**Minutes of Meeting held at 7.15 pm on Monday 15th May 2023**

**at Hart Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. J. Littlefair, T. Britcliffe, J. Quarmby and K. Park.

**In Attendance:** M. Ireland, Clerk, Ward Cllrs Cassidy and Darby

The Chairman welcomed everyone and congratulated Cllr Darby on his election as Ward Councillor.

1. **Public Forum:**  No members of the public present.
2. **Apologies**: Cllr Brown – accepted.
3. **Declarations of Interest**: None
4. **Police Report**: None received.
5. **Minutes of Meeting held on 17th April 2023:** The Minutes had been circulated in advance. All being in agreement it was r**esolved** to accept the Minutes as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.
6. ***Matters Arising****:* ***(a)******Car Park gate*** *–* The Clerk informed that she had received confirmation from Planning Officer, Stephanie Bell, that the application had been received by the One-Stop Shop.

(***b) South View parking design –*** Cllr Britcliffe reported that a total of 8 neighbour responses had been received, of which 5 opted for Option (b) to lose half the grass, the other 3 had opted for Option (a) – no change. It was **agreed** that Peter Frost be informed of this but, recognising the considerable financial pressures the Council was under, accept that the works would not be undertaken in the near future. However, it was proposed he consider an interim solution to the issue of the tight space, would be to modify the profile of the two access points to South View, to widen the access so that vehicles did not scrape others as they entered.

**Action**: Clerk to write to Peter Frost accordingly.

**(c) *Grass cutting* –** The Clerk informed that Kieron Bostock had accepted the quote for the cutting of grass at The Darlings, and our contractor was now undertaking this. He (the contractor) had notified her of complaints from residents of Burns Close regarding the uncut grass from the triangle on Butts Lane northwards to, and beyond Burns Close. It was noted this area was not part of the contract and was still the responsibility of HBC. It would require a tractor to cut the grass as it was very long and, it was noted, there were some overhanging trees in need of pruning; it was becoming a safety issue as many dog walkers had to walk in the road as the pavement was inaccessible due to the long grass, and traffic was often travelling at speed**. Action:** Clerk to inform Kieran Bostock of the issue.

1. **Chairman’s Report:** Cllr Littlefair reported that:
* The Coronation weekend had been very successful and the Village Hall Committee were once again to be commended for the social events organised. The Parish Council had organised a ‘Spring Clean Up’ of the village for the Bank Holiday Monday morning – even though it rained much of the time, weeds had been cleared along Front Street, although there still remained a lot more to do; the two Parish Council notice boards had been cleaned and, it was clear the one beside the Old Post Office was in dire need of some T.LC. Chris Taylor had offered to do this, which was much appreciated. The Clerk was thanked for providing refreshments for the many volunteers who had participated.
* He had, with the Clerk, attended the recent Rural Crime Forum, held at Redcar. Progress on rural crime understanding was being made, albeit slowly, and a team of Special Constables was to be recruited to deal solely with rural crime.
1. **Ward Councillor’s Report**: Cllr Cassidy reported the Borough Council’s Annual Meeting was to be held the next day. A new Leader would be elected; he was standing down as Chairman of the Neighbourhoods Committee. The three Ward Councillors had agreed that Cllr Leedham would focus on Bishop Cuthbert, whist he and Cllr Darby would focus on Clavering and the village. Cllr Darby **agreed** to forward his contact details to the Clerk.

**Action**: Cllr Darby to forward his contact details to the Clerk.

1. **Maintenance Committee Report**: Cllr Park spoke to his report. It was noted that, despite being frequently reported to HBC, nothing seemed to have been done about the mud brought onto local roads by development vehicles – this needed enforcement. 20mph signs along Butts Lane might ameliorate the speeding traffic issue and the urgent need for a replacement signpost at the Hart back Lane/School Lane crossroads on the A179 might avert a tragic accident. **Action:** Clerk to forward the report to Kieran Bostock, highlighting the key issues.
2. **Personnel Report:** The Clerk reported a formal application for the Clerk/RFO post had just been received and forwarded to Cllrs Britcliffe and Littlefair. It was **agreed** that Cllr Britcliffe, Littlefair and Quarmby would interview the candidate in early June, at the Studio, Home Farm, dates and times to be mutually agreed. **Actions:** Clerk to forward the application to Cllr Quarmby; Cllrs Britcliffe, Littlefair and Quarmby to inform the Clerk of their availability in the first week of June, the Clerk to then invite the candidate for interview.
3. **Financial Reports:** The Clerk had not produced reports this month as no transactions had taken place, and the cheque book was with the Internal auditor.
4. **Correspondence:** none received.
5. **Planning Applications:** *It was noted that the Parish Council had not received consultation letters on several of these applications.*

**H/2023/0086** – Plot 3, Manor Park - **No Objection**

**H/2023/0126 –** Gas powered stand-by Electricity Sub-station, Worset Lane **-** no site plan has been provided **- EIA is definitely required**

**H/2023/0470 –** Land adjacent to Hartmoor Substation – **strong Objection**.

**H/2023/0075** – Land to the south of A179 and west of Middle Warren known as Upper Warren - **No Objection.**

**H/2022/0459** – North east corner Whelley Hill Farm, Worset Lane – *Cllr Littlefair declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.* **No Objection**

**H/2023/0096 –** Land south of Elwick Road, High Tunstall – concerns were expressed about the state of Elwick Road beside this development. **Object.**

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

The Annual Meeting of Electors (Annual Parish Meeting) must be held before 30th June; depending on Hall availability, it was agreed to hold this on Monday 19th June.

* Cllr Britcliffe raised concern about the flower tubs around the village. For several years volunteers have maintained these, but several of them have either died or moved away; we need to check who is responsible for each and whether they will to continue to plant and water them. **Action**: Maintenance Committee & Clerk.
* Cllr Littlefair raised concern about the level of fast-food franchise waste being discarded along rural roads. He proposed the police should put pressure on the Borough Council to require these businesses to write the registration of the vehicle on each cup/food box provided to take-away customers, which would allow those dumping their rubbish to be tracked and prosecuted.
1. **Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council:** 6.45pm 12th June 2023 at Hart Village Hall.

*Meeting closed at 8.07pm.*