**Hart Parish Council**

**Minutes of meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 8 October 2018 at Hart Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. J. Littlefair (Chair), T. Britcliffe, K. Brown, F. Lancaster, K. Park, K. Geddes,

J. Quarmby

**In Attendance:** Ward Cllr T. Cassidy, M. West, Clerk, Cllr, J, Kenyon, HBC, 2 candidates for Ward Cllr, 4 residents

1. **Apologies:** None received
2. **Declarations of Interests:** None made
3. **Public Forum:** A resident asked if a date had been set in regard to a meeting of those tasked with moving forward the issue of the village field. The Chairman responded in the negative.

1. **Minutes of 10th September:** Cllr Park requested 3 minor amendments: To add the surname ‘**Howard**’ in minute 3a, to amend ’Hatton’ to ‘**P**atton’ in minute7 and to amend the wording in minute 12, second para to read ‘’trials motorbike, ***others had seen him* doing’**. With these amendments the minutes were agreed and it was **resolved** to accept them as a true record and they were signed by the Chairman.
2. **Matters Arising:** 
   1. ***Tree on footpath behind Mill View:*** The Chairman reported that Chris Scaife had not yet reported back and that he would contact him again.
   2. ***Litter Pick:*** Cllr Park reported that he now has confirmation of insurance cover and a risk assessment, he will arrange a Saturday morning date, for a 2-hour litter pick, possibly up to the Fens, up to the Quarry and school house lane. Any children will be asked to pick only in safe places and not along roadsides. He agreed to inform Cllr Britcliffe of the date in order that he might promote it on the village Facebook page.
   3. ***Village Field:*** Cllr Littlefair reported that the TPO. on the tree at the corner of the collapsed wall, has been removed due to severe storm damage, and the tree itself removed. The other three trees along the wall that are causing concern are not protected and there is no reason why the Council could not take them down. This would allow the wall to be rebuilt on its original site. Cllr Britcliffe reported on progress in regard to the restrictive covenants requested – the PC request was to have these placed on the land; it has taken many weeks to get a response, and it now appears that it is too late to do this as the lease for the Northern Lights Academy is already in place. He had received independent legal advice that we have to agree this with the school/Academy. We have therefore requested a meeting with the school/Academy to have these clauses inserted into the lease, (***Clerk’s note: meeting requested 2 October),*** to which request we have received no response to date. The Chairman stated that, if no response is received to this request, we may have to play our card – deny the school use of the car park - not that we would wish to do this; however, another wall on the car park – the de Brus wall, owned by a resident, could be deemed to be as much a danger as the field walls and the resident is very concerned. What is clear is that we need to negotiate guaranteed access for the community, and the school is part of our community, A school governor present stated that he was fairly sure that he management of the school would remain local, within the Academy status, but also that the school need to listen to the community in relation to the issue of the proposed inner fence. It was **resolved** to invite the Head Teacher to the next meeting of the Parish Council, and to send a reminder about the previous email requesting a meeting.
   4. ***Civic Society Awards:*** The wall at the White Hart Inn won an award for the quality of the work done to reinstate the limestone wall, for the owners (Punch Taverns), the stonemason, and the Parish Council who requested the reinstatement of the wall and nominated the brewery. It was noted that the Project Manager, who had attended the Awards ceremony to receive the certificates on behalf of the stonemason and brewery, had indicated to the Clerk that the internal kerb requested by the Parish Council was to be installed very soon.
   5. ***Fishponds Field:*** Cllr Britcliffe informed that Cllr Park had drawn up some excellent plans and that he had himself drafted the ‘One Stop Shop’ pre-planning application, as agreed at the last meeting. The Clerk was asked to forward the application as soon as it was forwarded by Cllr Britcliffe, together with a cheque for the requisite fee (£144).
   6. ***Heart of Hart Project:*** The Clerk reported that she had still not received a response from Sarah Howard at Historic England, despite several requests. Until she had a date from Historic England, she could not issue invitations to others.

**Actions:** Cllr Littlefair to contact Chris Scaife; Cllr Park to notify Cllr Britcliffe of date for Litter Pick; Cllr Britcliffe to promote on village Facebook site and to forward per-planning application to the Clerk; Clerk to write again to Headteacher re Meeting and to print off the ‘One Stop Shop’ application, once forwarded by Cllr Britcliffe, and send with cheque to HBC Planning Dept.

