**Minutes of Meeting held at 6.15 m on Monday 11th December 2023**

**in Hart Village Hall**

**Present:** Councillors John Littlefair (Chair), Tom Britcliffe, Keith Brown, Keith Park, Joanne Quarmby, Stuart Brookes

**In Attendance:** Fiona Ford - Clerk, Ward Councillor Rob Darby

1. **Public Forum**

No members of the public

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs John Wilson and Tom Cassidy.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Littlefair declared an interest in Item 13.

1. **Police Report**

There was no Police Report available.

1. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th November 2023**

The Minutes were agreed as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

1. **Matters Arising**
2. **Butts Lane Overgrown Hedge** – Part of hedge has been cut back, however still needs cutting back further.
3. **Church Car Park Sign and English Heritage** – It was noted the sign can remain in situ, Resolved
4. **Car Park Gate Planning Application** – It was noted Councillor Park had received a couple of responses and will chase up the remainder. **Action – Councillor Park**
5. **South View Parking Design** – **Action – Clerk to ask Peter Frost for an update.**
6. **Chairman’s Report**

Councillor Littlefair advised he had attended the Parish Council Liaison Meeting with HBC and the following items were raised and discussed:

* Debris on the road from the works at the reservoir
* Speeding through the village
* Ongoing issues with drainage problems in the village
* Parking enforcement on a Saturday evening

It was noted planning permission for the Elwick Bypass should be submitted in the next few months. Councillor Littlefair also thanked HBC for cutting back the hedges at Nine Acres.

1. **Ward Councillor’s Report**

Councillor Darby advised he was liaising with the police regarding the parking tickets recently issued and the potential for permits was discussed. It was noted Hart School fundraiser would take place on 15th December 2023.

1. **Maintenance Committee Report**

The list of outstanding items were discussed and it was agreed the items needs to be prioritised accordingly. Councillor Park would raise the issue with rats with HBC and Councillor Darby would mention it to the school. **Action – Councillors Park and Darby**

1. **Parking on the Front Street**

It was noted that due to an illegally parked car going viral on social media, parking enforcement attending the village on a Saturday evening and several people received tickets. A discussion then took place regarding double yellow lines and parking issues within the village.

1. **Financial Report**

It was agreed to make a £50 donation to Village Life and the North East Air Ambulance. **Action: Clerk to obtain payment details for next month and forward Village Life contact details to Councillor Darby.**

The financial report was then discussed and the following cheques signed:

100886 Clerk wages (November 2023) £215.20

100887 HMRC (PAYE November 2023) £53.80

 **Total £269.00**

The draft 2023/2024 budget was discussed and it was agreed to ringfence £10k for the Heart of Hart/Church Wall Project. The options for the precept were then discussed and it was agreed the household amount would remain the same as 2022/2023; however due to the increase in the tax base due to additional houses, the precept would increase to £8,159. **Action: Clerk to check with HBC regarding how that will be presented on the Council tax bill.**

1. **Correspondence**

There was no correspondence to discuss.

1. **Planning Applications**

It was noted the Solar Farm and infrastructure on A179 had been approved through a planning appeal.

A discussion then took place regarding concerns around what is discharged into the air from the power station on A179. **Action: Councillor Park to draft a question for HBC**

1. **Matters of Concern to Councillors**

No additional issues.

1. **Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council**

The meetings for 2024 were then agreed as follows:

Monday 8th January 2024 Monday 12th February 2024

Monday 11th March 2024 Monday 8th April 2024

**Monday 20th May 2024 (third week of May)** Monday 10th June 2024

Monday 8th July 2024 Monday 9th September 2024

**Monday 7th October (first week of October)** Monday 11th November 2024

Monday 9th December 2024

All meetings will take place at 6.45pm in Hart Village Hall

*Meeting closed at 8.20 pm*

*Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*