

**Minutes of Meeting of Hart Parish Council held at 7.20 pm on Monday 22nd June 2020
at Home Farm, Hart.**

Present: Cllrs. J. Littlefair, T. Britcliffe, K. Brown, K. Park, J. Quarmby, D. Simmons

In Attendance: M. West, Clerk

- 1. Apologies:** Cllr Geddes, Ward Councillors unable to attend due to Coronavirus restrictions.
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs Littlefair and Brown in Agenda Item 12 – Planning Applications.
- 3. Minutes of 9th March 2020:** The Draft Minutes, having been circulated to Councillors and posted on the website since March, it was **Resolved** to accept the Draft Minutes as a true record and the Chairman of the meeting signed the Minutes.
- 4. Matters Arising:**
 - (i) South View Garden:** Tony Hanson had recently informed the Clerk that the matter had been passed to the Highways department for consideration at their annual budget meeting. This clearly meant no progress would be made in the current financial year. Cllr Britcliffe noted that residents had been maintaining the grass themselves, and it now looked much better.
 - (ii) Website:** The Clerk reported the website was now fully up-to-date and that she had made every page Mobile friendly, in accordance with Accessibility legislation. However, although it looked alright when viewed in mobile view on her computer, when it was looked at on an actual mobile phone, the font was completely different, and not good for anyone visually challenged. She had been in contact with One.Com to ask why this was but was still awaiting a response; she had made it clear to the company that this was non-compliance with International law and must be addressed as a matter of urgency.
 - (iii)** Cllr Simmons reported that the Memorial bench had now been installed at St. James' Place.
- 5. Chairman's Report:** The Chairman reported as follows:
 - (a) A support network for those affected by the Covid-19 crisis had been set up and was working very well. He expressed appreciation for the work of the many volunteers, led by Nicola Coulter, who had kept the village safe so far. Several food suppliers had become involved, bringing fish, meat, fruit & veg supplies into the village every week, reducing the need for vulnerable residents to leave the village. There were also lots of informal support networks across the village, and it was hoped that this community spirit would continue long after the Covid crisis was over. He noted with gratitude that the Hart Hub was playing an active role in keeping people informed and entertained during lockdown, with regular quizzes and other activities being organised.
 - (b) He wished to express his appreciation for the tremendous amount of work undertaken by the Clerk over the past 12 weeks, undertaking extra work in providing support to the Covid volunteer network, maintaining and updating the website, as well as keeping the on-going parish council business 'ticking over' smoothly.
 - (c) He noted that, when HBC withdrew its grass-cutting service at the start of lock-down, Affordable Landscapes had stepped in and, in order to keep up morale, had been maintaining the grass areas of the village – it must be said, to a much higher standard than did the Council, a fact commented on by many residents.
 - (d) The wicket-gate at Hart Pastures had been repaired following complaints from residents.

(e) Lots of litter-picking had been undertaken by numerous volunteers, both in and around the village, to the effect that the whole area had been kept looking clean. He asked Cllr Simmons to post on the Hart Hub, the gratitude of HPC to all those involved.

(f) We had been notified that the repairs to the Village Field wall were to commence on 6th July.

(g) A branch had been brought down in a storm last month, and HBC had turned out within hours, on a Saturday, and removed the tree which turned out to have been diseased. Thanks had been expressed to the Council for this swift response.

(h) The car park was closed with hay bales following reports of anti-social behaviour here, early into lock-down. A letter from a resident had requested that a gate be put on the car park to permanently exclude those behaving in this way, as the level of anti-social behaviour had dropped considerably as a result of the lack of access to vehicles. The Chairman noted that several residents had offered to open/close a gate if one were installed, though such help could not be relied upon in the long term. The Clerk noted that there were ways of controlling access remotely, citing several farms/homes in the area where this was done. She was requested to investigate options and costs to bring to the next meeting.

(i) Mrs. Johnson had offered to have a CCTV camera, which could cover the car park, installed on a lamp post on her land. The offer was appreciated but there were concerns about the cost of purchasing such a camera.

(j) Reports of tractors and trailers being driven at speed had been followed up, as well as being reported to the police; the situation had now improved.

(k) Dead rats had been seen outside a house in the village and reported to the Parish Council; this is a matter beyond our responsibility, so was passed to HBC who investigated.

Actions: Cllr Simmons to post the Parish Council's thanks to litter-picking volunteers, on the Hart Hub; Clerk to investigate options/costings for a gate on the car park.

- 6. Ward Councillors' Report:** Cllr Cassidy had submitted a written report which was tabled. He noted that Ward Councillor Ann Johnson had resigned – no election will be held to replace her until May 2021. The residents of 33, Milbank Close had asked to purchase the land outside their garden from the Borough Council. He had requested the view of the Parish Council which had been given – this land is at the entrance to Milbank Close and is a public space, balanced by a similar space opposite. Whilst we have no problem with it being sold, we would ask that it be conditional on there being no enclosure of the land and no development on it. All Councillors present endorsed this response.

The Chairman noted that Chief Executive Gill Alexander was to be replaced, on her retirement, by Managing Director Denise McGucken in September; he had, on behalf of the Parish Council sent congratulations on her appointment. He further noted that Tony Hanson had been promoted to take over Denise's strategic Director post and Kieran Bostock to Tony's Assistant Director post.

