



**Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
held at Hart Village Hall**

(due to Covid-19 restrictions members of the public were not invited)

**Present:** Cllrs. J. Littlefair, D. Simmons, J. Quarmby, K. Brown and K. Park.

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

- 1. Apologies:** Cllrs Britcliffe and Geddes, Ward Cllr Cassidy
- 2. Public Forum:** No members of public present.
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** None. It was noted that completed Registers of Interests had yet to be received from Cllrs Brown and Park.
- 4. Minutes of Meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020:** The Minutes of the meeting being agreed as a true record, with Cllr Simmons proposing and Cllr Littlefair seconding, it was **RESOLVED** to accept them.
- 5. Matters Arising:**
  - (i) Village Field:** The Clerk reported that Sarah Scarr had forwarded her the Archaeological Monitoring paper for the repair of the wall, for which she was grateful. She had spoken with the works supervisor on Friday, who had informed her that, weather permitting, the wall would be completed within the next four weeks; he also noted that the wall had clearly had major repairs many years before. The Clerk had looked closely at the work already done and had been impressed with the standard and care being taken to ensure the wall was both sound and looked as good as it did when originally built; internal brick buttresses had been installed to that section of wall tht had not been dismantled, a new foundation and lower wall of modern materials had been built, which would be completely hidden once the wall on the road side was backfilled to its original level, and drainage pipes installed at intervals along its length to ensure that the new wall would not be undermined by surface water runoff from the road. The supervisor noted that the potential for a gate to allow vehicular access was under discussion (a ramp has already been installed from the road down to field level to give access for the builders' machinery). The Clerk proposed that a meeting be convened by the Parish Council with the builders, the education authority, the Academy and Conservation Officer to discuss the necessity for a gate and if agreed then an appropriate design for any such gate. This was thought to be a good idea and the Clerk asked to arrange it. **Action:** Clerk to convene a meeting as requested.
  - (ii) Costings for gate locking systems** – the Clerk informed that it had proved very difficult to gain actual costings as there were so many variables in what was being proposed. For example, how wide was the gate to be? What type of gate? What material was it to be made of? Did we need to consult the Conservation Officer? Was it to be keyboard controlled or telephone? After a brief discussion it was **agreed** that further consideration was needed on this issue before anything could be done. **Action:** The Chairman to measure the gap into which a gate would be installed.
  - (iii) Land at the top of Holyrood** – the response from HBC in regard to the issue of what had been publicly accessed land being fenced off, was that the land di not belong to them and therefore there was nothing thy could do. Councillors disagreed with this, as it was understood

that this piece of land had been given, by the construction company who built the houses here, to the Borough Council. The Clerk proposed that, as the land was being used by children as a play area, that consideration be given to the installation of play equipment here, as a play area. It was felt that this would not be welcomed by some of the residents whose houses adjoined the land. It was agreed however, that HBC be 'sounded out' as to their view on making this formally a play area – this request would have the advantage of identifying ownership of the land. If the response was positive then a formal consultation would be undertaken with residents before any decision was made as to a play area. **Action:** Clerk to consult HBC about play area potential.

