**Hart Parish Council**

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

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

**In Attendance:** Ward Cllr P. Beck, M. West, Clerk, 12 residents

1. **Apologies:** Cllrs Geddes, Quarmby and Ward Cllr Cassidy
2. **Declarations of Interests:** Cllr Beck in Item 4: Village Field, as he sits on Children’s Services Committee.
3. **Public Forum:** A resident asked what was happening in regard to the collapsed wall and village field access. The Chairman gave a brief resume of the events since the last PC meeting, viz the decision made at the Children’s Services Committee to rebuild the full west wall, and to erect an inner fence some 4m inside the three walls around the field (the school building being on the fourth side). Pictures of the 4 options suggested for the type of fencing were shown on the laptop.

The Chairman further informed of discussions he had since, with Philip Timmins, HBC, in regard to the gentlemen’s tri-partite agreement on the field and had reached a provisional agreement that this would be written into the 125-year lease. A resident asked what this was, and Cllr Britcliffe explained that the Borough Council was required by law to give an Academy a 125-year lease at a peppercorn rent. The lease would cover the school buildings and land attached to the school.

It was noted that the school had used the field for the children’s sports days despite their statement that it was not safe. Cllr Britcliffe explained that a full risk assessment had been undertaken (as a parent he had been informed) and everyone present was kept within a strict boundary comprised of seating.

He proposed that the Parish Council write to HBC requesting a two-part restrictive covenant be placed in the lease and on the field title deed at the Land Registry, viz: (a) the field can be used for leisure purposes only, and (b) the public has access at all times outside of normal school hours.

The Chairman noted that the school was the main user of the Parish Council car park and that he had brought this to the attention of officers and Members alike.

The discussion moved on to the rebuilding of the wall, which was met with great approval, though it was noted that no timescale for this had been provided. Several residents and Councillors expressed the view that if the wall had been properly maintained by the Borough Council, rather than inspected by officers without specialist knowledge of limestone walls, it would not have collapsed. The fact that sycamore trees had been allowed to self-seed on the verge between the wall and the road, and grow against the wall had not helped, as these had led to undergrowth and water retention at the base of the wall, and the larger ones were clearly pushing against the wall.

The issue of the inner fence raised considerable opposition, with residents complaining that it would “look awful” and “not in keeping with the historic site”. A resident questioned why an inner fence would be needed once the wall was rebuilt, as the Health & Safety Executive would have to affirm its soundness. It should then, if properly maintained, stand for several hundred years and be totally safe for everyone, not just schoolchildren. He suggested that villagers would probably be prepared to help raise funds to meet the cost of maintenance rather than see an ugly fence.

The Chairman proposed that the Parish Council and Village Hall Association should jointly offer to take responsibility for the maintenance of the walls around the field. Once repaired, the wall could be photographed, along with the other walls, and a programme of inspection and maintenance be put in place. This proposal was met with unanimous support.

A resident suggested that a letter to HSE seeking their view and advice on the wall could be beneficial. This was **agreed**.

Cllr Park informed that he had spoken with Sarah Howard, Historic England. She had said that they were expecting a planning application from HBC, as the field contained part of a scheduled monument (the Fishponds); Historic England would be minded to refuse any such application.

It was finally **agreed** that the Clerk should write to HBC as follows:

* Preferred option - rebuild wall
* Restrictive covenants in lease and on title at Land Registry (as stated above)
* Reaffirm belief that no inner fence needed if wall rebuilt to HSE standard
* Hart community willing to take on responsibility for maintenance of walls.

**Action**: Clerk to draft letter and circulate for comment before sending to relevant officer.

*Residents left the meeting at 8.10pm*

1. **Village Field:** Already covered above.
2. **Minutes of 11th 2018:** Cllr Park noted that he was present at the meeting. With this amendment the minutes were approved unanimously and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Matters Arising:**

***(a) Tree on walk behind Mill View:*** Chairman had been unable to contact the owner – deferred to next meeting.

***(b) Chare Wall:*** Report received and circulated to all Councillors. It was **agreed** to hold a meeting with all stakeholders in October, with a professional presentation on the vision for the ‘Heart of Hart’ Project to be made by the Clerk.

