



Minutes of Zoom Meeting held at 7.00 pm on Monday 8th March 2021

(Members of the public were invited to attend via Microsoft Teams)

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

In Attendance: M. Ireland, Clerk, (by phone), Ward Cllr. Cassidy, Mr & Mrs. Elliott

1. Apologies: Cllrs Brown and Geddes

2. Public Forum: The Elliotts raised concerns about the state of the Chare Wall (East) and the apparent lack of action by the Parish Council in addressing the issue of its imminent collapse. They were concerned that there had been no public consultation on the issue, although they noted that the Clerk had provided them with a timetable of the actions undertaken since acquiring the wall. The Chairman stated that he fully understood their concerns, that the situation had been going on for far too long, but due to the costs of the repair or restoration of the wall, there was little that could be done until funding became available. Cllr Britcliffe informed that HBC were sending a structural engineer to assess the state of the wall and we were awaiting his report.

At this point the Chairman agreed to move straight to Item 6 on the Agenda.

6. Chare Wall: Cllr Park had submitted a Scheme of Works, which Cllr Britcliffe agreed to forward to the Elliotts. Cllr Park then talked through his proposed Scheme of Works, which he shared on the screen. This came under several phases: (i) Identify funding; (ii) Undertake surveys; (iii) Plan the process of building. The first two of these were already underway, the third required: a planning application to be approved, the design and drawings to be produced, a tender document to be produced and issued to appropriate contractors, a decision on the appointment of contractor, and finally, construction. If we were to be given the 'go ahead', then we would need to prepare the site, (clean the stones, excavate the soil behind the wall, remove the excess, build concrete foundations, etc), which raised questions, e.g. How would vehicles access the site? Do we have consent from the owner of the cottage to use their garden for storage of equipment during the construction? He noted that the garden would need to be reinstated afterwards. Where did the services run – i.e. water, electricity, gas? He further noted that the bridge would probably need to be repaired in order to provide access, though HBC had previously refused to do this. The Clerk noted that funding is the real issue. Cllr Britcliffe stated that first we need to know what the HBC structural engineer has to say and then do what we can with the funds we already have available; this would mean making compromises - perhaps not building the wall to its full height or using concrete instead of lime mortar. Cllr Park believed the wall should be demolished immediately to prevent accidents. There followed a long discussion about funding – other potential sources, the need for a business case to be made, other influential people to approach, including the Tees Valley Mayor. It was finally **agreed** that a Working Party be formed, to be chaired by Cllr Park, with support from Cllrs Britcliffe and/or Littlefair. Mr. & Mrs Elliott offered to help in whatever way would be useful. It was further agreed that the Clerk should telephone Mrs Elliott to discuss the funding issue.

Actions: Cllr Park to convene a Chare Wall Working Party immediately; Clerk to telephone Mrs Elliott and request a copy of the HBC structural surveyor's report as a matter of urgency.

Mr & Mrs Elliott left the meeting at 7.55pm.

3. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Littlefair in mentions of the Solar Farm application.
4. **Minutes of Meeting held 8th February 2021:** The Minutes of the meeting being agreed as a true record, it was **RESOLVED** to accept them.
5. **Matters Arising:** Dealt with under Item 6.

- **Ward Councillor's Report:** Cllr Cassidy stated: "As we've already discussed Chare Wall, I will wait for the report to come back from Tony Hanson's office.
- I've mentioned in my want list: some extra bins for Front Street.
- As I do not sit on the Planning Committee, I've yet to hear back about the solar farm application
- The Parish Council wanted me to start campaigning for a roundabout and traffic lights at the a179 junctions and introduce slowing methods around the village - I'm fully onboard with this and want to get the wheels in motion to make this happen. With local elections round the corner, I'm not going to sit here and say this will definitely happen, but I will publicly campaign for it, as it is needed. Cllr Littlefair that with the closing of the A19 gaps all traffic was now using the local roads and A179 to reach the A19 as there was still no Elwick By-Pass.
- Butts Lane - A scheme is currently being designed by the Flood Risk team and will hopefully hit site in the coming months - I have requested to be updated directly on this.
- Rural West Councillors are currently in talks with the Council to explore the idea of community CCTV, and I was wondering if this is something the parish council would like me to explore for the village. Cllr Britcliffe noted that there were many private CCTV cameras in the village, that John Riddle, Neighbourhood Watch, had raised the issue of funding of the CCTV with him earlier that day and that he had invited him to attend the March meeting to discuss this. Cllr Park noted that CCTV should also be offered to Elwick.
- Covid cases in Hartlepool have continued to fall, but from the 2nd March the case rates have flat lined according to the data I have received.
- As always if there's anything I can do to help as a Ward Councillor please get in touch either via my email tomhartlepool@gmail.com or calling 07903400454

7. **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman wished to thank all those litter pickers who were working hard to keep the village and its surroundings clear of litter. He noted that the police response to many issues recently had been very poor, though they had responded to an assault by armed youths on a gamekeeper.

8. **Financial Report:** The Financial reports (previously circulated) were presented by the Clerk. It was **resolved** to accept the reports.

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
Interest on Business Account	<u>0.03</u>	D.M. Ireland (repayment of HBC pre-planning fee)	144.00
Total	0.03	Total	144.00

9. **Correspondence:** None received.

10. Maintenance Committee: Cllr Park had circulated an updated 'To Do' list; he noted in particular the following issue: Parking on Magdalene Drive now that the school was open again. He regretted the lack of feedback from HBC. The Clerk noted that she sent his report to Kieran Bostock after each meeting, adding any issues brought up by other Councillors.

11. Planning Applications: None received

12. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

Cllr Brown raised concern about the number of large potholes at the higher end of Butts Lane, which were now more like craters; also, the trees on Seymour's land behind the church were the subject of several complaints.

Cllr Littlefair raised concern yet again about the state of Hart Back Lane near the turbine and Worset Lane near the power station – both were in a very bad state, being full of potholes; the former having been patched so often it was also very rough.

13. Date of next meeting: 7.00 pm Monday 12th March 2021. Venue/method to be agreed nearer the date, once Covid guidelines had been reviewed.

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm.

DRAFT