**Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 17th April 2023**

**at The Studio, Home Farm**

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

**In Attendance:** M. Ireland, Clerk, Ward Cllr Cassidy

1. **Public Forum:**  No members of the public present.
2. **Apologies**: Ward Cllr Cook – accepted.

Cllr Littlefair noted with regret the resignation of Cllr parker, with immediate effect, due to family circumstances.

1. **Declarations of Interest**: None
2. **Police Report**: None received.
3. **Minutes of Meeting held on 13th March 2023:** Item 15 – relating to dog walkers - amend Cllr Quarmby to Cllr Park. All present being in agreement, it was r**esolved** to accept the emended Minutes a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.
4. ***Matters Arising****:* ***(a)******Car Park gate*** *–*.Cllr Park informed the planning application had been submitted; due to an error on the cheque, this had been returned and a new cheque issued. (***b) South View parking design –*** Cllr Britcliffe stated he had now circulated the two designs to residents of South View, with a request they vote either for their preferred option or for no change at all. To date he had received 5 responses, of which 3 were for no change. It was agreed to allow another month for replies, before making a decision.

**(c)** ***National Grid Auction –*** the Clerk reported that Jill Mortimer, MP had reported on her investigation; the National Grid had informed her that all requisite procedures had been followed correctly.

***(d) Armed Forces Covenant -***The Clerk reported the Parish Council was now signed up to the Covenant.

**Action**: Cllr Britcliffe to report on outcome of consultation to May meeting.

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

* The Parish Charter had now been signed by all Parish Council Chairmen and the Leader of the Borough Council.
* Potholes had appeared in the car park and required filling.
* Several residents had complained to him about the number of potholes in Worset Land and hart Back Lane.

He asked Cllr Cassidy where the car parking was to be provided for The Tall Ships Race; Cllr Cassidy agreed to investigate and report back.

1. **Ward Councillor’s Report**: Cllr Cassidy report that Cllr Moore had resigned as Leader of the Borough Council, though he would remain a Ward Cllr. Cllr Cowie had resigned as Mayor. A resident had contacted him with a complaint about the lack of grass cutting at The Darlings; the Clerk informed that Kieran Bostock had requested a quote for this from HPC, which she was currently seeking from Affordable Landscapes. Cllr Cassidy noted that he had a meeting arranged with Tony Hanson to discuss the ongoing issue of flooding opposite The Raby Arms. Cllrs informed him it was obvious that there was a blockage somewhere in the gullies, probably due to them silting up.
2. **Co-option of new Councillor**: The Clerk informed that she had received applications from 4 people, tow of whom had made a joint application to share the role. She had advised them that this was not allowed, and it was **unanimously agreed** to request them to submit individual applications. She had contacted the two others and asked them to confirm they were still interested; only one had so responded. It was **agreed** to invite all candidates for an informal ‘get to know you’ chat before the start of the May meeting, with each candidate given 5 minutes to talk with Councillors alone. The Clerk noted that, due to the May Day Bank Holiday the May meeting had been postponed to the 15th, and she was awaiting confirmation the Village Hall was available. **Action**: Subject to the Hall being available, the Clerk to extend an invitation to each candidate to an informal 5-minutes chat with Councillors, before the commencement of the Annual Parish Council meeting on 15th May.
3. **Field key Holders**: With the unexpected resignation of Cllr Parker, it was agreed the Clerk should withdraw the request to the Trust for a further key. The three current key holders now use a dedicated WhatsApp messaging service to manage the opening and closing of the gate, which seems to be working well. **Action**: Clerk to withdraw request for another key.
4. **Grass cutting at The Darlings**: The Clerk informed she had been contacted by Kieran Bostock with a request that HPC provide a quote for the cutting of the grass on The Darlings estate, which had recently been taken over by HBC from Gentoo. She had requested a quote for the additional work from Affordable Landscapes and was awaiting a response. Councillors agreed to accept responsibility providing HBC met the full cost. **Action:** Clerk to pass on quote from Affordable Landscapes once received, to Kieran Bostock.
5. **Maintenance Committee Report**: Cllr Park spoke to his report.

It was **agreed** that strong and urgent representation should be made to HBC about the amount of mud and other waste being brought onto the roads from Hart Reservoir and other construction sites in the area (in particular, Elwick Park at High Tunstall and Hartwell Park at Upper Warren); these were of such magnitude as to be a real safety hazard for drivers. **Action**: Clerk to forward Maintenance Report to Kieran Bostock, and make strong complaint about the lack of monitoring of wheel cleaning conditions at the various developments mentioned.

1. **Personnel Report:** The Clerk reported no formal applications had yet been received form the latest advert for her job, placed in the Hartlepool Life free paper. She noted however, she had just had an informal conversation with a potential candidate and was hopeful they would apply. It was **agreed** that Cllr Britcliffe and Littlefair would interview any potential candidate for the Clerk/RFO post.

1. **Financial Reports:** The Clerk presented the financial reports, which were **approved.**

**Receipts: £ Payments: £**

Interest (Feb) 4.07 Bank charges (March) 5.40

HBC (car park planning application) 55.00

NEREO (Clerk advert) 45.00

Viking Direct (paper) 28.74

**Total 4.07 Total 134.14**

1. **Correspondence:** (i) **Resident** requesting trees adjacent to her house be pruned – as these were on HBC land agreed to pass to Len Young, HBC; (ii) **BHIB** – insurance quote for 2023-24 – to be discussed at May Annual PC Meeting’ (iii) **Village Hall** **Management Committee** – hall kitchen to be available at no charge for provision of refreshments to volunteers helping with the ‘Community Clean Up’ on Monday 8th May, 10.00am-noon – noted with gratitude.
2. **Planning Applications:**

**H/2022/0078 – 5, Burns Close – No Objection**

**H/2023/0423 – 84 hectare Solar Electric Forecourt – Strong Objection.** Cllr Britcliffe to draft response and forward to Clerk for submission to HBC.

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

* Cllr Littlefair – the amount of rubbish, including aluminium, plastic and fast-food containers being thrown from vehicles on the A179, particularly in the stretch from the Hartwell estate to Worset Lane.
* Cllr Britcliffe – the grass in the field is too long for children to play ball games. **Action:** Clerk to write to school and Trust asking for this to be cut as soon as possible.
* Cllr Brown – skip outside Redsill on Front Street is causing problems as just around the bend and oncoming traffic doesn’t see it – the bollard is too close to the skip.

1. **Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council:** Due tothe May Day Bank Holiday, this was deferred to 6.45pm Monday 15th May 2023 at Hart Village Hall. **NB**: This will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

*Meeting closed at 8.10pm.*