

## Hart Parish Council

### Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on Monday 13 March 2017 at Hart Village Hall

**Public Forum:** A resident raised concerns about the street lighting outside South View, where another resident had fallen; he also noted mess on the road by the quarry.

**Present:** Cllrs. K. Brown, K. Lancaster, J. Littlefair (Chair), K. Park, J. Quarmby

**In Attendance:** Ward Cllr. P. Beck, P. Frost (HBC), outgoing Clerk R. Gray, incoming Clerk M. West

#### 1. Apologies: Kathryn Geddes.

Members of the public were also present as the Chairman made a presentation to the outgoing Clerk, Ron Gray, warmly thanking him for his long, 16 year's of service to the parish. Cllr Beck added his thanks on behalf of the ward Councillors and HBC, David Barker, Chairman of the Village Hall Association and other members of the public also added their appreciation. All wished him a happy and healthy retirement.

The Chairman then welcomed Mrs. Minna West, who was taking over the role; Mrs. West is experienced in the responsibilities of the role, having been Clerk to Elwick Parish Council since 2011.

#### 2. Briefing:

Mr. Peter Frost, HBC, gave a briefing on the results of the 24 hour/7-day Speed Survey recently conducted in the village, which he tabled.

Points made by Councillors included: (i) Surprise that low numbers of speeding vehicles were recorded – Cllr Beck noted that the school Head Teacher had mentioned concerns expressed by a number of parents walking their children to school, who reported speeding traffic; (ii) When there were hold-ups on the by-pass, drivers often came through the village at great speed. It was **agreed** that HBC should be asked to investigate the possibility of signs flashing the actual speed of a vehicle as it entered at each end of the village as well as 'rumble strips' each side of the Hart roundabout on the A179. Mr. Frost agreed to undertake this.

The Chairman queried the availability of funds to provide a slip road from the quarry road onto the by-pass; Mr. Frost **agreed** to see if this would be available from developers. The Chairman further asked if it would be possible to have a third lane on the by-pass to be used solely as a slip road to the village, when the A179 was upgraded? Cllr Beck suggested that a member of the PC should attend the Planning meeting when the development was being discussed.

Other issues raised: – (a) the need for street lighting and a road crossing for residents at the Fens; older residents in particular, who used the bus, found it difficult to cross the busy road – proper hard-standing at the bus stops and/or lay-bys for the buses were needed. (b) Fly-tipping of old furniture and cannabis plants in Worsett Lane – Mr. Frost reported that the police had been informed of this. He was informed that fly-tipping in this road was a fairly common occurrence and, furthermore, that the road surface was in dire need of replacement, with numerous potholes, flooding due to excessive run-off from the fields etc. Mr Frost **agreed** to make a site visit with the Chairman. He noted that provisional plans

were in place for the resurfacing of Butts Lane, Clevecoat Walk and the first section of Hart Lane during 2017/18.

He was informed that: (i) several gullies, on the main road between Nine Acres and Front Street, were blocked, causing surface water to run through the village; (ii) that trees on the side of the A179, towards the Tall Trees Public House and by the Fens, have grown to the point where they are obstructing visibility for drivers; (iii) that the access to the new Gentoo housing estate was poorly designed and meant that cars were having to clip the kerb when going in or out and (iv) that there was debris on the road opposite the quarry. In this latter case there should be a concrete apron on site, with vehicle washing facilities; lorries were often also leaving the site with loads uncovered, leading to increasing levels of debris in the road. It was felt that, as a condition of planning approval, all future developments in the parish should be required to provide these facilities on site BEFORE building works commence. **Action:** HBC to inform PC when the A179 upgrade planning application is to be discussed; P. Frost to investigate: flashing speed signs at each entrance to the village, slip road from quarry road onto A179, lighting/road crossing at the Fens, and blocked gullies.

**3. Declarations of Interest:** Cllr. Brown – Item 9c – North Hart Farm,  
Cllr. Littlefair – Item 9a – Glebe Farm.

**4. Minutes of 13 February 2017:** Accepted as correct and signed.

**5. Matters Arising:** 5c Launch of EAFRO – Cllr Littlefair attended launch.

12 *Parish Council vacancy* – Two applications had been received, after considering both, Mr. Tom Britcliffe was co-opted by **unanimous agreement**. **Action:** Clerk to write to both applicants. 13. *Agricultural land owned by HBC* – part of this land is up for sale for the development of 13 dwellings, the remainder for agriculture – JL expressed an interest in this.

