**Minutes of Meeting held at 7.15 pm on Monday 9th October 2023**

**in Hart Village Hall**

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

**In Attendance:** Fiona Ford - Clerk, Ward Councillor Rob Darby, 2 members of the Public

1. **Public Forum**

A member of the public raised concerns with the overgrown hedge at No 3 Butts Lane, as it was difficult to walk along the footpath. A discussion took place and it was agreed to write to the residents and request they cut back the hedge. **Action – Clerk to write to resident**

Another member of the public introduced herself as a new resident in the village and advised she would like to become involved with the Parish Council and/or any community activities.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs John Wilson and Tom Cassidy.

1. **Declarations of Interest**

John Littlefair declared an interest in Item 12.

1. **Police Report**

The September figures for Hart Ward were as follows:

Burglary – 6 (Solar Park and construction compound at the roundabout)

Theft - 16

Criminal Damage – 4

ASB Nuisance - 22

It was noted more Speed Watch events are to be arranged.

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

The Minutes had been circulated in advance and were agreed as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

1. **Matters Arising**
2. **Church Car Park Sign and English Heritage** – Now the sign has been erected any asb needs to be formally reported to the police. English Heritage still need to be advised the sign has been erected.
3. **Car Park Gate Planning Application** – It was agreed Councillor Park would email the various companies and ask for a quote to produce the documentation needed to submit the planning application. **Action – Councillor Park**
4. **South View Parking Design** – It was noted Peter Frost had given some options a while ago, with the preferred option to create parking. **Action – Clerk to ask Peter Frost for an update.**
5. **Maintenance Committee and HBC Site Visit** – The site meeting/walkabout took place on 2nd October with John Littlefair, Keith Park, Kieran Bostock, Gary Jones, Paul Hurwood and Ralph Young. Councillor Park to produce minutes/actions to share with HBC to agree timescales.
6. **Chairman’s Report**

HBC Parish Liaison Meeting – Councillor Littlefair provide an update from the meeting. A discussion then took place regarding improving infrastructure in the village and Town.

1. **Ward Councillor’s Report**

It was noted the outstanding maintenance issues were formally raised at the Parish Council Liaison Meeting with Tony Hanson, Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. **Maintenance Committee Report**

A discussion took place regarding the contributions that will be received from the Solar Park and Battery Farm (Clearstone and CS UK Holdings) which will go towards funding the Heart of Hart Project. Cllr Littlefair declared an interest.

Cllr Britcliffe advised the Planning Enquiry had begun and would provide details of any outcome at the next meeting.

1. **Financial Report**

The Clerk advised that the Change of Address Bank Mandate Form still had not been accepted by HSBC, resulting in no bank statements being available to undertake a bank reconciliation. She also mentioned looking to introduce online banking so statements would be readily available. A discussion took place and it was agreed to also explore switching banks to reduce the bank charges. **Action Clerk to look into an alternative bank account.**

The following cheques were then signed:

100877 Affordable Landscapes £916.80

100878 Clerk wages (July to September) £645.60

100879 HMRC (PAYE July to September) £161.40

100881 Geoxphere (Digital Mapping) £67.50

**Total £1,791.30**

1. **Correspondence**

* Agreeing a representative on the Rural Neighbourhood Planning Group – Advise Brian Walker to send the information to Stuart Brookes and Keith Park
* HBC Portal Training – noted
* Car Park at School – email via Councillor Wilson advising improvement works could be undertaken to the Church car park. Agreed that half term week would be best. Clerk to check with Reveren Janet Burbury a suitable date.

1. **Planning Applications**

H/2023/0057 – Construction of a new grade separated junction comprising erection of bridge structure and of new highway North of Elwick Village linking to the existing highway, with associated hard and soft landscaping, drainage features and ancillary works – A discussion took place and it was agreed to reiterate Elwick Parish Councils concerns.

1. **Matters of Concern to Councillors**

No additional issues.

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

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13th November 2023 at 6.45pm in Hart Village Hall.

*Meeting closed at 8.15 pm*

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