**Minutes of Meeting held at 7.15 pm on Monday 12h June 2023**

**at Hart Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. J. Littlefair, J. Quarmby, J. Wilson, K. Brown, K. Park and S. Brookes.

**In Attendance:** M. Ireland, retiring Clerk, Fiona Ford, incoming Clerk, PC Ben Hayes and colleague

1. **Public Forum:**  No members of the public present.
2. **Apologies**: Cllr Britcliffe, Ward Cllrs Cassidy & Darby, PCSO Hestor – accepted.
3. **Declarations of Interest**: None
4. **Police Report:** PC Hayes reported that he had been advised on anti-social behaviour by some youths on land near the Vicarage, and asked if anyone recognised any of the youths to please inform the police. Cllr Littlefair informed of speeding in Worset Lane where a 40mph speed limit was constantly being ignored. Cllr Park noted the 20mph speed limit was not being respected by some drivers in Butts Lane and that drivers entering the village from the A179 west entrance were often travelling at 70mph when they hit the 20mph village speed limit. Cllr Littlefair noted the fly tipping, especially in Hart Back Lane, and rubbish from development sites in the locality were causing problems. The Clerk tabled a letter from PC Lee Mapplebeck regarding recruitment of a team of Special Constables designated for rural areas, and asked if the accompanying poster could be displayed on the noticeboards. Councillors **agreed** with the request. PC Hayes reminded that up-to-date information was available on the Hartlepool Neighbourhood Police Facebook page.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for attending and they left at 7.08pm.

The Chairman welcomed new Councillors Stuart Brookes and John Wilson, and incoming Clerk, Fiona Ford.

1. **a) Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 11th May 2023:** The Minutes had been circulated in advance. All being in agreement it was r**esolved** to accept the Minutes as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

**b) Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th May 2023:** The Minutes had been circulated in advance. All being in agreement it was r**esolved** to accept the Minutes as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

1. ***Matters Arising: (a) Car Park gate –*** Cllr Park noted that no further information had been received as yet from HBC.

**(*b) South View parking design*** – The Clerk reported that no response yet been received from Peter Frost.

**(c) *Grass cutting* –** The Clerk informed that, having checked the map attached to the contract with HBC, it was apparent that the Parish Council was responsible for the grass cutting on Butts Lane as far as Burns Close, and she had advised Affordable Landscapes that this should now be included in their fortnightly cutting schedule. She understood that the grass had now been cut.

***(d) Flower tubs*** – Cllr Park reported no progress as yet with identifying people willing to adopt for flower tubs left untended due to their previous adopters either having left the village or no longer able to maintain them. It was **agreed** that residents should be asked to adopt any untended tubs – notice to be paced on Hart Hub.

1. **Annual Governance and Accountability Report (AGAR):** The accounts having been approved at the Annual Meeting, and the Internal Auditor having now given a clean bill of health, the Clerk read out the Governance questions one by one, with Councillors stating how they believed each should be answered. All questions were answered in the affirmative and the Clerk completed the sheet accordingly. The Chairman then signed the completed document. The Clerk then requested Councillors agree the dates for the Exercise of Public Rights (to examine the accounts). The requirement was for a period of exactly 30 days, which must include 1st July. It was agreed to start on 12th June and close on 21st July. The document was completed and signed by the Clerk, to be posted immediately on the noticeboards and website.
2. **Chairman’s Report:** Cllr Littlefair again welcomed new Councillors and reported that the Personnel Committee had interviewed Fiona Ford and, having found her to be a suitable candidate, had offered her the post, to commence 1st July. Other than that, not a lot has happened this past month as he had been away on holiday.
3. **Ward Councillor’s Report**: None received. Councillors expressed disappointment that Ward Councillors were neither in attendance, nor had provided a written report.
4. **Maintenance Committee Report**: Cllr Park spoke to his report. It was agreed that the three top priorities should be the focus of attention in correspondence with Kieran Bostock: (i) the flooding near The Raby Arms, (ii) The missing signs at the crossroads on the A179 and (iii) Hart Reservoir traffic dropping mud etc on the road. It was further noted that a sign indicating ‘pedestrians crossing’ was needed at the crossroads as this was a public Right of Way leading from hart to Elwick. It was proposed that Peter Frost be requested to attend the July meeting with his proposals for the A179. **Actions:** Clerk to forward Maintenance Report to Kieran Bostock, focussing on the three identified priorities and invite peter Frost to July meeting.
5. **Personnel Report:** Covered under Chairman’s report.
6. **Financial Reports:** The Clerk presented the Financial Reports which were accepted.

**Receipts Payments:**

HBC (Precept, Concurrent & LCTSS grant) 11, 260.00 Bank charges (April) 6.60

Interest (March) 9.18Hartlepool Life(Clerk advert) 76.80

BHIB (Annual insurance premium) 422.65Affordable Landscapes (grass cutting) 2,232.00 **Total 11,269.18 Total 2,738.05**

1. **Correspondence:** (i) Letter and poster re Specials from PC Lee Mapplebeck – noted. Clerk to forward to Debbie Simmons for placing on Hart Hub. (ii) HBC regarding TPOs on register – noted. Clerk to forward copy to Cllr Park.
2. **Planning Applications:**

**H/2023/0265 -** Thorpe Bulmer Farm – **No Comment**

**DCC – Solar Energy Supplemetary Planning Document consultation event –** Cllr Britcliffe to be requested to attend to represent views of Hart PC.

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

* Cllr Brookes raised concern about parking on double yellow lines outside The White Hart and the old Post Office, with vehicles often being left overnight. (HBC Enforcement issue)
* Cllr Brown raised concern about the hedge at the old Post Office which was so overgrown the finger post to the Saxon Church could no longer be seen. He noted that whilst the Notice Board was being cleaned in early May, the householder had stated he would prune it back, but to date this had not been done. He also raised concern about the state of the roads near local developments, which were littered with construction debris.

1. **Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council:** 6.45pm 10th July 2023 at Hart Village Hall.

**NB:** *Cllr Park tendered his apologies for this meeting.*

*Meeting closed at 8.15pm.*