**Hart Parish Council**

**Minutes of meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 10 September 2018 at Hart Village Hall**

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

 J. Quarmby

**In Attendance:** Ward Cllr T. Cassidy, M. West, Clerk, Mrs. A. Johnson, Cllr, J, Kenyon, HBC,

 Aileen Kendon (from 7.40pm).

1. **Apologies:** None received
2. **Declarations of Interests: Cllr Littlefair, Item 11a.**
3. **Public Forum:**

 Mrs. Johnson, Churchwarden at St. Mary Magdalene, Hart, requested the support of the Parish Council in regard to plans for Fishponds Field, which is owned by the church itself, not the Diocese. The PCC wishes to make part of the field accessible to the community by:

* 1. Modifying the gate from the car park into the field, to allow pedestrian access, and installing a stock fence to cut off approximately 1/3rd of the field to make a reflective historic garden. She had already spoken with Chris Scaife, Access Officer, Robin Daniels, Archaeologist, HBC and Sarah Howard at Historic England, who are all supportive of the proposal. The garden would be planted with Saxon herbal plants. It was hoped to plant a hedge over the first ¼ and remaining ¾ to remain grass, although it was known that the remains of the Canon House, another historic site were here. Robin Daniels had expressed a desire to have an archaeological dig in this area. Two or three Information Boards would be erected to explain what visitors would see.
	2. The PCC was also applying for funds to provide a toilet, seating etc in the North aisle of the church and put on display the many ancient stones that the church had uncovered over the years.

Councillors were generally in support, though concern was expressed as to whether planning permission would be required for the garden, as the field was designated for agricultural use only. However, the Council would like to work together with the Church within the development of the ‘Heart of Hart Project’ as it met the overall vision. There would be a Master Plan which would include the church project, the repair of the Chare Wall, the car park and Fishponds Field. Mrs. Johnson expressed satisfaction with this approach and Cllrs Britcliffe and Park agreed to meet with her at 11.30am on Thursday 11th September to draft an application to the Hartlepool Planning One Stop Shop.

Mrs. Johnson asked if would also be possible to improve the lighting in the car park, to make it safer; the surface is very uneven and in the darker winter months it was quite dangerous for small children accessing and exiting vehicles on the car park, with many other vehicles moving around erratically, and also because drug-related activity had been reported in the car park. It was agreed that the Clerk should request HBC to place a further street light in the car park, perhaps on the telegraph pole at the rear of the car park.

*Mrs. Johnson left the meeting at 7.15pm.*

1. **Minutes of 9th July:** The minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
2. **Matters Arising:**
	1. ***Tree on footpath behind Mill View:*** The Chairman reported that Chris Scaife had agreed to investigate what could be done with regard to the tree root which was causing the problem but had not yet reported back.
	2. ***Trees beside school/village field:*** The Clerk reported that the removal of the TP0 (155) had been refused. Councillors were concerned that the collapse of the wall had been in part due to the pressure of the trees growing alongside it.
	3. ***Response form the Health & Safety Executive:*** The Clerk reported that she had followed the advice given and had contacted the HSE via 2 routes. Both had now responded that, essentially the Borough Council had not misinterpreted the rules, but had made the safety of the school children a priority. A disappointing but not unexpected outcome.
	4. ***White Hart Car Park wall:*** Cllr Britcliffe wished to put on record the excellent work done by the contractor in repairing the wall. They could easily have taken the cheap option but had instead done a ‘quality job’ and he had been so impressed that he had nominated Punch Taverns for a Civic Award. Councillors thanked him and the Clerk was asked to write to Punch Taverns thanking them for their work and informing them of the nomination. Cllr Park noted that regrettably an internal kerb had not been installed at the time, to prevent cars pushing the wall down again. The Clerk was asked to contact them to tell them of this, and to inform them of their nomination.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Punch Taverns as requested.

1. **‘Heart of Hart’ Project:** The Clerk wished to know when the parish Council wished to hold the stakeholder meeting on the ‘Heart of Hart’ historic restoration/conservation project. Cllr Brown agreed to provide dates for the Village Hall availability in October, in order that he Clerk could negotiate the best overall date with stakeholders. The meeting was to be planned for a late afternoon. They could easily have taken the cheap option but had instead done a ‘quality job’

**Action:** Cllr Brown to provide dates, Clerk to contact stakeholders and agree a date.

 *Aileen Kendon arrived* *7.40pm*

1. **Chairman’s Report:** The Chairman reported that he had talked with:
* several people at the Borough Council, and that all seemed to be hiding behind the decision of the Children’s Services Committee
* Gill Alexander, CEO, HBC who stated that the school had Academy status but in fact it doesn’t as yet!

The Clerk asked if the issue needed to be escalated outside the Borough Council? It was **agreed** that Historic England should be approached for their advice on how to proceed.

The Chairman reported that Mark Patton, Deputy Director of Education, had informed him that, as the Parish Council had not selected a preference for the internal fence (having said that we do not wish to have a fence at all), they will now go ahead with their own choice for the inner fence.

Cllr Britcliffe asked for a copy of the H&S report on the wall. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should write to Mr. Patton, and that the Chairman would also telephone him, to request this, as well as a timescale for the rebuilding of the wall. **Action:** Clerk to contact Historic England for advice, and write to Mr. Hatton as requested, Chairman to telephone Mr. Hatton.

The Chairman noted that he had received reports of a rough sleeper in the churchyard; on investigation it seems that he individual has now moved his tent to Borough Council land. HBC has been alerted to the situation.

