

## Hart Parish Council

### Minutes of meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 10 July 2017 at Hart Village Hall

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

**In Attendance:** M. West, Clerk, Mr. J. Taylor

1. **Apologies:** None received
2. **Register of Members' Interests:** All Councillors returned their completed forms, with the exception of Cllr Britcliffe, who requested a blank copy.
3. **Public Forum:** Mr. Taylor raised concern over the flooding of the footbridge across the Beck, which is on the path to the Saxon Church, and therefore in regular use. He has been cutting the banksides as a volunteer, but has noted that the water level is now always almost at the level of the bridge and when it rains heavily, the bridge floods, making it impossible to use safely. Mr. Taylor was thanked for the information. It was noted that Northumbria Water used to clean the beck regularly, but that this had been taken over by HBC. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should contact the Local Authority in the first place and if no action is taken, then to contact the Environment Agency. **Action:** Clerk to contact relevant officer to report problem.
4. **Declarations of Interests:** T. Britcliffe declared an interest in Planning Application 12b. J. Littlefair declared an interest in Applications 12d and 12e.
5. **Minutes of 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017:** Accepted as correct and signed.
6. **Matters Arising:** (a) **Car Park resurfacing** - the Chairman informed members that there was EAFRD money available for tourism or regeneration projects, and it would be worth contacting Sue Donnelly, the officer responsible for EAFRD funds, at Tees Valley Combined Authority, to make a Declaration of Interest. It was also noted that Joe Brown may have a copy of the original plan for the car park. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should enquire of Sarah Scarr whether HBC had any funds available for a preliminary survey to ascertain what was required for the repair of the Chare wall, and that the Chairman should raise the question of funding for this, as well as the Freedom of Information request, at the next Parish Liaison meeting which was to take place on 12<sup>th</sup> July. (b) **Non receipt of Planning Applications:** The Clerk reported that Jim Ferguson had resolved the issue swiftly once contacted; it appeared that the Borough Council had been using the wrong e-mail address. **Actions:** Clerk to contact Sue Donnelly and Sarah Scarr, Chairman to raise issues at Parish Liaison meeting.
7. **Chairman's Report:** The Chair reported that: (a) he had been in contact with Mrs. Heaton, Headteacher of the school, about the use of the car park. Mrs Heaton had informed him that the school had raised £100 towards the resurfacing of the car park (not yet received by the Clerk); other issues discussed had been the possibility of using some of the school's own grounds as a car park, the double yellow lines in Magdalene Drive and a possible walkway around the Parish Council car park. It had been agreed that a meeting between Tony Hanson, the school, the Parish Council, the Village Hall Committee, etc. would be useful, to see how this could be moved forwards. The Chairman also agreed to raise this at the Parish Liaison meeting. **Action:** Chairman to raise at Parish Liaison meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> July; and that (b) some repairs had been done in Worsett Lane but that the whole road would need resurfacing if it was to be used to access the development at Quarry Farm.
8. **Ward Councillor's Report:** No ward Councillors present.  
Cllr Park had produced a really useful map on which he had identified and numbered every flower tub in Hart village.

**9. Flower Tubs:** The Clerk informed that Councillors expressed their appreciation and went on to identify those individuals who had adopted each tub.

**10. Finance Report:** (i) The Clerk presented the Transactions Report and Actual against Budget Report. These were **accepted**. (ii) The Clerk then informed that she had received no response to letters sent on 8<sup>th</sup> June to the local Branch Manager, and to the bank's Head Office; the completed Mandate Form and letter of authority had accompanied these and yet she was still not receiving bank statements. Councillors expressed concern and suggested either an appointment be made with the Manager to discuss the issue, or a formal letter of complaint be sent, with the option left to the Clerk of transferring all PC funds to another bank.

**11. Correspondence:** Mike Blair re: issues raised following the last PC meeting, which the Clerk had circulated to all Councillors on receipt; Cllr Park had kindly written a detailed list of every gully/drain in the village which was not taking surface water properly, accompanied by photographs, and this had been sent to Mr. Blair. A further inspection will be undertaken by the relevant HBC officer in due course. Mr Blair also stated that HBC did not have any record of ownership of the wall between the car park opposite the White Hart, and the pavement below it. Councillors disagreed, several stating that as the wall held up the car park, it must clearly belong to the Borough Council. Cllr Britcliffe stated that plans must exist of when the car park was made, and volunteered to look further into this issue. **Action:** Cllr Britcliffe to investigate ownership of the wall.

**12. Planning Applications:** (a) H/2017/0300 – No objection.

(b) Cllr Britcliffe left the room whilst application H/2017/0174 was discussed – No objection

(c) H/2015/0528 – Concern about infrastructure capacity, particularly Hart Lane and A179, or Elwick Road.

(d) Cllr Littlefair left the room whilst the following two applications were discussed. H/2017/0287 – Strongly Object - the plans show the proposed gas-powered electricity generator to be on an industrial scale, likely to produce noise and air pollution; the land, on which it is proposed to put it, is so far below the level of the road, the structure is just not suitable for the proposed location – it should be put in an industrial part of the town. Cllrs Park and Britcliffe offered to write a more detailed objection. **Action:** Cllrs Britcliffe and Park to draft detailed objection.

(e) H/2017/0301 – Object – Local Plan identifies site for 20 dwellings, proposal is for 27, an uplift of 35%; the same issues about the impact of increased development on the local infrastructure as earlier.

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

(a) Cllr Lancaster informed that the verge beside South View that had been seeded with wildflowers by the Borough Council was now looking very messy, as apparently the seed mix had contained plants that grew far too large for a verge site, and these had had to be removed by hand. He suggested that the area would look better if it were returned to grass.

(b) Cllr Britcliffe expressed concern that the common areas at The Darlings were not looking good, and expressed the view that the Parish Council should ensure that they were in good order before the site is completed. It was **agreed** that the Chairman should ask for a joint meeting between the site developers, HBC and Gentoo. **Action:** Chairman to arrange a joint meeting between the site developers, HBC and Gentoo.

**14. Date of next meeting:** 6.45pm Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.