 **Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 11th April 2022**

**Present:** Cllrs. J. Littlefair, K. Brown, J. Quarmby, K. Park and D. Simmons

**In Attendance:** PCSOs G. Hester and V. Hocking, M. Ireland, Clerk

1. **Public Forum:** No members of the public present
2. **Apologies:** Ward Cllrs Cassidy, Cook and Riddle, Parish Councillor Britcliffe
3. **Declarations of Interest**: None made
4. **Police Report:** PCSO Hester introduced his colleague, PCSO Vanessa Hocking and then informed that several speed checks had been undertaken at entrances to the village over the last few weeks; several drivers had been found to be exceeding the limit. They have also been visiting Worset lane, but had not discovered anything illegal. Cllr Littlefair noted that a silver BMW had been stolen at the weekend, though it was believed the perpetrator was known to the owner. The car stolen earlier last month had been found at Dalton Piercy. The Officer reported that there had been a significant increase in the theft of high value vehicles in the last few months, with Range Rovers being a particular target. He suggested that owners keep their car keys in a Faraday pouch, or similar, to prevent potential thieves from hacking them. Cllr Park informed of a motorbike ‘screaming’ up Butts Lane on a regular basis, and also that he had reported a quad bike and scrambler bike being used on the road without licence plates. All noted that it had been fairly quiet on the crime front in recent weeks and thanked the Officers for their visible precedence, which had clearly had an impact. PCSO Hocking informed that she and colleagues would be delivering road safety talks at the village primary school after the Waster break. **Action:** Cllr Simmons to place advice on Faraday pouches on Hart Hub.
5. **Minutes of 14th March 2022** – Cllr Quarmby proposed and Cllr Simmons seconded the adoption of the minutes. All present being in agreement, it was **resolved** to accept the draft Minutes a true record.
6. **Matters Arising**: (a) ***Anti-Litter Posters***– The Clerk requested instruction on what to do with the wining posters. After a brief discussion it was agreed that 5 copies of each should be laminated and placed at those sites around the village most affected by litter. ***(b) Grass cutting –*** the Clerk reported that the signed Licence had now been received and that John Pearson contracted to maintain the green spaces around the village with the exception of The Darlings and Manor Park. She further informed that the cost per cut were about to rise considerably, due to the effect of the huge recent increase in the price of fuel; this could not have been foreseen and the contract would therefore have to be carefully managed to stay as far as possible within budget. Should this become impossible, then she would bring the matter to the attention of Councillors. Cllr Park informed that he was in process of producing a digital map of the areas to be included in the contract. ***(c) Annual Parish Meeting*** – the Clerk informed that the Village Hall had been booked for Tuesday 17th May and requested suggestions for guest speakers. It was agreed that invitations be sent to Jill Mortimer, MP, the new Chief Constable of Cleveland Police and HBC Managing Director, Denise McGuckin. ***(d) South View parking*** – the Clerk informed that she and Cllr Britcliffe, together with 2 residents of South View, had met with Peter Frost on 1st April to discuss the parking issue. Mr Frost had **agreed** to consider options and send these for discussion as soon as possible. ***(e) Tree branch –*** The fallen tree branch, near the school on Butts Lane, had now been removed along with other tree debris, but the requested tree survey had not yet been undertaken, though this had been urgently requested. Cllr Brown noted that several trees were in a dangerous condition and were a safety hazard. ***(f) School Field gate*** *–* it was noted that the new ‘kissing’ gate had recently been installed; it was expected that, once the school re-opened after the Easter break, that keys to the gate would be provided. In the meantime, the large gate would continue to be available and the rota for opening/closing was working well.

**Actions**: Clerk to laminate 5 copies of each Anti-Litter poster and pass to Councillors for placement around the village; to invite those identified to the Annual Parish Meeting; to consult the school on wording and placement of notice about usage of the school field.

1. **Chairman’s Report:** Cllr Littlefair reported that:

* He had noted an increase in the amount of litter being dumped from cars, especially on Hart Back Lane, School House Lane and around Nine Acres – much of this appeared to be ‘fast-food’ detritus, from McDonald’s and other similar suppliers.
* The state of Hart Back Lane was now very dangerous as, near the turbine, the surface is breaking up and falling into the field and there are several very large potholes.
* Only 4 nominations for the Parish Council had been received within the regulation time, therefore there would need to be 3 co-options later. Cllr Quarmby and Simmons apologised for missing the deadline.
* The Parish Liaison Meeting planned for 4th April had been cancelled due to the Leader of the Borough Council having Covid. It was expected to be rescheduled, possibly on 28th April, but the four Rural Parish Chairmen were not happy with the proposed agenda, in particular the issue of the lack of consultation on S106 funds and the removal of key sections of the draft Charter.