1. **Ward Councillors’ Report:**Cllr Cassidy reported that:
* Residents had received a misleading letter or watched an inaccurate video from the Labour candidate Aileen Kendon, accusing the Independent Group of splitting the Hart Village community. He wished to put on record that the Independent Group supported the move of Hart Village back into a Rural ward with the other Hartlepool villages with whom they have most in common. In the end it would be the Boundary Commission who would make the final decision. Ms Kendon disagreed with his statement, believing that Hart should remain within Hart Ward, but accepted that it was up to the Boundary Commission.
* He supported the rebuilding of the collapsed wall and had asked for the decision to be deferred for residents’ views to be gathered, but the Chair of the Children’s Services Committee had denied this option. Want the wall to be rebuilt promptly, safely and to the standard of our historic village.
* Whilst personally fully supporting the new Care Home near Sainsbury’s, which will bring much needed support for families who want to be closer to their loved ones, a few residents had raised concerns about safety. He had taken their concerns to Highways & Planning, requesting:
* The new crossing on Merlin Way be seen as an urgent priority,
* A temporary safety measure be put in place, and
* A referral be made to Cleveland police to bring more enforcement to Merlin Way.
* He wished to put on record his own, and the Independent Group’s thanks to Cllr Paul Beck, who resigned on 31 August, wishing him the best for the future. A by-election would take place on 11 October 2018.
* Since the resignation of Cllr Beck, he was now effectively the only active ward councillor for the whole of the Ward. He had set aside £400 from his Ward budget towards the village Halloween party and Fireworks Display.

Cllr Cassidy was thanked for his report. The Chairman also wished to record his appreciation of Cllr Beck’s hard work on behalf of residents.

1. **Finance Report:** The Clerk presented the reports, which were accepted.No transactions had taken place during August however a cheque had been drawn that day for grass cutting.

 **Receipts £ Payments: £**

Affordable Landscapes (grass) 528.00

**Total 528.00**

The Clerk noted that the national agreement on pay had been agreed, to run from 1 April to 31 March 2019. The Clerk was currently on Scale Point 24. It was **agreed** that her pay be amended in accordance with the new NJC Scale and backdated to April.

1. **Correspondence:** None received.
2. **Planning Applications: a. H/2018/0330** - amendment to application H/2017/0287, re gas powered electricity sub-station on land east of Worset Lane.The Chairman declared an interest and left the room. The Vice-Chairman took the chair for a discussion. It was noted that the size of the proposed build had reduced, due to a cable which crosses the field. It was **agreed** that the Clerk should report that: “Hart Parish Council still has grave concerns over the principal of this development, as well documented. Our previous objections remain the same”. Cllr Britcliffe then gave a brief overview of the process of the original application to date.

**b. H/2018/0192** – outline planning request for land next to White Cottage, Front Street, Hart. Concerns were expressed as follows:

* + - 1. Access to the site and the impact on the residents of White Cottage, whose existing arrangements allowed for vehicles to cross the public pavement in a forward direction only – if the land next to them as built on, they would no longer have room to turn a vehicle and permission to cross the pavement would have to be removed.
			2. Whilst Councillors acknowledged that this an outline application only, they felt the building as described was not in keeping with the surrounding buildings, the scale being too high, and any building on the site should be of a similar size to White Cottage and the roof height at the same level.
			3. There are already parking and traffic issues in High Pastures – this development will only exacerbate this.
			4. Councillors understand from existing residents that drainage is already inadequate and so would need upgrading.

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

Cllr Lancaster raised concern about a tree at the top of Nine Acres – this had already been reported to HBC. He noted that a resident had plans to put a gate across the bottom of Nine Acres to prevent access. No action required by Parish Council.

Cllr Park raised concerns about parking outside the old post office, with vehicles blocking the pavement and forcing pedestrians into the road. The Chairman **agreed** to speak to the householder about this and the safety of pedestrians. Cllr Park also raised concern about speeding in Butts Lane, particularly by a youngster on a trials motorbike, others had had seen him doing ‘wheelies’ on pavements around the village. The young person in question was well known and the Chairman **agreed** to speak to him and his parents about this behaviour.

Cllr Littlefair raised concern about vehicles parking across the gateway of Home Farm; he noted that farm vehicles are getting bigger and it is more difficult to into and out of the farm.

Cllr Britcliffe raised concern about the lack of action by the resident of Burns Close in regard to the flooding and the Clerk was asked to request him to implement as soon as possible. Cllr Britcliffe also noted that the Civic Society had invited Punch Taverns to their awards ceremony to take place in Greatham on 3rd October 2018. Tickets to the event were to be made available for three members of the Parish Council. It was **agreed** that these should be the Chairman, Cllr Britcliffe and the Clerk. Cllr Britcliffe noted the wonderful display in the flower tubs managed by Mrs. Pearson and asked that the Clerk write to thank her. He then asked what had happened to the Litter Pick that had been planned. Cllr Park explained that a Risk Procedure and Assessment had to be undertaken beforehand, and he had not had time to do this, so had cancelled.

Cllr Geddes raised concern about the car park at school times, with cars moving too fast and drivers not paying sufficient care and attention, thus children, especially the younger ones, were in danger when accessing and leaving vehicles. It was **agreed** that the Council may have to consider closing off the car park if the problem continued.

1. **Date of next meeting:** Monday 8th October at 6.45pm.

The Chairman thanked Councillors and Ms. Kendon for attending and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

**Cllr Park later asked that the following items be added as an addendum to the minutes as he had not raised them in the meeting:**

1. Trees planted by Seymour obscuring views of the Church.

2. Hart Quarry, complaint by residents of Ottringham Close that excessive vibration through their houses and noise following blasting operations.

3. Hart Quarry, entrance unsightly following changes to fencing. The area needs tidying up, debris removing and general housekeeping.