 **Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 14th February 2022**

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

**In Attendance:** Police Sergeant Phelan, PCSP Geoff Hester, M. Ireland, Clerk

1. **Public Forum:** No members of the public present
2. **Apologies:** Parish Cllr Simmons,Ward Cllr Cassidy
3. **Declarations of Interest**: None made
4. **Police Report:** PCSO Hester reported Ward statistics for January as follows: 1 Burglary, 2 thefts, 4 cases of criminal damage and 12 instances of Anti-social behaviour. Speed watches have been held and one driver spoken to about his speed on entering the village; others are being dealt with by the police. The Ward Newsletter is available on the Cleveland Police website: www.cleveland.police.uk

Cllr Britcliffe noted that an increase in poaching and hare coursing seen around the area had been causing concern among villagers, also 2 Range Rovers had been stolen – which Sgt Phelan noted the police were aware and had been investigating. Cllr Littlefair noted frustration within the farming community that the police appeared to be doing nothing, and believed this was because poaching was so far down their priority list. Sgt Phelan explained that crimes reported were graded on the level of risk to life.

The Police Officers were thanked for their attendance and it was agreed to put the link to the police newsletter on the Hart Hub.

1. **Minutes of 18th January 2022** – Cllr Britcliffe proposed and Cllr Brown seconded the adoption of the minutes. All present being in agreement, it was **resolved** to accept the draft Minutes a true record.
2. **Matters Arising**: (a) **School Field** – Cllr Britcliffe reported that the draft lease had recently been received, (he provided copies for other Cllrs to read); the Clerk had given the original 2 copies to himself and the Chairman; all three felt the lease was essentially alright, giving access to the field during daylight hours except for 8.00am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday, during school terms. However, there were three key issues of concern:
3. The licence was only for 12 months
4. Would the Trust require £250 every year and
5. Only one named key-holder was to be allowed.

He had sought advice from 2 experts in licences of this nature and held a meeting with the Chairman and Clerk, following which he had contacted Mark Stouph, Chairman of the Board, raising these concerns. A written reply had been received very quickly, which was reassuring. Mr Stouph responded that the intention was the lease would be renewable every year, there would be no further legal cost and that the Trust would consider having up to three named keyholders if that would be helpful.

After a brief discussion, Cllr Britcliffe proposed the acceptance of the amended licence; this being unanimously agreed, it was then **resolved** the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should sign the amended documents on behalf of the Parish Council and the Clerk was to send these via Recorded Delivery to the Trust. It was further **resolved** the initial named key holders were to be Cllrs Britcliffe, Park and Quarmby. It was further **agreed** the Parish Council should ensure signs were erected at the entrance gate, to which they had keys, that ‘NO DOGS, HORSES OR VEHICLES’ were to be allowed on the field without the express permission of the Parish Council.

**Actions:** Cllrs Britcliffe and Littlefair to sign both original copies of the amended (in handwriting) of the Licence agreement and forward to the Clerk; Clerk to send both copies to the Learning Trust, with the names of the proposed key holders. Clerk & Cllr Britcliffe to discuss with school the proposed signage.

(b) **School Anti-Litter Competition** – the Clerk informed the school had been very supportive and the children were to be asked to produce A4 posters, all to be completed by the end of the half-term break. After a brief discussion it was agreed all those Councillors available view the entries at the school, (date & time to be confirmed), before deciding on the winner.

**Actions:** Clerk to arrange date & time with the school for viewing the competition entries; ALL Cllrs available to attend the judging.

(**c**) **Weed Clearing/Chare Wall working party** – no further progress due to inclement weather.

(d) **Footpath in car park** – the Clerk reported the footpath had now been re-laid to the complete satisfaction of the Vicar.

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

* He had been dealing with the licence and footpath.
* He had noted an increase in anti-social behaviour.
* He was pleased the police had been carrying out speed checks in the village but these also need to be undertaken on the by-pass.
* He was very concerned to hear there were proposals to change the traffic flow on the A179 and would much prefer a single carriageway in each direction.
* He noted the lamp post /crossroads sign on the eastward carriageway of the A179 just before School Lane had been down since November and had been reported several times.
* The Leader of the Borough Council, Cllr Shane Moore, has said on his Facebook page that he is a strong supporter of Parish Councils, so it is surprising he refuses to work effectively with 4 of the 5 PCs in Hartlepool. The information he gave about some of the rural PCs in this Facebook post had been incorrect and in one instance, the opposite of the actuality. He had yet to respond to an invitation from the Chairs of the rural parish councils in Hartlepool to meet to discuss issues.