**6. Clerk's Report and Correspondence:**

(a) **Annual Return & Audit training** - two places have been booked for JL and RG; MW is also attending, as Clerk to Elwick.

(b) **Affordable Landscapes** – the bank had made an error and, although stopped, the cheque had been en-cashed. It had therefore been agreed with Mr. Pearson that the first two cuts for 2017 would be undertaken free of charge.

(c) **Chare Wall** – Patrick Wilson (HBC) and Glenn Young (College of FE) are ready to go as soon as the Parish Council is ready. Agreed that the new Clerk should follow this up.

**Action:** Clerk to contact both as soon as possible.

(d) **Pensions Regulator** – no staff in pension. **Action:** Clerk to inform pension Regulator of current situation.

(e) **Palace Row dispute** – there is no issue here for HPC as this is a neighbour dispute.

(f) **Hartlepool & Stockton Clinical Commissioning Group** – two health centres now designated – Wynyard Road and Hartfields. **Action:** Clerk to include in report for Village Life.

**7. Reports:**

(a) **Roads and Paths** – path along road from west end of village is narrowing due to encroaching grass; also same in parts of Butts Lane.

(b) **Lights** – currently all are working. NB: lights badly needed at bus stops at the Fens, and preferably hard-standing and/or lay-by.

(c) **Amenities** – various signs have been left around the village, by HBC, over the last year, after works have been completed - these need to be removed to allow grass cutting.; the 20mph sign near Burns Close has been turned around; Burns Close access needs urgent attention. The Planting of tubs will be undertaken by Affordable Landscapes this year.

**8. Finances:** The Clerk reported that these were still within overall budget, but some transfer between budget heads had been required.

### **9. Planning Applications:**

**H/2017/0028 Glebe Farm** – great concern expressed about the disposal of foul water from this site; there is already a run off problem from the site which will only be exacerbated by the development of 13 dwellings and the concrete bases/paths required. **Agreed** to object. Cllr Littlefair noted that he has an 18' Right of Way through the site. It was reported that the Rural Plan Working Group had already submitted opposition to this application.

**H/2017/0086 Red Gap Turbines** – No comment. Not within Hart Parish.

**H/2017/0535 North Hart Farm** – No objection.

For information - Tree works to TPO No 29 have been approved by HBC.

**10. Car Park planings:** The Chairman had left messages with the Head of the School in regard to the car park planings -which will cost £200 + VAT. A contribution from the school would be asked for.

### **11. Minor Matters:**

(i) It was noted that Cllr Park has agreed to update and maintain the website. **Action:** Clerk to liaise with Cllr Park.

(ii) Condolences were to be sent by RG on behalf of the Parish Council to Jane Pearson and family.

### **12. Items for next agenda:**

(a) Incoming Clerk Mrs West noted that the parish had yet to meet **Transparency Regulations** and requested authority to make a Transparency Fund bid, for a laptop, scanner and web site development. The parish website was not up-to-date and was longer fit for purpose; the parish needed to ensure that all requirements of the Transparency Regulations were fulfilled and this meant uploading a range of governance and financial information. **Agreed.**

(b) The new Clerk further informed that she would like to introduce a number of relevant **policies** for the PC – such as employment, freedom of information, safeguarding etc. but would do so a little at a time. **Agreed**

(c) **Annual Parish Meeting** - **agreed** to hold this on Thursday 25 May if the hall was available, and to provide wine & cheese. **Action:** Cllr Brown to investigate and liaise with Clerk.

(d) **Defibrillator** – Cllr Park informed that weekly maintenance of the defibrillator was required and any replacement parts would be at the parish's expense. The Clerk informed that the Borough Council installed the machine and there was no agreement to meet annual running costs. **Action:** Clerk to investigate.

### **13. Date of next meeting:** 10 April 2017

Meeting closed at 8.54 pm.