**Hart Parish Council**

**Minutes of meeting held at 6.50pm on Monday 11 June 2018 at Hart Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. J. Quarmby, J. Littlefair (Chair), K. Brown, F. Lancaster, T. Britcliffe. K. Geddes,

F. Lancaster, K. Park

In Attendance: Ward Cllr T. Cassidy, Cllr J. Tennant, Chair of Independent Group of HBC Councillors, M. West, Clerk, 4 residents

1. **Apologies:** None received
2. **Declarations of Interests:** None
3. **Public Forum:** The Chairman moved Agenda **Item 5a -** **Village Field Wall**, to allow members of the public to have the opportunity to express their views. He went on to describe the meeting held at 9.30am that morning at Hart School, where members of the Parish Council and Mr. David Wall met with 3 HBC Education Dept facilities officers and Jo Heaton, Headteacher, to discuss options for dealing with the collapsed wall on Village/School Field, which were to be presented to the HBC Children’s Services Committee at 4.00pm the next day (12/6/2018). Five options were presented, all of which involved demolishing the wall, and only two included rebuilding the wall, with 4 of the options involving fencing, mostly mesh wire. All Hart representatives were strongly opposed to the complete demolition of the wall and also the construction of an inner wire mesh fence. Cllr Littlefair had raised the issue of the tri-partite agreement, which HBC officers claimed had no legal status. This view had been strongly contested by Mr. Wall, who quoted the judgement of the Village Green Commissioner at the time of Hart’s unsuccessful bid for Village Green status for the field – that as the tri-partite agreement was in place and worked well, there was no need to define the field formally as a village green. In the course of the ensuing discussions it had become clear that there were three drivers for the fence options – H&S of the children, cost and the imminent Academy status, which would see HBC give a 125-year lease to the Academy Trust at a peppercorn rent.

Several Councillors not present at the morning meeting expressed grave concern about the proposals, as did all residents present. It was agreed that, no matter what the outcome of the Children’s Services Committee, Hart residents/Hart PC needed to ensure that there were legal covenants in place to protect the villagers’ interests. The Hart Events Committee members present were deeply concerned that the field would become too small for the summer fete if an inner fence were erected, 4 metres within the current wall boundary as proposed, and also feared that the Academy might use part of the land for development of the school building.

After a long discussion it was **agreed**, that a formal written response be made and presented to the Children’s Services Committee members, focussing on the historic importance of the walls, the impact a fence would have on the site of the Grade 1 Listed Saxon Church, and scheduled monuments – Fishponds and Great House, and offering to include the village field wall in the PC’s bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Clerk read out a draft letter, which, with a few amendments was **agreed**. It was further **agreed** that Parish Councillors Littlefair and Park as well as the Clerk and some residents, would attend the Committee Meeting at the Civic Centre**. Actions:** Clerk to send amended letter to Julie Reed at HBC before 10.00am 12th June, All available to attend meeting at Civic Centre.

*Three residents left the meeting at 7.50pm.*

1. **Minutes of 17th May 2018:** The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.
2. **Matters Arising:** ***(a)*** covered above.

***(b) Tree on walk behind Mill View:*** postponed to next meeting. ***Action:*** Chairman to undertake.

***(c) Chare Wall:*** No news as yet from the surveyor, Mr. Nesti.

***(d) Clerk’s Appraisal:*** The Chairman of the Personnel Sub-Committee, Cllr Britcliffe reported that the feedback interview had been delayed due to the Clerk’s absence on holiday but would be held the following week. **Action:** Clerk to provide availability to Cllr Britcliffe.

1. **Parish Meeting:** The Chairman stated that the Parish Meeting had been another very successful event, with lots of contributions from residents and at which Cllr Beck had presented a certificate to Hart PC from himself as Mayor, as well as a plaque. It was **agreed** that the certificate be placed on the ‘new’ notice board for all villagers to see and that the Village Hall Committee be requested to mount the plaque in the Village Hall. The Clerk reported that she had already placed her notes from the Parish Meeting on the website. **Action:** Cllr Brown to request Village Hall Committee to mount the plaque, Clerk to place Certificate on Notice Board.

The Clerk noted that a ‘village litter pick’ suggestion had been strongly supported at the Parish Meeting and asked Councillors if they were minded to agree to organise this. It was unanimously **agreed** that a monthly litter pick be held between April and October every year, on the second Saturday of the month from 10.00am to noon. Cllr Park **agreed** to undertake a Risk Assessment in his capacity as Chair of the Village Maintenance Group, and the Clerk was requested to purchase bin bag opener/handles and to request bin bags from HBC. The first litter pick to take place on Saturday 14th July, with volunteers asked to meet at the Village Hall, with waterproof gloves and good footwear. **Action:** Cllr Park to undertake Risk Assessment for Litter Pick; Clerk to advertise it and to purchase some bin bag holders.

*The two HBC Councillors left the meeting at 8.08pm.*

1. **Chairman’s Report:** The Chairman reported that he was disappointed that the drainage problem on Front Street had still not been resolved. He thanked the Clerk for organising a very successful Parish Meeting and the refreshments.
2. **Ward Councillors’ Report:**No report received.
3. **Finance Report**: (i) The Clerk presented the reports were accepted.

**Receipts £ Payments: £**

BHIB (Annual Insurance) 361.66

D. M. Ireland (Clerk’s salary x 3 months) 548.00

HMRC (PAYE) 137.00

Affordable Landscapes (grass cutting) 264.00

**Total 1,310.66**

1. **Correspondence:** (a) Local Government Boundary Review – **agreed** to propose a Rural Ward, with Hart reunited with the other Hartlepool Villages; (b) HBC re: Audit & Governance Committee, invitation for a representative from Hart PC – **agreed** Cllr Littlefair be nominated; (c) Request from Mrs. A, Johnson for the scrapings remaining in the car park to be given to the Village Hall for their car park – agreed; (d) Request from Mrs. A. Johnson for a meeting to discuss church proposal for a child-friendly community garden to be developed in the church field – **agreed** Cllrs Geddes and Park to represent the Parish Council. **Actions:** Clerk to inform Boundary Commission, HBC and Mrs. Johnson as per agreements.
2. **Planning Application**s: None. Noted that H/2011/0674 had been withdrawn.
3. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:**

Cllr Brown raised concern that the gutter next to Burns Close had still not been cleared out and the street light opposite his house had still not been repaired; others noted that the bent lamppost on the roundabout, and dangerous parking at the bottom end of the village blocking both visibility of drivers and the 20mph sign, had not yet been addressed by HBC either. Cllr Park raised concern about the quality of the grass cutting provided by HBC, which was not being done fortnightly as promised, and the edges were not being strimmed – Hart compared badly in comparison to Elwick, where they managed all the grass cutting themselves. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to HBC requesting that they allow Hart PC to take over the grass cutting currently being done (or not) by HBC. On the subject of grass, it was noted that visibility for drivers at the roundabout on the By-pass was very limited due to the long grass.

Cllr Geddes raided concern for vulnerable residents, in regard to a young man, a self-declared ex-prisoner, she had seen knocking on doors trying to sell goods. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should inform HBC’s vulnerable adults service immediately. **Actions:** Clerk to raise issue of uncompleted actions with HBC, request the grass cutting contract be transferred to the Parish Council, and to alert HBC’s Vulnerable Adults service.

1. **Date of next meetings: Monday 9th July** at6.45pm.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.