1. **Ward Councillors’ Reports:** No report received.

1. **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee:** Cllr Simmons reported that there had been no changes to the plans, and the group were at the stage of allocating tasks for the events. The ‘Race Night’ had been very successful. The Clerk noted that she had agreed to print 250 fliers to be issued with the Platinum Jubilee mugs early next month and reminded Councillors that £500 had been ringfenced for the Jubilee should it be needed. She further noted that the Beacon had been ordered in the name of the Parish Council, but that payment had been made by an individual; in order to comply with VAT legislation, the payment would need to be made by the PC; the issue was now in process of being resolved, to ensure probity; she had also informed the PC’s insurers of the proposed Jubilee activities.

Cllr Simmons noted that HBC had now advertised that a grant of between £50 and £250 would be available to community groups wishing to hold street parties for the Jubilee; a charge of £50 for bollards would be made; the group were applying for Front Street to be closed on the Sunday afternoon. Cllr Littlefair noted that HBC had only recently appointed an officer to oversee Jubilee activities on behalf of the Council.

1. **Maintenance Committee Report**: Cllr Park had not produced a written report, but gave a verbal update on previous issues raised, noting that very little had yet been done by HBC.

* The signs to the village – at the western end and at the crossroads had not yet been replaced and this was a safety issue. PCSO Hester requested photographs of the places where signs were missing, be sent to him in order that he might raise the issue with his superiors.
* Flooding - at the eastern entrance to the village and on Butts Lane not yet resolved.
* The steps at the bridge end of the public footpath from Clevecoat Walk were in a dangerous condition.
* Parking on the pavement outside the Old Post Office continued to be an issue, with families having to walk small children/pushchairs in the road as a result; this was right beside the access to Butts Lane, leaving drivers with a blind corner.
* Litter from the construction site on the A179 had blown across the highway and covered both sides of the road for some distance; he had raised this issue with HBC, but it had been volunteer litter pickers who had cleared most of it. It was poor site management on the part of the developer and HBC should enforce action to prevent this re-occurring.
* Dogs - waste was proliferating again – several owners/walkers were leaving bags full of dog waste on the side of the road or throw it into the hedges; many dogs were being seen off the lead in public places – this was not to be condoned.
* Cllr Simmons noted that only 2 volunteers had turned up to help with the Chare wall on Sunday – and neither of these was a Parish Councillor, which was embarrassing; quite a lot of debris and stones had been removed and placed in the neighbouring garden. Cllr Littlefair offered to spray any weed growth in the near future.
* The brown bin full of dog waste in Clevecoat Walk had now been removed, thanks to Chris Scaife.

**Actions:** Cllr Park to send photographs of where missing signposts should be to PCSO Hester; Cllr Littlefair to spray weeds on the Chare wall; Clerk to inform Kieran Bostock, HBC, of maintenance concerns.

1. **Financial Reports:** The Clerk presented the financial reports, which were approved.

**Receipts: £ Payments: £**

Interest (Business Account) 0.15 Bank charges 5.40

Northern Lights Learning Trust (Licence) 132.00

D.M. Ireland (stationery) 52.89

**Total 0.15 Total 190.29**

The Clerk informed that the annual accounts would be passed to the Internal Auditor as soon as the next bank Statement had been received, the only expected amendment from the report tabled today would be the Bank Charges for March. She would be again submitting an Exempt report to the External Auditors as the turnover was under £25,000.

1. **Correspondence**: (i) HBC- information on a Consultation being undertaken on Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment for Hartlepool – agreed to place information on Hart Hub. **Action:** Cllr Simmons to place information on Hart Hub.

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1. **Planning Applications:**

H/2022/0098 – Plot 11, Manor Court - No comment

H/2022/0052 – 6, Burns Close – No Comment

H/2022/0115 – The Old Granary, Middlethorpe Farm – no decision until Councillors consider the application further – concerns expressed about this being a retrospective application, the impact on neighbours, of covenant on these houses, height etc. **Actions:** Councillors to send comments to Clerk by Thursday 14th April; Clerk to submit comment based on majority view.

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

Cllr Simmons raised concern about the state of the recently resurfaced pavement alongside the road beside South View – part of this has raised and is a trip hazard for pedestrians.

Cllr Quarmby asked when the sign for the School Field were to be available – the Clerk noted that she had been requested not to process this until requested by Councillors. It was agreed the school be consulted on the wording and placement of the sign(s). **Actions:** Clerk to inform HBC of pavement issue and consult school on signage.

1. **Date of Annual Meeting of the Parish Council:** 6.45pm Monday 9th May 2022 at Hart Village Hall.

*Chairman closed the meeting at 7.58pm*