**Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 13th March 2023**

**at Hart Village Hall**

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

**In Attendance:** M. Ireland, Clerk, PCSO Hester

1. **Public Forum:**  No members o0f the public present.
2. **Apologies**: Ward Cllrs Cassidy and Cook – accepted.

Cllr Littlefair noted that he and the Clerk had, that afternoon, attended the funeral of Cllr Cook’s wife, Brenda, a former Mayor of Hartlepool. Councillors expressed their sadness at his bereavement.

1. **Declarations of Interest**: None
2. **Police Report**: PCSO Hester apologised for not having brough a report, but noted there had been very little anti-social behaviour in Hart Ward in comparison to some other Hartlepool Wards. ASB reported this last month included off-road bikes using the by-pass near Hart. Cllr Littlefair reported 3 crashes on the A179 by Hart village in the last week, as well as litter being tipped in Hart Back Lane and Worset Lane. Cllr Park noted the litter was being blown off the construction sites on both the A179 and High Tunstall on Elwick Road, which was wrapping around trees and hedges. He had reported this several times to HBC but nothing seemed to have been done to make the developers act more responsibly. Cllr Quarmby noted a burglary had taken place in Clevecoat Walk.

*PCSO Hester left the meeting.*

1. **Minutes of Meeting held on 13th February 2023:** All present being in agreement, it was r**esolved** to accept the draft Minutes a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.
2. **Matters Arising**: ***(a)*** ***Car Park gate*** – Cllr Park reported he had prepared the plansfor the installation of a gate on the car park; the HBC charge for submitting this was £55. It being **unanimously agreed** to pay this amount, the Clerk immediately drew up a cheque to HBC, which was signed, and countersigned, and given to Cllr Park for inclusion with his plans. (***b) South View parking design –*** Cllr Britcliffe stated he had not yet had time to consult his neighbours about which option they preferred. He agreed to report back to the April meeting.

**(c)** ***National Grid Auction –*** the Clerk reported that Jill Mortimer, MP was currently investigating this, as requested.

**Actions:** Cllr Park to submit Car Park Gate application to HBC Planning, and Cllr Britcliffe to consult the residents of South View about parking design options.

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

* He knew of three people who had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. The Clerk noted that only one had, to date, submitted an interest in writing, identifying why they wished to join and what they thought they would add to the team. Cllr Littlefair thought two of the candidates were not aware of this and agreed to request them to do so before the April meeting, when a decision would be made.
* A meeting wit the Leader of HBC is to be arranged to discuss the energy infrastructure issues.
* The next Rural Crime Forum is to be held in May.
* He had noted mention that booking a slot at the tip was too difficult for many people, and therefore they dump their rubbish in the rural area; he planned to raise this at the next Parish Liaison meeting.
* The Draft Parish Charter had not yet gone to Committee.
* He apologised for not yet having installed the new car park sign, as he had been very busy with lambing; he expected to install it in the next week.

He wondered if the Parish Council wished to do anything specific to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles, or if they preferred to leave it the Village Hall Committee, who seemed to have plans well in hand for the Sunday ‘Big Lunch’. All agreed that there was already sufficient activity for the Sunday; however, as nothing

was planned for the BIG Help Day on the Monday, the Clerk proposed a Litter Pick be held on Monday 8th May morning, with coffee in the Village Hall if it was available. All agreed with the suggestion; it was noted that Debbie Simmons still had the Litter Picking equipment.

**Actions:** Cllr Littlefair to inform potential Parish Councillor candidates of the need to write to the Clerk; install car park sign, raise concerns about fly tipping/challenge of accessing the tip at Parish Liaison meeting, and inform the Vice-Chairman of any meeting with the Leader regarding the energy infrastructure. Clerk to request Mrs Simmons to post the Litter Pick on the Hart Hub, ensure equipment was available of the day, and request access to the Village Hall for coffee on 8th May.

1. **Ward Councillor’s Report**: None received.
2. **Maintenance Committee Report**: Cllr Park spoke to his report. Key ongoing issues were:

* Debris and Litter from the Hartwell Park development accumulating along A179
* Flooding on Front Street, at the hart Roundabout on the A179 and in Butts Lane
* Lack of signing at the crossroads on the A179
* The dangerous state of the footpath near the bridge on the footpath from Clevecoat Walk. **Action:** Clerk to forward report to Kieran Bostock.
* **Personnel Report:** CllrBritcliffe reported that a joint advert for the 4 vacancies for a Clerk/RFO, at Dalton Piercy, Elwick, Grindon & Thorpe Thewles and Hart, had been run for the last 4 weeks, posted regionally in Jobs NE, nationally on Indeed, circulated to all PCs in Cleveland and Co. Durham, and posted locally on Notice Boards and Facebook Pages. It had led to 7 Information Packs being sent out. At the closing date of 9th March, only one application had been received, specifically for G&TT PC. After a brief discussion it was **agreed** that, other parishes being in agreement, an advert be placed in the Hartlepool Free Paper, as soon as possible.

**Action:** Clerk to seek agreement from other Parishes and if they concurred, to advertise post as agreed.

1. **Councillor Co-option:** Discussed under item7, Agreed to defer to April Meeting.
2. **Financial Reports:** The Clerk presented the financial reports, which were **approved.**

**Receipts: £ Payments: £**

Interest (Feb) 3.33 Bank charges (Feb) 5.80

Affordable Landscapes (Clevecoat Walk clearance) 156.00

D.M. Ireland (salary Jan-March) 645.60

HMRC (PAYE) 161.40

**Total 3.33 Total 968.80**

The Chairman noted that Affordable Landscapes had done a really good job.

1. **Correspondence:** (i) ***HBC*** re: Armed Forces Covenant – agreed to support. (ii) ***Pensions Regulator*** – next registration deadline 2nd October 2023 – noted; (iii) ***DLUHC*** – request for nominations for New Year Honours – noted; (iv) WCCTV – re: mobile CCTV cameras – noted, with a view to potential Red Gap funding application; (v) **Cllr Park** – Rota for opening/closing of the School Field gate – after some discussion it was **agreed to amend** this, adding Cllr Parker to the nominated key-holders, subject to the approval of the Academy Trust.

**Action:** Cllr Park to amend the School Gate rota as agreed; Clerk to write to Academy Trust requesting additional key holder, Cllr Parker.; Clerk to circulate information from WCTTV and DLUHC to all Councillors.

1. **Planning Applications:**

**H/2022/0470 – Whelley Hill - Synchronous Compensators – Strongly Object**

**H/2023/0041- EIA in relation to H/2022/04675 – Strongly Object**

**H/2023/0037- 4, Buckingham Avenue, Hart - No Comment**

1. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:** The Clerk reported she had attended a one-day Civility & Respect Training event which had proved very informative and useful. She reminded Councillors of their commitment to undertake such training when they signed up to the Pledge, and noted NALC had several modules in an on-line format.

Cllr Park raised concern about a number of dog walkers allowing their dogs to walk at a distance on an extended lead; sometimes walker and dog were on opposite sides of the road, which could lead to a serious accident. Cllr Littlefair added that walkers often let their dogs loose in his fields, allowing them to foul the land.

He agreed to raise this at the Parish Liaison meeting.

**Action:** Cllr Littlefair to raise dog issue at Parish Liaison meeting, Clerk to circulate NALC Civility & Respect training information to all Councillors.

1. **Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council:** Due tothe Easter Bank Holiday, this was deferred to 6.45pm Monday 17th April 2023 at Hart Village Hall. Likewise, the following meeting is to be deferred to 15th May.

*Meeting closed at 8.25pm.*