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

**at Hart Village Hall**

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

**In Attendance:** M. Ireland, Clerk, Ward Cllr Cook, 6 residents

The Chairman agreed to take Item 8 immediately following Item 1.

1. **Public Forum:** A resident requested use of the school field after 10.00am during the school holidays, and to cut a section of grass on it in order to facilitate the playing of cricket/football. All Councillors present **agreed** this was acceptable. All were reminded that the gate is opened/closed each day on rota by Cllrs Britcliffe, Park and Quarmby.

Another resident requested the old path beside the wall in the car park onto the school field be reinstated. The Chairman informed that access to the field at this gate was not within the gift of the Parish Council, and it was the Academy who run the school who had closed off the access. However, he was willing to approach the school to see if the access could be reinstated, though he was not hopeful of a positive outcome. **Action:** Chairman to liaise with school about access to the field from the car park.

*One resident left the meeting.*

1. **Car Park Gate:** A resident of Magdalene Driveinformed that there had been a great deal of nuisance/anti-social behaviour in the car park for some time, usually in the early hours of the morning, especially during the summer months. This took the form of loud music, cars racing around, drug dealing/misuse, fast food containers dumped. It was very intimidating for residents as there were often four people in every car, and the police response to reports from residents had been very slow, thus the problem people had left long before the police arrived on the scene. The residents preferred solution would be to have a vehicle barrier across the access, with only pedestrian access permanently available. The resident further informed that he and his neighbours were willing to open/close the gate, if installed, every day if required.

The Chairman noted that he had also received requests from people wishing to attend church functions such as funerals who could not access the car park due to it being used by the school and also that there had been some items stolen from the church, always at night. It was **agreed** the Parish Council would investigate the options for a vehicle barrier. Cllr Britcliffe noted the school now had a new caretaker who was very helpful. Cllr Park noted that previous research had indicated a 4m, powder-coated, galvanised manual gate would cost in the region of £2,000, whilst a single barrier, galvanised pole would cost around £1,500.

The resident suggested the school be asked to contribute an annual fee for use of the car park. It was also suggested that a ‘kissing gate’ be installed at the side to prevent access by motor vehicles and/or horses. Cllr Park was requested to meet with residents to ensure common agreement to the proposed gate and then provide a sketch of a similar gate to that to the Fishponds Field, to accompany any planning application**. Action**: Cllr Park to liaise with residents of Magdalene Drive and produce sketch as agreed.

*All residents left the meeting*

1. **Apologies:** Parish Cllr Quarmby,Ward Cllrs Cassidy and Leedham.
2. **Declarations of Interest**: None made
3. **Police Report**: No police in attendance nor report received.The Clerk informed of the response from Inspector Zoe Kelsey, in which she stated the police would do their best to attend but officer numbers sometimes precluded this. The Chairman reported on the Rural Crime Forum attended by both himself and the Clerk; the same issues always raised by attendees, promises made by Police Officers but nothing resulted. He felt it a waste of time to attend.
4. **Minutes of Meeting held on 13th June 2022:** Cllr Britcliffe proposed and Cllr Brown seconded the adoption of the minutes. All present being in agreement, it was **resolved** to accept the draft Minutes a true record. Cllr Cook noted that Peter Frost had not contacted any Hart Ward Councillors since the June meeting; he personally wished to ensure that a full consultation was held with villagers before any traffic/road infrastructure plans were implemented.
5. **Matters Arising**: (a) ***Grass cutting at The Darlings*** – The Clerk reported that Gentoo had informed her they were in negotiation with HBC to pass the land over to HBC, therefore were not in a position to agree any grass-cutting. (b) ***Holyrood –*** No information had been received from Cllr Cassidy following his visit to Holyrood Drive to examine the line-of-sight issue.
6. **Jubilee Beacon**: The Clerk informed she had received a request from the Jubilee Committee for the Beacon, purchased by the Parish Council, to be given on permanent loan to the church museum. This was unanimously **agreed**. She further reported that, if all parties were in agreement, the remaining funds were to be used to purchase a stone bird bath, to be placed at the centre of the new church Community Garden, and to be engraved with the wording “To commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth ll”. This too was unanimously **agreed**.