***(d) Clerk’s Appraisal:*** Completed. Notes on file.

1. **Chairman’s Report:** The Chairman reported that he had been in contact with a number of influential people in regard to the Village Field wall. In extremis, he believed that the Gypsy Site Fighting Fund balance could be used to fund legal support.

The Village fete, held in the Church Field on Saturday, had a great success, although space was very limited. Funds were raised towards the fireworks display.

He noted that HBC had not sprayed the edges of roads and they looked a mess with weeds growing everywhere. He had, himself, sprayed the triangle in Butts Lane. The blocked drain was still causing problems every time it rained. The beck needs clearing out and the bridge needs urgent repair.

He had discussed with David Barker, Chair of the Village Hall Association, the possibility of erecting the shield donated by Cllr Beck onto the outer wall of the village hall.

He wished to put on record the parish Council’s thanks to Jim Taylor for all his hard work in clearing up the beck area before the village fete, and to Sandra Mills at 1, Mill View for her contribution to beautifying the village.

He raised concern at the number of strangers seen recently around the village and asked everyone to remain watchful.

1. **Ward Councillors’ Report:**Cllr Beck reported that he had:

* Supported villagers in regard to the wall and had voted against the fence
* Requested ‘Deer Crossing’ signs for the A179
* Secured agreement for a footpath from the back of Hart mill to the A179.
* Raised concerns about the impact on the road infrastructure of a new 90-bed care home to be built next to Sainsbury’s.
* Supported plans for a pharmacy.

He also reported that: Neighbourhood Services now had a new system by which all issues are to be sent via Lorraine Percival; the Borough Council has agreed to recruit 8 Apprentices to work in Neighbourhood Services and who will take part in a ‘clean and green’ clear up of the Borough over the winter; the Council will be enforcing the rules on dogs on leads in all public spaces and no more than 4 dogs per dog walker, and the Crematorium Chapel is to be refurbished at a cost of £100K+.

The Chairman thanked him and asked that he requests Neighbourhood Services Committee discuss the closures of the A19 crossings and the consequent impact on the A174.

Cllr Park requested information on whom to contact at HBC re a risk assessment for the litter pick. (Tony Hanson).

1. **Finance Report:** The Clerk presented the reports, which were accepted.

**Receipts £ Payments: £**

RNJ Partnership LLP (survey) 1,200.00

**Total 1,200.00**

1. **Correspondence: (i)** Sacha Beddings, Chair Community Organisers, inviting Parish Councillors to express interest in training in Community Organising, supported by NALC. The Clerk was asked to query the cost, date/time implications etc. **Action:** Clerk to raise questions.

**(b) ICO** – notice of Annual Fee for Data Protection registration.

1. **Planning Application**s: H/2018/0244 – removal of trees at Hart school. **Support** but request all sycamores removed, not just large ones, and that their stumps be ground out. Request a maintenance plan for the site be put in place and that smaller, native trees be planted to offset loss of tree cover.

**H/2018/0252** – tree works at 1, Mill View – **No Objection.**

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

Cllr Britcliffe raised concern about the quality of the tarmac patching recently undertaken by HBC which was done so badly it can be peeled off. Areas particularly noticeable are outside the Village Hall, at the entrance to and along South View which would have been better not done at all. Cllr Geddes had emailed concerns about the beck-side and bridge over the beck, both in need of urgent attention. Cllr Littlefair raised concern about a pothole which had appeared to the west of the roundabout on the A179, traveling westwards. He also noted that no road sweeper had been seen in Hart for some time.

The Clerk informed that the Referendum on the Rural Plan was to take place on 4th October 2018.

**Date of next meetings:** Monday 10th September at 6.45pm.

*Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.*