**Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 9th January 2023**

**at Hart Village Hall**

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

**In Attendance:** M. Ireland, Clerk, PCSO Geoff Hester and colleague

The Chairman welcomed the Police Officers and wished all present a Happy New Year.

1. **Public Forum:** No members of the public present.
2. **Apologies**: Cllr Quarmby, Ward Cllrs Cook and Cassidy.
3. **Declarations of Interest**: None
4. **Police Report**: PCSO Hester had submitted a written report giving statistics for incidents in the whole ward, none of these related to Hart village. He invited Councillors to raise any concerns. Cllr Littlefair reported a growing number of accidents on the A179 due to speeding, exacerbated by the lack of street lighting at present. Speeding vehicles on the A179 were making access to, and egress from, the village extremely difficult at times, and also at the crossroads from Hart Back Lane to School Lane; excessive speed was not confined to the A179, but also occurring regularly on Worset Lane now that it had been resurfaced, despite it having a 40mph limit. Th It was suggested that police should monitor speeds on both roads. Cllr Britcliffe raised the issue of paper litter having recently been dropped along the lengths of every rural road to the west of the town, excluding the actual villages, but going through Coal Lane as far as Trimdon. Concern was also raised about a large motorised home parking very regularly at the Dalton/Hart crossroads on Elwick Road – it was believed this was on HBC land, however, it was noted, if this had been a gypsy vehicle it would have been quickly moved on – the same rules should apply to all vehicle owners. PCSO Hester agreed to refer these issues to other Police colleagues.
5. **Minutes of Meeting held on 19th December 2022:** Cllr Park noted that Item 6(a) referred to a ‘wooden’ gate, this was incorrect, as the gate would be metal. It was agreed to delete ‘wooden’ from the minute. Cllr Britcliffe proposed acceptance of the amended Minutes with Cllr Park seconding. All present being in agreement, it was r**esolved** to accept the Amended draft Minutes a true record. The Chairman signed the amended minutes.
6. **Matters Arising**: ***(a)*** ***Car Park gate*** – Cllr Park informed the planning application had yet to be submitted; he was urged to do so as soon as possible.

***(b)*** ***Car park sign*** - The Clerk reported the sign had been ordered from Ords and paid for, in the sum of £60; Cllr Park asked if it would have appropriate fittings to allow it to be fitted to a gate or post – this was not the case and the Clerk was tasked with requesting Ords to do this. **Action:** Clerk to request Ords to add appropriate fittings to back of sign.

***(c) A179 traffic management and South View parking design –*** no information received as yet from either Cllr Cassidy or Peter Frost; the Clerk was tasked with reminding Mr. Frost of the considerable time that had passed since the request for additional parking at South View had been made, and that in June he had indicated potential design options were almost ready.

***(d) A179 Street lighting –*** Cllr Cassidy had informed the problem was greater than had been originally thought and, as a result, would require extensive road works; The A179 being one of the two main conduits into the town from the A19, there would be considerable disruption to traffic whilst the work was being undertaken.

***(e) Solar developments*** – The Clerk reported that no further information had been received from any of the developers of solar infrastructure works. She noted that the decision on two such developments on the border of County Durham had gone to Appeal having been opposed by both HBC and Durham CC – the Appeal judge had ruled them to be one major Solar farm, of such size that it would have to be referred back to Government.

1. **Chairman’s Report:** Cllr Littlefair reported that:
* He had attended the Parish Liaison Meeting that morning and had raised the following issues:
	+ The lack of replacement of the crossroad signs on the A179 knocked down last September;
	+ The number of street lights not working on the A179;
	+ The public footpath from Elwick to Hart had now become extremely dangerous for pedestrians to use due to the speed and volume of traffic on the A179;
	+ The litter dumped on rural roads (reported earlier in the meeting).
* The draft Parish Charter had been presented; a minor amendment had been proposed to one clause, but other than that it had been welcomed by all Chairmen present. The Clerk was thanked for her contribution to the development of the Charter. Action: Clerk to circulate draft Charter to parish Councillors.
* Hartlepool Big Clean Up is to be started again – Cllr Britcliffe noted that the problem of fallen leaves affecting most village roads was not being properly addressed by HBC.
* The Vicar had reported the ‘Follow That Star’ event had been cancelled.
* He had been informed that the hedge between Nine Acres and the A179 was overgrown, leaving poor line of sight and a van was being parked on the corner of the road to the village at Nine Acres, blocking the view of drivers exiting nine Acres.
1. **Ward Councillor’s Report**: Cllr Cassidy had reported via email on the A179 lighting (see 6(d)). Cllr Britcliffe noted with sadness that Mrs. Cook had been rushed into hospital; all expressed sympathy for both Cllr and Mrs Cook. The Clerk was asked to send Cllr Cook a ‘Thinking of You’ card from the Parish Council. **Action:** Clerk to send card and to ask Cllr Cassidy about progress with Peter Frost and the A179 design.
2. **Maintenance Committee Report**: Cllr Park spoke to his report previously circulated. He noted very little had changed since his December report; he noted the number of crashes on the A179 had increased due to the inadequate street lighting, which was a major safety concern. Cllrs Britcliffe and Park agreed to inform the Clerk of any progress having been made on the bridge steps.
3. **Financial Reports:** The Clerk presented the financial reports, which were **approved.**

 **Receipts: £ Payments: £**

 0.00 Ords (Car Park sign) **60.00**

1. **Correspondence:** (i) Justin Goult at HBC – information about electric vehicle charging infrastructure grants now available for community owned land – **agreed** to pass to Hart Village Hall Committee as the only land owned by the Parish Council was the car park, a National Monument and therefore not appropriate. (ii) Alastair Gordon, Founder of ParishUK Network, an invitation to submit information to new website intended to provide information on all parishes in England and Wales – **refused**; (iii) SLCC - Early Day Motion on Standards in Public Life – parish and town councils are being urged to ask their MP to sign this EDM, requesting the Government to revisit its response to the Standards, to bring in tougher sanctions against offending Councillors – **unanimously agreed**.
2. **Planning Applications:** None received

1. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:**
* Cllr Britclifferaised concern that there were insufficient litter bins and proposed HBC be asked to provide another two, one to be placed on the Fens Road where a cycle and pedestrian footpath goes to Clavering and another on the triangle in Butts Lane.
* Cllr Littlefair noted the lack of response to the vacancy on the Parish Council. Hart Hub to be requested to promote and notices placed on Notice Boards and website – **Action:** Clerk.
1. **Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council:** 6.45pm Monday 13th February 2023 at Hart Village Hall.

*Meeting closed at 7.55pm.*