**Hart Parish Council**

**Minutes of meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 10 December 2018 at Hart Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. T. Britcliffe (in the Chair), K. Brown, F. Lancaster, K. Park, J. Quarmby

**In Attendance:** Ward Cllrs T. Cassidy and J. Brewer, M. West, Clerk, 2 residents

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs. Littlefair and Geddes - accepted
2. **Public Forum:** The two residents of Hart Pastures raised concern about the impact on the historic wall beside the land which adjoins the gap next to White Cottage, on which there is an outline planning application to build a dwelling. Cllr Britcliffe informed them that the wall is not listed and therefore has no legal protection. The residents had both objected to the plans and had attended a recent HBC Planning Committee meeting, where Councillors had decided to postpone a decision until after a site visit on 19th December. The residents further explained that the proposed vehicular access onto Hart Pastures would exacerbate an already extremely difficult problem of parking, and leave no access for pedestrians. There were already parking problems for residents, with insufficient spaces for the number of cars at many of the houses, e.g. one has 6 vehicles, another 4, and if the access is approved, the streetlight would have to be moved, but to where? After a brief discussion, and a general agreement that, whilst there was no objection in principle to the building of a dwelling, the proposed vehicular access would impose an overwhelming obstacle. It was **resolved** that the Clerk should write again, as soon as possible, to the Planning Department, with a strong objection on the grounds of access and serious concerns about the parking provision in this part of Hart. **Action:** Clerk to write immediately to HBC as outlined.

*The residents left the meeting at 7.13pm.*

1. **Declarations of Interests:** None made.
2. **Minutes of 12th November:** There being no amendments required, it was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record.
3. **Matters Arising:** *Christmas Trees –* The Clerk reported that two Christmas Trees had been purchased at a cost of only £112.50, a considerable saving on last year. The trees had been delivered to the church and village hall by Cllr Brown, and had now been erected and decorated. She suggested that the Village Hall Association might be asked to consider, on both environmental and financial grounds, the planting of a ‘living’ tree. Cllr Britcliffe agreed to raise this with the Hall committee. **Action:** Cllr Britcliffe to raise living tree idea with VHA.
4. **Update on Village Field Access:** Cllr Britcliffe informed that the Joint School Governors group have requested that he write formally to the Academy governors, on behalf of the village, outlining exactly what was proposed in terms of covenants to guarantee public access and protect the field as open space in perpetuity. They had further stated that they would fully support the proposals from the Parish Council. It was **resolved** that Cllr Britcliffe should write as requested. It was further **resolved** that, should the Academy Governors refuse, then the Parish Council would seek legal advice.

The Clerk noted she had received an email from Cllr Cassidy informing that Historic England do not support the erection of an inner fence; they do not believe it will be necessary once the wall is rebuilt. Cllr Cassidy elaborated on his email, and stated that he will be raising the issue at the next HBC Children’s Committee meeting.

1. **Car Park:** Cllr Britcliffe reported that a resident in Magdalene Drive had raised concern that the car park remained open even though there were concerns about the safety of the walls. It was agreed that the Parish Council itself had no concerns about the safety of the walls, that it was a resident whose wall formed part of the car park boundary who had raised the issue following the school’s raising of concern regarding the field walls. It was **resolved** that car park should only be closed when the survey of the walls is undertaken, as part of the ‘Heart of Hart’ Project which, it is hoped, will happen some time in the next year. Cllr Brown suggested that the Parish Council might consider erecting gate posts at the entrance to the car park, in the meantime.
2. **Chairman’s Report:** The Chairman was not present and had not submitted a report.
3. **Ward Councillor’s Report:**Cllr Brewer wished to know if the Parish Council would like to have a PCSO attend their monthly meetings. Councillors unanimously agreed. The Clerk noted that she had regularly invited them, but they had rarely responded to the invitation due to work pressures. **Action**: Cllr Brewer to extend invitation on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Britcliffe noted the theft of two cars from The Pastures, attempted burglaries and deer poaching all recently reported. There was a definite rise in crime, not helped by the national media reporting of low police numbers on duty in the Hartlepool area. A resident had asked if there was scope for the parish Council having CCTV cameras installed. Following a discussion of what/where it was legal to record using a CCTV, it was **resolved** to invite a police representative to attend the next PC meeting in January. **Action:** Ward Councillors to extend the invitation to the police on Behalf of the Parish Council.

1. **Clerk’s Report:** The Clerk reported that most of the issues she had in her report had already been covered, that no update had been received from HBC officers on actions requested following the November meeting and that an officer from Historic England would be visiting the next day to look at the car park and Chare Wall. Cllrs Britcliffe and Littlefair would also be in attendance. Cllr Park indicated a wish to join the group and this was agreed.

*Ward Councillors left the meeting at 7.45pm.*

1. **Financial Reports:** The Clerk presented the reports. It was **RESOLVED** to accept these.

**Receipts £ Payments: £**

Bank Interest 3.16 0.00

1. **Correspondence:** Email from Elwick Parish Clerk requesting Hart PC’s view on erecting signs at the entrances to all Hartlepool villages on the lines of: ‘Please respect the village and its residents – Don’t Drop Litter!’ Councillors thought this an excellent idea and proposed that two would be needed for Hart, one for each entrance off the A179.
2. **Planning Applications:**  H/2018/0448 – 11, South View - No objections.

H/2018/0330 – Gas powered turbine - Remain in objection - original comments still apply.

**14. ‘To Do’ List:**

* Lamp post at roundabout still not repaired
* Water ‘standing’ on road in front of houses at The Fens and entrance to the village opposite the Raby Arms car park. **NB**: The drains here are blocked with debris.
* Grit bin requested for top of Butts Lane/outside old PO still not in situ – urgently needed before winter freeze
* Hart sign at junction on A179 is invisible to drivers in the dark, and many miss the junction
* Dog fouling, parking issues, fallen branches etc continue to be reported but are not acted on.
* Quarry entrance looking scruffy again with ‘stuff’ dumped, it needs landscaping.

It was noted that the flooding at the Glebe appears to have been cured

It was agreed that Cllr Park send his Village Maintenance report to the Clerk for circulation with the agenda.

**Actions:** Cllr Park to send report to Clerk one week before the following meeting, Clerk to send thanks to Seymour’s for their work on The Glebe drains.

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

Cllr Brown noted a concern that a car had been abandoned and ‘burnt out’ in North Hart Lane, blocking the road. A local farmer had moved it to make the road accessible. He wished to know who was responsible for dealing with such issues. **Action:** Clerk to ascertain information from Mike Blair, HBC.

**For Information**: Bob Ord is now the official Guardian of the Defibrillator.

1. **Date of next meeting:** Monday 14th January 2019 at 6.45pm.

Cllr Britcliffe wished everyone a Merry Christmas before closing the meeting at 8.14pm.