Tree Officer.

 **Unanimous Vote no objection, to delegate to the Tree Officer.**

 **22/0955/TRE Bourneville, Clyst St George**

Cllr Manser reported this application was the felling of Norway Spruce to ground level.

After discussion, it was agreed this should also be left to the decision of the Tree Officer.

Cllr Howe considered an agreement to a replacement tree to be planted in due course.

**Unanimous Vote no objection, to delegate to the Tree Officer**

 **22/0921/TRE Ebford House, Old Ebford Lane, Ebford**

 Cllr Manser reported this application was for the crown lifting of secondary branches of an

 Oak tree. It was noted that this tree was close to proposed electric gates. After discussion,

 it was agreed that this should be delegated to the Tree Officer.

 **Unanimous Vote to delegate to the Tree Officer.**

 **13. Councillors Reports**

 **Cllr Marks** commented on the removing of the hedge along the A376. Cllr Howe

 confirmed that East Devon District Council were aware of this. There were rules in

 place that allowed hedges to be removed to widen temporarily, but they have to be

 put back. He confirmed the Forestry Commission were looking into this matter, and

 the Enforcement Officer would be looking for the hedge to be put back in place.

 **Cllr Bragg** had nothing to report.

 **Cllr Stubbs**  reported that signs had been vandalised, but these would be replaced.

She also commented on the parking difficulties caused by visitors to the Cricket Club.

 She felt that cars were being parked dangerously. Cllr Bragg confirmed he would speak

 to Caroline regarding this. Cllr Stubbs said there was a considerable amount of

 speeding, especially on Friday evenings in the area as well as cars being parked

 dangerously. Cllr Manser said he would include this problem in his Clyst Valley News

 Report, and it could also be included in the Cricket Club Newsletter.

 **Cllr Piper** reported that his mother was impressed with the grass cutting carried out.

He considered, however, the grass was very high at the dual carriageway. He had

 noticed ash die back on the A376, but there was a query whether the trees were ash

 trees.

 **Cllr MacDonald** reported that, sadly, she had to resign as Councillor as she was due to

 assist with the Ukrainian war, and it would be impossible to be able to give her full

 attention to her Councillor duties. Cllr Manser said he was sorry that she had to

 resign, but fully supported her decision. All joined in their support in her decision.

 **Cllr Manser** reported that there had been a vote on the Design Statement which is

 on our website under the Neighbourhood Plan, and he asked that this be read, and it

 was confirmed to him at the next meeting that it be sent to East Devon District

 Council, where it will appear alongside our Neighbourhood Plan.

 The meeting closed at 9.20pm

 **Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 8 June at 7.30pm**