**Hart Parish Council**

**Minutes of meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 9 April 2018 at Hart Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. J. Quarmby, J. Littlefair (Chair), K. Geddes, K. Brown, F. Lancaster, T. Britcliffe

In Attendance: M. West, Clerk, 3 residents

1. **Apologies:** Ward Cllr P. Beck, Cllr K. Park
2. **Public Forum:** No issues raised.
3. **Declarations of Interests:** Cllr Littlefair, Item 9.
4. **Minutes of 12th March 2018:** The minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.
5. **Matters Arising:** ***(a)*** ***Village Walkabout with HBC Officers:*** This took place at 10.30am on Friday 23rd March and included Ward Cllr. Paul Beck, Cllrs Littlefair & Park, Clerk, M. West and HBC Officers, including Peter Frost & Garry Jones The following issues were identified: the roundabout to be fitted with rumble bars and/or traffic lights; the kerb beside the entrance to The Darlings to be backfilled; many blocked drains/gullies in Front Street, Butts Lane and North Hart Lane, to be cleared and jetted to ensure water run-off runs freely; street lights either not working or not facing downwards in Front Street (near Nine Acres and opposite North Hart Farm Cottage) to be fixed; an extra grit bin to be placed near the old Post Office; the bed of the beck as it runs under the footbridge to be cleared and lowered to allow the water to run freely; the tree on the footpath behind MillviewTerrace, whose roots are causing problems, to be taken down**;** the triangle of grass at the edge of the White Hart car park to be replaced with tarmac; branches to be cut back in front of the new speed indicator at the west end of the village. As at today none of these actions had been undertaken, and the Clerk was asked to write to Peter Frost, copied to Ward Cllrs, expressing concern and informing him that the main road through the village, as well as Butts Lane and North Hart Lane had become virtually rivers with the recent heavy rains. **Action:** Clerk to write to Peter Frost, copied to Cllr Beck.

***(b) Planning Appeal:*** The Clerk informed that an acknowledgement of her letter, in regard to the proposed development on land north of Voltigeur Drive, had been sent by the Planning Inspectorate.

***(c) Chare Wall:*** The Clerk informed that she had received a quote from the Historic Buildings Surveyor, of £1,000 to prepare a survey and give costings for the repair work needed for the Chare Wall, car park etc. She noted that this would be required for any funding applications to be made. After some discussion it was agreed that the funds should be taken from reserves, and that the Clerk should endeavour to obtain funds for a feasibility study on the Heart of Hart Heritage Project. **Action:** Clerk to confirm with surveyors and to seek funding.

1. **Chairman’s Report:** The Chairman reported briefly on the walkabout and noted that, as only 7 people had stood for election, all were automatically elected to serve as the Parish Council for the next 4 years. Thus the membership of the Parish Council remained the same.
2. **Ward Councillors’ Report:**None.
3. **Finance Report**: (i) The Clerk presented the Transactions Report and Actual against Budget Report. These were **accepted**.

**Receipts £0.00 Payments:**

Todds Road Maintenance (planings for car park) £156.00

**TOTAL £0.00 TOTAL: £156.00**

The Clerk noted that she had submitted the VAT Reclaim and that once the final Bank Statement for March had been received the accounts were ready for the Internal Audit.

1. **Correspondence:** HBC in regard to the formal complaint. A very full draft report had been sent by post to the Clerk, which she tabled. Councillors noted with disappointment the findings of the internal investigation – and asked the Clerk to respond immediately as the deadline for a response was 9th April. Three points to be made: 1. Disappointment that no external investigation was undertaken as requested. 2. The shortness of time given for a response given that the investigation had taken more than 6 months, 3. The key point of the complaint had not been addressed – that Cllr Cranney had stated that the objections of the Parish Council were not valid or important and that the Planning Committee should move away from the recommendations of their own officers, and therefore pre-determined due process. For these reasons the PC feel that the complaint had not been adequately dealt with.
2. **Annual Parish Meeting**: It was **agreed** to have a similar format as last year, with refreshments and invitations to all village organisations, the Police, Ward Councillors, and opportunity for residents to agree priorities for the PC for 2018-19. The issue of the Village Field wall to be discussed. The Clerk was asked to draft a newsletter on the PC’s activities for discussion at the May meeting**. Action**: Clerk to draft newsletter and organise refreshments.
3. **Planning Application**: H/2018/0050 – Demolition of Raby Cottage and extension of Granary House. After looking at the plans and discussing the reasons for the proposed demolition (the owners had been unable to sell or let the property; it was too damp and the only original part of the cottage was beyond repair) and looking at the proposed extension and new access road – the Parish Council agreed that, with regret at the loss of a home in the village, they had **No Objection** to the plans.
4. **Clerk’s Annual Appraisal:** The Clerk had circulated in advance a draft pro-forma for Councillors to complete as well as a self-appraisal form for herself. These were approved and it was agreed that all should return their completed forms to the Chairman for collation and feedback of the results to the Clerk.
5. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:**

Cllr Geddes raised the issue of the ever-increasing amount of dog dirt around the village, especially in the Chare. This was not from one or two dogs but a good many.

Cllr Littlefair again raised concerns that after many complaints and three meetings in the village with HBC officers, still nothing had been done to resolve the problems of flooding, lighting etc.

1. **Date of next meetings: Thursday 17th May** following the **Annual Meeting** of the Parish Council which will take place at 6.45pm.

Meeting closed at 8.12 pm.