1. **Chairman’s Report:** The Chairman reported that:

* He had talked with the parent of the young person on a motorbike and had been assured that said youth only rode his bike on **private** land.
* The issue of parking had been raised by some residents, where double-yellow lines requested by their neighbour, now don’t allow them to park outside their property, though some people do park on the lines; it was felt that the only option available is enforcement by the Borough Council.
* The drain opposite The Glebe has now been repaired by Seymours; the success of this will not be known until we get some severe weather.
* The Referendum on the Rural Plan was approved 300:75 in favour and will now become a formal part of the Hartlepool Local Plan.
* People crossing the A179 at the end of School House Lane are facing great danger from drivers racing up the A179 in these darker evenings. Recently a rider crossing the road was almost killed! This is an increasingly used public footpath and we need to look into how traffic may be slowed on the by-pass. It was **resolved** to ask HBC for ideas on how to slow the traffic here.
* It was originally planned that those using the underpass **should** follow a routeonto Barker’s land, thence to Littlefair’s and then on to the Mill road; however, although the funding had been available, this had not happened. The cycle way was meant to follow a similar route. Cllr Britcliffe proposed that the Parish Council policy should be to try to resurrect the public footpath, and that this should go into the Parish Plan. Cllr Littlefair immediately declared an interest and took no further part in the discussion. Councillors felt that for safety reasons, this issue should be a priority and it was **resolved** that the Parish Council policy should be to try to resurrect the public footpath, and that this should go into the Parish Plan for the next year.
* The Boundary Commission’s newly announced recommendations would mean that the rural areas would be split into three, with Hart village remaining attached to urban Bishop Cuthbert and Hart Station, whilst Greatham was aligned with The Fens, leaving Dalton Piercy and Elwick, with Wynyard and West Park. Whilst it was recognised that the Boundary Commission was bound by the constraint of numbers, and the villages alone could not provide sufficient numbers for 3 Ward Councillors, a case could be made for keeping the rural villages in one ward, especially now that the Rural Plan had been given strong support. It was therefore **resolved** to request the Boundary Commissioners to reconsider and support a Rural Ward.

**Actions**: Clerk to ask HBC for suggestions for traffic calming measures on the A179 around Hart, to update the Parish Plan and to ask the Boundary Commissioners to reconsider and support a Rural Ward. Cllr Britcliffe to speak to Chris Scaife at HBC and also to David Barker about the footpath.

1. **Ward Councillor’s Report:**Cllr Cassidy reported that:

* Mark Patton had informed him that an application had now been submitted to Historic England for permission to erect the inner fence on the school/village field, though it might take up to 6 weeks for a decision.
* He had requested two lights be erected in the car park; the Clerk reported that the Council had stated as the car park was private property (owned by the PC) and therefore not heir responsibility to light it. Cllr Cassidy agreed to keep pressing the case.
* He had made funding available for the Fireworks display.

1. **Finance Report:** The Clerk presented the reports, which were accepted.

**Receipts £ Payments:**

**0.** HMRC (PAYE) 141.66

D.M. Ireland (Clerk’s salary July-Sept incl backpay) 566.64

SLCC Enterprises Ltd. (Risk Assessment book) 27.70 **Total 736.00**

She noted that the renewal of the domain name and website would cost **£**124.99. It was **resolved** to pay the renewal fee to One.Com.

1. **Correspondence:** (i) HMRC – re VAT claims – noted. (ii) Great North Air Ambulance – request for donation. It was proposed by Cllr Lancaster, seconded by Cllr Park that a donation of £50 be made, With unanimous support it was **resolved** to make a donation of £50 to GNAA. (iii) Aviva Community Fund – information – noted; Royal Mail – info about Scam Mail – noted and to be put on website. (iv) Letter from the resident at White Cottage informing that she has purchased sufficient land to allow her to turn her vehicle on her land, thus meeting one of the PC’s concerns – noted.
2. **Planning Application: H/2018/0380** – 11, Burns Close – amendment to original plans meaning a slight extension of the first floor. No Objections.

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1. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:**

Cllr Park tabled a list of 19 issues raised over the past months by residents or Parish Councillors. Some of these had now been addressed but the majority were still outstanding actions for HBC. The Chairman thanked him, but felt that it would be best to prioritise the list rather than try to get HBC to address all the issues at this time due to the financial constraints they were under. Cllr Britcliffe concurred with this view, as did others. It was **resolved** to raise these issues again, but the Clerk was asked to raise first with HBC, those issues which could affect the health & safety of residents. Cllr Park felt that HBC was not giving value for money with the grass cutting, and that the part of the village they maintained was in a very inferior state to that maintained by the PC’s contractor. It was **resolved** to ask HBC for their budget and specification for the grass-cutting in Hart Village. It was further **resolved** to raise with Historic England the issue of trees on private land blocking the view of the church, and to discuss with the Quarry manager concerns about the vibration felt by residents in Ottringham Close.

Cllr Brown raised concern that the resident at No 1 Burns Close had still not cleared the gutter or replanted the hedge as agreed.

**Actions:** Clerk to speak to resident in Burns Close and to Manager at Quarry; to ask HBC for spec and budget for grass cutting, and to raise the prioritised issues not yet addressed; to ask Historic England about trees blocking view of an historic site.

1. **Date of next meeting:** Monday 12th November at 6.45pm.

*Meeting closed at 8.22pm*