**Hart Parish Council**

**Minutes of meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 12 March 2018 at Hart Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. J. Quarmby, J. Littlefair (Chair), K. Geddes, K. Brown, K. Park

In Attendance: Ward Cllr P. Beck; M. West, Clerk

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Britcliffe.
2. **Public Forum:** No members of public present.
3. **Declarations of Interests:** None
4. **Minutes of 5th February 2018:** The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Matters Arising:** ***(a)*** ***Village Walkabout with HBC Officers:*** The Clerk read out an e-mailed update received from Peter Frost, HBC, in which he requested dates/times when those Councillors interested would be available for the walkabout, with himself, Kieran Bostock (drainage issues), Rob Daley (Lighting issues) and Garry Jones (cleaning/fly-tipping issues). The Chairman mentioned that he and Cllr Park had recently undertaken a walkabout with Jacob Liddell, HBC, but nothing appeared to have resulted from this. It was **agreed** that sufficient interested Councillors would be available almost any day between 09.30 and 15.00 hours, and that the Clerk should arrange a suitable date with Mr. Frost. Mr. Frost went on to raise some issues regarding the possible pedestrian crossing on Front Street – the main issues are the need to relocate the bus stop whilst considering the potential loss of parking for residents.

The Clerk noted that flashing speed indicators had recently been installed by HBC at the request of the Parish Council; however, the one at the western entrance to the village was obscured by a branch. Cllr Brown reported that the street light on North Hart Lane is ***still*** not working, despite the PC having been informed that it had been fixed. Cllr Geddes asked if anything was being done about the speed of vehicles at the A179/Hart roundabout, raised at previous meetings; the Clerk stated that she was not aware of any action being planned, but that the issue was set to become considerably worse with the planned closure of the A19 crossings at Dalton Piercy and Elwick in August, as this would lead to even more traffic using Hart Lane to access the A179/A19 north. Councillors were not aware of these plans and expressed grave concern about the likely impact on the A179 and its access roads – Hart Back Lane and Worset Lane. The two minor roads were not even fit for current traffic usage, being full of potholes and very narrow; the traffic lights being installed at the A19/A179 junction would cause a backing up of traffic on the A179 at peak times, as the A19 would always take priority. It was **agreed** that Highways England and HBC should be contacted urgently to raise these concerns.

**Actions**: Clerk to contact Peter Frost with dates/times for Hart Village walkabout and to raise the issue of the obscured speed sign, to write to Highways England in regard to the closure of the A19 crossings and subsequent impact on the A179 and other local roads, copying in Ward Councillors and HBC Officers.

1. **Chairman’s Report:** The Chairman had met with Jacob Liddell, HBC and along with Cllr Park had shown him around the problem sites in the village – drains, trees, etc. He noted that the Borough Council had done a good job in keeping the main roads in and out of the village clear for traffic during the recent winter weather conditions, however, with the snow now melted, there was now considerable surface water which, with the many blocked drains/gullies was leading to flooding – this could prove highly dangerous if the freeze returned over the weekend, as forecast, particularly on Butts Lane. He asked the Clerk to contact HBC about this as a matter of urgency. It was also agreed that the Clerk request an extra grit bin, to be placed under the Parish Notice Board, outside the old Post Office. The Chairman also reported a request from the Village Events Committee, that where part of the Village Field wall had fallen down, this be made into a wider access point to allow larger vehicles to enter the field for the church and village fetes etc. After much discussion, with some Councillors in favour and others against, it was **agreed** that the Clerk should ask HBC what they planned to do about the fallen wall, as this was a Health & Safety issue and that the issue be placed on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting and also raised at the walkabout. Cllr Brown reported problems with trees in North Hart Lane**. Action:** Clerk to contact HBC as requested.
2. **Ward Councillors’ Report:**Cllr Beck reported that (a) he had, last Tuesday, undertaken a village walkabout with Stephen Bushnall, 13 Group; (b) he had noted and reported to Peter Frost, HBC, the flooding in Front Street and Butts Lane, as well as the rubbish along the road between the Tall Ships and Hart and the Fens; (c ) he had visited the Planning Department to look at plans for the 90-bed Care Home next to Sainsbury’s and noted that the plans had not been changed from those withdrawn 18 months previously to which he had strongly objected, as the design of the site would have a negative impact on neighbours; (d) the police are investigating several car break-ins on Clavering Road and Applewood Close and he asked that residents don’t leave valuables on view in their cars. Cllr Beck informed the Parish Council that he had invited the outgoing High Sherriff of Durham to visit Hart’s medieval church, to look at its historical elements, and invited Councillors to join him at 2.15pm on Wednesday 14 March at the church, noting that St. Mary Magdalene’s is one of the few churches to have remembrance monuments for both World Wars.
3. **Finance Report**: (i) The Clerk presented the Transactions Report and Actual against Budget Report. These were **accepted**.

