**Minutes of Meeting held at 6.15 m on Monday 8th January 2024**

**in Hart Village Hall**

**Present:** Councillors John Littlefair (Chair), Tom Britcliffe, Keith Brown, Keith Park, Stuart Brookes, John Wilson

**In Attendance:** Fiona Ford - Clerk, Ward Councillors Rob Darby

1. **Public Forum**

No members of the public

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Joanne Quarmby and Tom Cassidy.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations

1. **Police Report**

There was no Police Report available.

1. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th December 2023**

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

1. **Matters Arising**
2. **Car Park Gate Planning Application** – Councillor Park updated the group regarding the quotes and advised he has organised a site visit on 9th January to obtain a further quote.
3. **South View Parking Design** – Action – Clerk to ask Peter Frost for an update and ask about other options for improving accessibility.
4. **Chairman’s Report**

It was noted the Christmas Tree and Village Hall were well decorated and the pantomime was a great success. Fly tipping and debris on the road are ongoing issues and discussed further under Item 8.

1. **Ward Councillor’s Report**

Fly tipping was discussed and Councillor Darby advised HBC have identified a suspect (for one incident), which is being dealt with by the Enforcement Team. The debris on the road near the quarry has been reported and will be discussed further with Kieran Bostock.

1. **Maintenance Committee Report**

Defibrillator – Need to order new pads. **Action: Councillor Park to provide details, Clerk to order**

Discussion around gullies/drainage and HBC requirements as the Parish Council may be able fund undertaking some of the works. **Action: Councillor Park to speak to HBC (Kieran Bostock) regarding the Engineers requirements and process.**

1. **Financial Report**

It was agreed to make £50 donations to Village Life and the North East Air Ambulance. The updated draft 2024/2025 budget was then discussed. The Clerk confirmed whilst the household amount would remain the same as the current year, due to the increase in the tax base due to additional houses, the precept would increase to £8,159.

The following cheques were then signed:

100888 Clerk wages (December 2023) £215.20

100889 HMRC (PAYE December 2023) £53.80

100890 St Peters Church (Village Life Donation) 50.00

100891 Great North Air Ambulance 50.00

**Total £369.00**

1. **Correspondence**

The Clerk advised HBC were organising a liaison meeting with Clerks, however as it was during the day she may not be able to make it.

1. **Planning Applications**

H/2023/0368 – Land to the East of Hart Lane (Hart Reservoirs) – Cllr Britcliffe to prepare a response particularly around debris on the road.

H/2022/0456 – Dalton Piercy Village Hall – Clerk to submit comments fully supporting the application.

1. **Matters of Concern to Councillors**

* Dog Fouling – A discussion took place and it was noted that people can be reported to the dog wardens
* Concerns with the drainage at the bottom of Buckingham Avenue junction with Front Street.
* Tree Crowns at Palace Row and Milbank to be cut back/pruned
* Discharge into the air from the Power Station (Cllr Littlefair declared an interest) – Cllr Park to contact HBC Environmental Health Officer

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

The meeting will be held on Monday 12th February 2024 at 6.45 in Hart Village Hall.

*Meeting closed at 8.00 pm*

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