1. **Ward Councillors’ Reports:** Cllr Cassidy reported that:

* The Mayor, Cllr Brenda Loynes, had sadly passed away on 8th February. Her funeral was to be held at All Saints Church, Stranton at 12.30pm on Wednesday 23rd February, followed by a short service at the Crematorium. Refreshments would be available after the ceremony at Park Drive Cricket Club.
* A179 update, proposals have been put forward by Peter Frost as part of the Upper Warren development. The proposal would change the layout of the A179 road meaning one lane going up the bank towards the A19 and two lanes going down towards the round-about, these proposals are to help with congestion, however I have objected on the proposal on the basis this proposal does not include any speed reductions and I’ve requested they think again and include a 50mph speed limit.
* Hartfield’s GP update – the engagement process will not begin until after Local elections in May. To save the practice will require residents to “Show there is a demand for it” – when the engagement process starts It is vital that everyone engages with the process.

Councillors appreciated the report sent in by Cllr Cassidy, but were deeply concerned about the proposals for the A179. The Clerk was requested to obtain a copy of the proposal from Peter Frost.

It was **agreed** that Cllrs Britcliffe and Littlefair would attend the funeral to represent the Parish Council, the Clerk already to attend on behalf of Elwick PC.

**Actions:** Clerk to request copy of A179 proposals; Cllrs Britcliffe & Littlefair to attend funeral.

1. **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee:** The next meeting of the planning group is to be held at the Village Hall, 7.00pm on Wednesday 16th February.
2. **Maintenance Committee Report**: Cllr Park had circulated a report in advance of the meeting. Key items to note were: continuing flooding opposite The Raby Arms and at the roundabout. Cllr Littlefair reported the cess pit at Glebe Farm, owned by the Wilkinsons, is overflowing and running down Front Street. Cllr Park queried progress on the grass-cutting – the Clerk informed that a meeting was being arranged with Kieran Bostock to agree the licence for this. Cllr Park asked about progress with the digital mapping project and reminded that he had requested a copy of the digital map so that he could record the PC assets. Councillors thanked him for his offer and **agreed** the Clerk should request a copy from the supplier.
3. **Financial Reports:** The Clerk presented the financial reports, which were approved.

**Receipts: £ Payments: £**

Interest on Business Account 0.03 Bank charges 6.60

**Total 0.03 Affordable Landscapes (footpath) 180.00**

**Total 186.60**

The Clerk noted in particular, the new bank charges, which have been implemented since December 2021. All the major banks had now removed the free banking previously available to charities and community organisations. It would appear the charges are based on £5 per month for service pus an amount per transaction. This was an unexpected cost and not included in the budget. Cllr Park asked why the Council was not using internet banking – the Clerk explained the service had been requested of the bank on several occasions over the last two years, the relevant paperwork completed and handed in to the local branch, but nothing happened as a result. She had raised this when undertaking the security check with the bank the previous month, but had heard nothing further. Councillors **agreed** a formal complaint should be made to the bank as this would require a response. They also suggested the Clerk identify the bank used by HBC, check which institutions would offer internet banking and ask the local Credit Union if they would provide a banking service to the Parish Council.

**Actions**: Clerkto contact HBC, other banking institutions, credit union and make formal complaint to current bank as agreed.

1. **Correspondence**: None received
2. **Planning Applications:** None received
3. **Matters of Concern to Councillors**: Cllr Quarmby raised concern that a brown bin left on the public footpath behind Mill View was being used as a dog bin and was now overflowing and smells disgusting. It appeared that HBC refused to collect as a brown bin is not their responsibility.

Cllr Brown concerned that a fallen tree branch, on the land in Butts Lane beside the school, needs removing, and requested Derek Wardle undertake an inspection of the trees along the section of the road between the school and North Hart Farm.

**Actions:** Clerk to inform Chris Scaife and Derek Wardle HBC.

1. **Date of Next Meeting:** 6.45pm Monday 14th March 2022 at Hart Village Hall.

*Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00pm*