 **Receipts £0 Payments:**

ICO (Data Protection registration fee) £ 35.00

D.M. Ireland (Web-site) £ 88.79

D. M. Ireland (Clerk’s salary Jan-March) £474.50

HMRC (PAYE) £116.05

**TOTAL £714.34**

 The Clerk noted that the only outstanding payment expected before the end of the financial year, was the invoice for the car park planings which had yet to be received.

1. **Correspondence:** (i) E-mail from Dave Bulley re Hart Reservoir and also HBC decision to allow more development in Hart area despite flooding problems. **Action:** Clerk has raised with HBC and will keep him informed.

(ii) Hayley Martin, Head of Legal Services re: progress of official complaint – noted.

(iii) Red Gap Community Fund – announcement of next grant round. **Action:** Clerk to promote on web-site, notice board and in Village Life.

(iv) Microsoft – new service agreement. **Action:** Cllr Park to review and advise Clerk.

1. **Annual Parish Meeting**: It was **agreed** to hold this on Wednesday 23rd May from 7- 9.00pm at the Village Hall.
2. **Parish Council elections:** The Clerk informed that elections for Hart Parish Council will take place on 3rd May. Nomination packs will be available from the Civic Centre from 19th March.

Cllr Beck left the meeting at 8.10 pm.

1. **Planning Applications:** H/2018/0056 – Hart Moor Farm – No Objection.

 H/2017/0366 – Land to north of Voltigeur Drive and Otteringham Close, Hart – ***APPEAL*** made by applicant to Secretary of State. **Agreed** Clerk to make strong objection, not only to repeat initial grounds but also to add issue of trees planted, not native, are very fast growing and. it is believed, planted to obscure the view of/from the Scheduled Monument. Photographs to be sent with letter.

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

Cllr Britcliffe had sent several items via email:

1. Gullies/drains at the top of the village have now completely failed since the snow melted and are leaking water continuously on both sides of the road;
2. Hart Back Lane between Hart and Worsett Lane is pitted with many potholes, some of them very deep, making driving difficult and dangerous; **Action:** Clerk to inform relevant HBC Officers.
3. Reports from residents of Madeleine Drive of suspicious behaviour taking place on the Parish Council car park on an evening. People meeting in in cars (drug dealing?) - a regular occurrence. **Action:** Clerk to inform police.
4. Large part of wall on Village Field has collapsed**. Action:** see Item 8.

Cllr Geddes reported:

1. that dog fouling is worse than ever with both dog dirt itself and filled bags all over the village, including in the Chare, in the graveyard and on Front Street; **Action:** Clerk to inform HBC.
2. Car park is being churned up, despite being topped up with planings – **agreed** that it may be necessary to close the car park in the short-term to prevent damage to the archaeology. In the meantime, the Clerk to get costings, and seek funding opportunities for a permanent surface, built over proper drainage in accordance with Historic England’s recommendations. **Action:** Clerk

Cllr Park reported:

1. The land behind the kerbs at the entrance to The Darlings has been left with a steep drop, is full of rubble and needs to be properly refilled and reseeded with grass;
2. A large 360\* digger has bulldozed down the hedge and tree on the development site behind Millbank Close, as well as breaking the gate and quite possibly damaging the drainage on the site. No temporary safety fence has been erected. **Action**: Clerk to inform HBC Planning Dept.
3. HBC have dealt with the tree roots that were causing people to trip in the lane behind Mill View; however, they have not removed the roots causing the problem, simply dug a wide hole around it and filled it with tarmac, thus still leaving a trip hazard. **Action:** Clerk to inform HBC.
4. **Date of next meetings:** 6.45pm Monday 9th April 2018.

**NB: As several Councillors not available on 14th, date of May meeting** now to take place on **Thursday 17th Ma y.**

 Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.