- 7. Maintenance Committee:** Cllr Park tabled his 'To Do' report and noted:

- The defibrillator pads have been replaced but we still don't have a spare set – Clerk to chase up;
- The barriers around road works in Butts lane are not being properly maintained in accordance with statutory requirements;
- Hart west entrance sign – the road markings have been repainted but the sign has not yet been repaired and there is still insufficient signage to Hart for travellers on the A179 - Clerk to chase up;
- Dog fouling – Hart Hub has highlighted offenders with some, though limited, impact;
- Vehicles are still parking illegally outside the Old Post Office;

- Vehicles entering the village from the west are still not slowing to the 20mph required often until they reach South View – HBC to be requested to move the 20mph signs to the west of Nine Acres;
- It was noted that the very large HGVs using Butts Lane are not a Parish Council issue;
- The grass cutting by HBC is of a very poor quality; this is even more noticeable since they started again following several weeks of cutting by our own contractor. The Chairman reported that an approach had been made to the Borough Council, offering to take over all grass-cutting in the village, but explaining that this would cost us considerably more and asking if HBC would contribute to these extra costs. The response had been to require us to cease cutting the grass immediately, but offering a meeting with the officer responsible to determine our requirements so that he could cost a schedule for a higher quality of service. Councillors **resolved** that such a meeting should be requested by the Clerk, with Cllrs Littlefair and Park representing HPC. Cllr Britcliffe proposed that a photographic record be kept of the grass-cutting by HBC in the meantime; Cllr Park agreed to do this. It was further **resolved** that the Clerk ask Affordable Landscapes to undertake the clearing of the Milbank Beck sides, as a one-off and at the price quoted for this.

Actions: Cllr Park to maintain a photographic record of HBC grass cutting; Clerk to contact HBC to: arrange meeting re grass-cutting, to request up-date on delivery date for spare defibrillator pads, for the repair of the sign at the west end entrance to the village and to request the 20mph signs be moved further west. Clerk to contact John Pearson re Milbank Beck clearance.

- 8. Financial Reports:** The Clerk reported that Financial Transactions reports for the periods March to May, had been circulated and posted on the website; she then presented the report for the period 12 May -15 June, as well as the Actual against Budget report. It was **resolved** to accept the reports.

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
Interest (Business Account)	<u>0.65</u>	BHIB Ltd (Annual Insurance)	377.76
		Affordable Landscapes (grass cutting)	436.80
		DM Ireland (2019/20 cont. to tel/broadband & laptop repair)	<u>280.00</u>
Total	0.65	Total	1,094.56

- 9. Chare Wall:** The Clerk reported that she had made an application to the Lottery Heritage Fund as requested. Sadly, due to the Coronavirus crisis, all applications had been cancelled for the remainder of the year, as Heritage funds were to be used to support heritage bodies during the crisis. The knock-on effect of this was that applications to two other potential funders could not now be made, as they both required third-party contributions.

- 10. Correspondence:** (a) Confirmation from the Pensions Regulator that HPC were compliant until 2023 - noted; (b) Letter from a resident requesting a gate on the car park (covered under the Chairman's Report); (c) Letter from HBC Planning re request from 33 Milbank Close to purchase the land (covered under Ward Councillor's Report); (d) letter from a Heart Charity offering a small contribution towards the purchase of a defibrillator – Councillors declined the offer; (e) email from Rural Crime Officer re independent research commissioned by the Police and Crime Commissioner to measure public perceptions of policing during Covid-19 –, the Clerk had already responded - noted; email from HBC informing that the Village Field wall repair was to start on 6th

July – noted; (g) email from the school informing that they would be restarting the cutting of the field and also would be repairing the fence around the school – noted.

As Cllrs Brown and Littlefair would be excluded from the meeting during the discussions on Item 20, Planning Applications, it was agreed to take the other remaining Items first.

13. Annual Parish Meeting: It was noted that the Annual Parish Meeting had been postponed due to the Covid crisis, but would be rescheduled once restrictions on meetings had been lifted.

14. Matters of Concern to Councillors: No matters raised.

15. Date of Next Meeting: 6.45pm Monday 13th July, at the Village Hall if the restrictions had been lifted, otherwise at Home Farm.

Cllrs Brown and Littlefair left the meeting at 8.30pm.

12. Planning Applications:

H/2020/0047 – Appeal Notification re development to the rear of Milbank Close– noted

H/2020/0162 – Land at Whelley Hill – screening opinion in respect of electric vehicle charging facility and associated infrastructure. The Clerk was requested to respond **supporting the need for an EIA**, as this application will further degrade the environment next to Hart Village, adding to the industrialisation of the area.

H/2020/0008 – variation of conditions for Gas Powered electricity sub-station. Councillors expressed huge disappointment at yet another change being requested, for works already believed to have a detrimental impact on the landscape and nature of this rural area. Councillors **strongly objected** to this request, noting that the application, on close examination, showed a reduction in the level of planting and an increase in the size of the building, from single to two-storey, at a site that would be clearly visible to all traffic on the A179 and close to the entrance to Hart village, although the plans attached did not show this change in size in the indicative views of the site. Councillors felt the application was unacceptable and noted the incremental negative impact of each proposal received since planning permission had been granted.

H/2020/0175 – land at Worset Lane – Solar Farm and associated development – **no objection in principal**, however HPC still concerned about the size of the proposed development; would expect the developer to ensure that boundaries are thickly planted with native hedging and take steps to improve the bio-diversity of the area. Councillors wished to thank the applicant’s consultants who have written to every household in the village, consulted widely, listened to and took notice of concerns before submitting the application. They have set a good example for other developers to follow.

Meeting closed 8.56 pm.