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

* He had sent a condolence card to Joe Brown’s family on behalf of the Parish Council
* He had received several requests from residents asking for a vehicle barrier on the car park
* At the HBC Audit & Governance Committee, the Hartfields Medical Practice had been discussed; there will be no report to the Committee until October/November at the earliest. locally, therefore demand for this medical. Thousands of new houses are being built so demand for the Hartfields Practice should grow. He noted the NHS had reorganised the CCG, bringing all areas in the north, including Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, Teesside & Tyneside to form a regional Integrated Care Board (ICB), of which the Tees Valley would be a sub-region.
* Jubilee Committee – covered earlier
* 1, Holyrood Crescent – following on from his conversation with the owner, some of the border had now been removed, though there still remained some, causing line-of-sight issues.
* HBC were offering a Planning Training event to parish councils between 5 and 8.00pm on Wednesday 13th July. Neither he nor Vice-Chairman Britcliffe could attend as both would be out of the area on business. Cllrs Park, Parker and Simmons agreed to attend.
* HBC were also offering training on the new Councillor Portal.

1. **Ward Councillors’ Report:** Cllr Cook reported: (i) that, as the Chairman had already covered the Hartfields Medical Practice issue, he would not repeat the information. (ii) He apologised that, when he was originally asked to join the Charter Working Party, before the May election, he had declined as he was then too busy; he later spoke to Cllr Moore and was advised that the 2 HBC Councillor representatives had already been selected – Cllrs Moore and Young. Cllr Littlefair noted the original request for a Working Party had been made in April, and as yet nothing had been done**.** Cllr Cook stated he would ask to attend as an observer. (iii) he was not happy about the lack of communication with Ward Councillors by the Police; every ward was in the same position and it was very frustrating. Cllr Littlefair noted that even with lots of CCTV evidence, the police will not use it, saying the faces are not clear enough, even though other people are easily able to identify the individuals on the screen!

Cllr Cook agreed to speak to Cllr Cassidy about Holyrood, to Cllr Moore about the Charter Working Group and Peter Frost about the traffic proposals that would affect Hart.

1. **Maintenance Committee Report**: Cllr Park had circulated the report just before the meeting, so most had not had the opportunity to read it. Key points to note –
2. Traffic calming measures – nothing yet
3. Flooding – road to the Fens and at the roundabout on the A170, Burns Close and Butts Lane.
4. The steps off the public footpath between Clevecoat Walk and Front Street – Clerk asked to send request to Chris Scaife again
5. Lamp post on A179, that came down in November, still not replaced and thus there is no lighting at the crossroads
6. Gate into car park
7. Chare wall – as soon as funding is confirmed, PC to go out to tender
8. Front Steet parking – still no feedback from HBC.

It was **agreed** there was no longer a need for an organised litter pick as so many volunteers already doing this on a regular basis, which is much appreciated.

**Dog Dirt is increasingly a problem again.** Cllr Simmons agreed to put a notice on the Hart Hub requesting dog walkers to take dog waste home.

**Actions:** Cllr Simmons to put notice about Dog Dirt on Hart Hub; Clerk to contact RNJ to request a quote for producing a spec and drafting a tender document for the Chare Wall refurbishment.

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

**Receipts: £ Payments: £**

HMRC (VAT repayment) 887.20 Bank charges 5.00

Interest (Business Account) 0.17

**Total 887.37 Total 5.00**

1. **Correspondence**: Request from agent for Reliance Energy, applying for a Battery Storage facility at Worset Lane, to meet with Parish Council; the Clerk had advised too late for July meeting, next meeting September – noted.
2. **Planning Applications:** H/2022/0246 – single storey front extension, 10, The Darlings.
3. **Matters of Concern to Councillors**:

Cllr Simmons requested permission to prune a crab apple tree near the Memorial Bench in Buckingham Close – **agreed**. She further noted a tree opposite No 9 Palace Row needed crown lifting. The Clerk was requested to ascertain from Derek Wardle whether the tree had a TPO.

Cllr Brown noted that two, double-headed street lights at the west entrance to the village off the A179 were not working and the sign had still not been replaced. **Actions:** Clerk to contact Derek Wardle about tree and Rob Daley about street lights.

1. **Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council:** 6.45pm Monday 12th September 2022 at Hart Village Hall.

*Chairman closed the meeting at 8.28 pm*