 **Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 10th October 2022**

**at Hart Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. J. Littlefair, T. Britcliffe, A. Parker and K. Park

**In Attendance:** M. Ireland, Clerk; Ward Cllrs Cassidy and Cook.

1. **Public Forum:** No members of the public were present, but the Clerk informed that she had responded in writing to the resident who had asked for support for meetings to keep residents informed of energy costs, as requested. She further reported that she was awaiting confirmation from Hartlepower as to an appropriate date from those offered by the Village Hall, for an Energy Open Day event, which she was organising with Hartlepower and other agencies.

1. **Apologies**: Cllr Brown and Ward Cllr Leedham.
2. **Declarations of Interest**: Cllr Littlefair in Item 13.
3. **Police Report**: No police in attendance, report received from PCSO Hester, who had been off work since late May due to long Covid. He reported 5 Burglaries, 1 Theft and 2 cases of Criminal damage had been reported in the whole of Hart Ward in September as well as 12 cases of nuisance anti-social behaviour. Cllr Littlefair and the Clerk reported on the Rural Crime Forum they had attended on 30th September. Hartlepool now has a designated PC for rural crime, PC Ben Hayes; the Clerk had met with him that day and had updated him on the particular issues facing the rural areas of Hartlepool including: drugs, fly-tipping, hare coursing, poaching, speeding through the villages and dog-related issues such as fouling, gates being forced/left open allowing stock to escape from fields, etc. Cllr Littlefair noted the Cleveland Constabulary campaign to recruit 15 more Special Constables, to focus specifically on rural crime. The next Rural Crime Forum is to take place from 10-30-12.30 at Police HQ, Hemlington on Wednesday 25th January 2023.
4. **Minutes of Meeting held on 26th September 2022:** Cllr Britcliffe proposed and Cllr Park seconded the adoption of the minutes. All present being in agreement, it was r**esolved** to accept the draft Minutes a true record.
5. **Matters Arising**: (a) ***Car Park gate-*** Cllr Park had received no further comments from residents of Magdalene Drive. He had received quotes of around £3,185 for the installation of both wooden vehicle and pedestrian access gates, and was expecting at least one more. It was **agreed** that an application for planning permission be made to HBC immediately. The Clerk requested Cllr Park be available to support her with the application, to which he agreed. (b) ***Access to field from car park*** – Cllr Littlefair had approached Mrs. Crowe about this, the response had been that consideration would be given for this access to be used but only on special occasions, such as the summer fete. Cllr Britcliffe requested the rota for opening the gate to the field be reviewed; Cllr Park had carried the majority of the load over the summer, but was not available to open every day from now on, and he was himself not available as much. Cllr Parker agreed to join the rota in the place of Cllr Britcliffe, leaving Cllrs Park, Parker and Quarmby to agree the rota for the next few months. The Clerk would inform the Trust of the change of key-holders.

(c) ***Civility and Respect Pledge:*** The Clerk reported that the Council was now signed up to the Pledge, and would be receiving a certificate to that effect, as well as being listed on the NALC website.

**Actions:** Clerk & Cllr Park to liaise on planning application for car park gate, Clerk to inform Trust of change in key holders, Cllrs Park, Parker and Quarmby to liaise over rota for gate opening/closing.

1. **Chairman’s Report:** Cllr Littlefair reported as follows:

* He had spoken with the school about the gate from the car park (reported above)
* He had attended the Rural Crime Forum (reported above)
* He had noted the Constabulary need for rural Specials and hoped everyone would advertise this opportunity
* He supported the Civility and Respect Pledge
* He noted with sadness the resignation of Cllr Simmons and thanked the Clerk for sending her flowers and card.

1. **Ward Councillors’ Report**: Cllr Cassidy reported that on 2nd November, the Neighbourhoods Committee, of which he was Chair, would make a site visit to the Recycling Centre on Burns Road, to see how it works and what issues arise from the current provision; a report would then go to the Committee meeting on 3rd December, which had some challenging decisions to make. He had received a request regarding overgrown trees behind Milbank Close and had forwarded this to the relevant department. Cllr Britcliffe alerted him to the on-going issue of overgrown hedges along the pavements between Nine Acres and the village, and from the village to The Fens, which had been reported several times to HBC, yet nothing had been done to rectify the problem, leaving residents having to walk in the main road. Cllr Littlefair added the wall at The Fens, owned by the Borough Council, was in such a poor state of repair that stones were continually being taken from it – this had been reported numerous times over the last few years but again nothing was being done.