- 6. Chairman's Report:** The Chairman reported as follows: **(a) Sunflowers:** He had received several complaints about visitors to the 'sunflower field' who had blocked Butts Lane with their vehicles when sightseeing, much to the annoyance of local residents. He noted that this was not the fault of the farmer but due to someone putting the sunflowers on Facebook. **(b) Trees:** He had been approached by Mike Seymour about the potential removal of the tree behind Voltigeur Drive that had been the subject of much concern by residents; Mike wanted to remove the tree and offered to plant two flowering cherry trees nearby; the Chairman had informed him that, as the land belonged to HBC it was for them to decide on the future of the tree in question, and they had stated the tree was healthy and was therefore to remain in situ, though it could be pruned. The dangerous tree beside Voltigeur Cottage had now been removed; in the process of identifying who owned the tree (in this case the owner of the cottage), both the electricity and water companies had been contacted and it had come to light that Northumbrian Water owned the land along the beck-side that needed tidying. He proposed that the company be asked to undertake this or to contribute the cost of so doing to the Parish Council. **Action:** Clerk to write to Northumbrian Water regarding the maintenance of the land along the beck. **(c) Security Camera:** SSS were willing to help put up a CCTV camera at the car park and had offered to contribute £500 towards the cost. This information was welcomed by Councillors. **(d) Road name:** He had been approached by HBC in regard to the naming of the road from the village to The Fens'. Mike Seymour had requested the name be 'Manor House Gardens leading to The Fens' but he, the Chairman, felt this was not acceptable and not in keeping with the names of other roads in the village. Cllr Brown reminded colleagues the road was formerly known as Hart Road before the A179 had been built. **(e) Covid-19:** The Chairman noted that Covid was still a major issue and that numbers of infections had risen sharply in Hartlepool since the relaxing of 'lock down' – he asked that all residents take great care when visiting the town and abide by the government's guidance.
- 7. Ward Councillors' Reports:** Cllr Cassidy had submitted a written report in which he gave apologies for not attending, in the light of government Covid restrictions to 6, that he had no issues to report from HBC that related to the village and that he was now working closely with the Councillors for Rural West Ward. The report was **noted**.
- 8. Draft Community Safety Plan:** Councillors thought the proposals were acceptable, though noted that previous actions to reduce ASB had not reduced violent crime, drug misuse or fly tipping and that more needed to be done to address these issues. The rural community suffered greatly from fly-tipping and it was well known that 'county lines' were run throughout the rural area.
- 9. Neighbourhood Watch Report:** The report had been circulated prior to the meeting; the contents were **noted**, with thanks to the Administrators. Of concern was the lack of promised funding from HBC Councillor budgets.
- 10. Financial Report:** The Financial reports were presented by the Clerk. It was **resolved** to accept the reports.

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
Interest (Business Account)	<u>0.06</u>	Affordable Landscapes (grass cutting)	873.60
		ICO (Data Protection)	<u>35.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>908.60</b>

The Clerk reported that the Local Government pay deal had now been agreed and had resulted in a small increase in salary for the Clerk, whose hourly rate would now increase to £12.00 from £11.67; the award was back-dated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. This was **noted and agreed**.

**11. Correspondence:** Letter from Mark Stouph, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Northern Lights Learning Trust, acknowledging receipt of our letter of 14<sup>th</sup> July and stating that the Trust was now taking legal advice on the proposal for use of Village Field outside school hours. **Noted.**

**12. Planning Applications:** The Clerk reported that application H/2020/0200 Land adjacent to 28, Nine Acres had been Approved; the Planning Inspectorate had upheld the Appeal made by Mike Seymour against HBC in relation to the requirement for obscure glazing in some of the new houses he was building.

**H/2020/0276 – Erection of 570 dwellings and provision of new roundabout and associated infrastructure on land to the south on A179 and west of Middle Warren known as Upper Warren.**

Councillors noted that outline planning permission had already been given for 500 dwellings on this site, but expressed concern at the 14% increase to 570 dwellings, the result of which would be a further increase in the volume of traffic using the A179 – a road that was already at capacity at peak times. 570 homes would probably result in a further 1,000 plus vehicles using the A179 past Hart village, leading to further difficulties for villagers wishing to access or leave the village. Councillors therefore requested that, as a minimum, a roundabout be installed at the west junction of the village with the A179, traffic lights be installed at both roundabouts giving access to the village and also at the junctions of Hart Back Lane and School Lane with the A179.

**13. Maintenance Committee:** Cllr Park spoke to the ‘To Do’ list he had prepared. The Clerk was requested to contact Peter Frost to elicit what actions he was taking to implement the traffic calming measures he had agreed earlier in the year. She was also requested to ask Kieron Bostock about the works in Hart Back Lane and to also elicit what was being done about the gutter at Burns Close which he had agreed needed digging out; to inform him that the trees near the west junction of the A179 junction with the village needed cutting back, that the village sign here was not visible and propose that it be moved to replace the damaged sign. Cllr Park agreed to forward to the Clerk photographs of the results of HBC grass cutting which he had taken for monitoring purposes – and which demonstrated the poor quality of the work. **Actions:** Cllr Park to forward photographs, Clerk to write to Peter Frost and Kieron Bostock.

**14. Matters of Concern to Councillors:** Cllr Quarmby raised concern about the fencing of the White Hart garden which had upset the neighbours, and wondered if planning permission had been required; the height of the fence was of particular concern. The Clerk informed that this was not Parish Council business, and that it was up to those affected by the fence to raise concern with the Borough Council. There was general concern about the amount of drug dealing going on, especially in Worset Lane.

**15. Date of next meeting:** 6.45 pm Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at Hart Village Hall.

*Meeting closed 8.10 pm.*