**Minutes of Meeting held at 7.15 pm on Monday 13th November 2023**

**in Hart Village Hall**

**Present:** Councillors Tom Britcliffe (Chair), Keith Brown, Keith Park, Joanne Quarmby, Stuart Brookes

**In Attendance:** Fiona Ford - Clerk, Ward Councillors Rob Darby and Tom Cassidy, 2 members of the Public

1. **Public Forum**

A member of the public enquired about the Ash trees and ash dieback near where she lived. A discussion then took place around trees in the village and how they were maintained.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs John Wilson and John Littlefair.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

1. **Police Report**

The September figures for Hart Ward were as follows:

Burglary - 1

Theft - 6

Criminal Damage - 3

ASB Nuisance - 11

It was noted more Speed Watch events are to be arranged.

1. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th October 2023**

The Minutes were agreed as a true record. The Vice Chairman signed the minutes.

1. **Matters Arising**
2. **Butts Lane Overgrown Hedge** – Councillor Littlefair has spoken to the owner and requested the hedge is cut back.
3. **Church Car Park Sign and English Heritage** – It was noted the sign needs to be removed as in an inappropriate location. **Clerk to speak to Councillor Littlefair to resolve**
4. **Car Park Gate Planning Application** – Councillor Park has now emailed the companies requesting a quote for the documentation needed to submit the planning application and is awaiting responses. Emailed to be forwarded to the Clerk. **Action – Councillor Park**
5. **South View Parking Design** – It was noted Peter Frost had given some options a while ago, with the preferred option to create parking. **Action – Clerk to ask Peter Frost for an update.**
6. **Maintenance Committee and HBC Site Visit** – The minutes from the 2nd October Site Meeting/Walkabout had previously been circulated and a discussion took place regarding progress made. It was noted that Councillor Park would continue to liaise with HBC around environmental issues.
7. **Chairman’s Report**

Cllr Britcliffe delivered the Chairmans report in Councillor Littlefair’s absence and noted the Christmas Trees for the Village Hall and Church were being picked up w/c 20th November 2023. An emergency clear out of the gullies at Butts Lane was undertaken in October, thanks to all involved. The Church Car Park surface had also been repaired, which had been organised by Councillor Wilson**. Clerk to thank Councillor Wilson and the Contractor.**

1. **Ward Councillor’s Report**

Councillor Darby reported he attended a fundraiser at Hart Primary School on Friday 10th November along with the MP, The Leader of the Councillor and four other Councillors. Another fundraiser is organised for 15th December and it would be great to promote it throughout the Village. **Clerk to contact Kimberley Butler at the school for further information, which can be displayed on the Hart Hub page.**

Councillor Cassidy noted now the works to the roundabout have been completed, he felt it operated much better. He advised he is also liaising with HBC around the flooding issues as well as the an issue with the iron fence at the Darlings

1. **Maintenance Committee Report**

In additional to the report discussed under Item 6a, a discussion took place regarding the area between the wall and fence at the school and concerns with rats. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

1. **Village Field Rota**

It was agreed Councillor Keith Park would unlock the gates on a weekend throughout the winter.

1. **Financial Report**

The Clerk advised that Councillor Littlefair would need to visit a branch to update his signature, which would enable the address to be updated. She also advised that she had looked into different banks, but they all charge a monthly and transaction fee apart from Starling Bank, however it was noted that the previous Clerk advised Starling was not suitable for Parish Councils. Clerk to continue to explore cheaper options. The following cheques were then signed:

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100882 Clerk wages (October 2023) £215.20

100883 HMRC (PAYE October 2023) £53.80

100884 Clerk reimbursement (stationery and postage) £34.09

100885 Affordable Landscapes £458.40

**Total £761.49**

1. **Correspondence**

Request for donation towards Village Life – Contribute £30 next month

1. **Planning Applications**

No planning applications to discuss

1. **Matters of Concern to Councillors**

No additional issues.

1. **Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council**

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11th December 2023 at 6.45pm in Hart Village Hall.

*Meeting closed at 7.40 pm*

*Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*