Cllr Cook reported that Peter Frost had sent an update, on 23rd September, to all Hart Parish Councillors and the Clerk, about the issues raised earlier in the year, and asked if it had been received – all agreed they had done so. He then spoke about the Hartfields surgery situation – the report had not gone to the September Audit Committee as expected, as it had first been submitted to the Integrated Care Board (ICB); it was now to be presented at the Committee meeting on 24th November. He confirmed that more residents were now using the surgery, but did not expect that to affect the result of the consultation. Cllr Park noted that he had been informed by an officer of the Borough Council, that the pavement along Front Street, from Butts Lane to Voltigeur Drive was apparently not owned by anyone. Cllr Britcliffe, noted this was nonsensical as it clearly belonged to the Borough Council as they maintained it.

1. **Maintenance Committee Report**: Cllr Park reported no new issues had arisen since the September meeting, neither had any action been undertaken on these issues by the Borough Council.
2. **Financial Reports:** The Clerk presented the financial reports, which were **approved.**

**Receipts: £ Payments: £**

Interest 1.01 Affordable Landscapes (grass cutting) 428.40

**Total 1.01 428.40**

1. **Budget Proposals:** The Clerk was requested to include in the budget proposals, as well as the normal administration of the Parish Council, grass-cutting – recognising the increasing costs of fuel and staff, the gates for the car park, the initial costs of professional support in preparing for the restoration of the Chare Wall (the main restoration to be funded from external sources), the renewable licence to use the village field, bank charges and the cost of defibrillator spares.
2. **Correspondence**: (i) email from Alison Reeves, notifying she was leaving Council employment and informing of a spare defibrillator battery left for the Clerk at the Civic Centre Reception Desk. – Cllr Park to collect. (ii) Seascapes, Clavering Sound Mirror Community Archaeology Project, notifying of the archaeological dig to be commenced on 17th October at Clavering Road – Clerk to request information be put on Hart Hub. (iii) Arup Group regarding an application for planning permission to be made by Gridserve Sustainable Energy Ltd for an electric vehicle charging station and ancillary retail and lounge facilities on the A179 at Whelly Hill Farm – Clerk to request their attendance at a PC meeting as soon as possible.

**Actions**: Ward Councillors toseek information as to if and when the defibrillators will be passed into PC ownership; Cllr Park to collect spare defibrillator battery from Civic Centre Reception; Clerk to request Mrs. Simmons to post information regarding the Clavering Sound Mirror dig be put on Hart Hub, to write to invite representatives to attend PC meeting to discuss Electric Forecourt.

Councillor Britcliffe then gave Parish and Ward Councillors a brief update on the number of renewable energy applications currently agreed or being requested around Hart, using a map to identify the concentration of these. Councillor Littlefair was excluded from commenting an these and on the following planning application.

1. **Planning Applications:**

**H/2022/0302 – Synchronous Condenser with ancillary infrastructure, landscaping etc -Land north of Hart Moor Farm.** Councillors again expressed concern at the proliferation of applications for developments, related to renewable energy, that were in danger of turning the A179/Hart area into an industrial black spot. Cllr Britcliffe agreed to draft a response on behalf of HPC and forward it to the Clerk to put on the Planning Portal.

**Action:** Cllr Britcliffe to draft response, Clerk to put on Planning Portal when received.

1. **Matters of Concern to Councillors**: Cllr Parker raised a resident’s concern about the lack of cover at the bus stop opposite the Village Hall, where children and residents often had to wait in the pouring rain; the resident asked if a canopy, over the bench situated there, could be provided. **Action:** Clerk to ask Peter Frost if this was the Borough Council’s responsibility
2. **Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council:** 6.45pm Monday 14th November 2022 at Hart Village Hall.

*Chairman closed the meeting at 8.37 pm*