



Hart Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 11 December 2017 at Hart Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. T. Britcliffe, K. Brown, K. Geddes, F. Lancaster, J. Littlefair (Chair), Keith Park (from 7.10pm)
J. Quarmby

In Attendance: M. West, Clerk

1. **Apologies:** Ward Cllr. P. Beck
2. **Public Forum:** No members of public present.
3. **Declarations of Interests:** None
4. **Minutes of 13th November 2017:** With the following amendment to Item 12(e): Replace “had had, whilst trying to avoid the overgrown hedging, he”, with “had had, tripping over the broken pavement outside South View, he”, the minutes were Approved and signed.
5. **Matters Arising:** (a) **Formal Complaint to HBC:** The Clerk informed that the Borough Solicitor was taking the request for an independent investigation to a meeting with the Chief Executive and Director of Finance, but the planned meeting had been postponed until 13th December.
(b) **White Hart Car Park Wall ownership** – no response as yet from Punch Taverns. **Action:** Clerk to e-mail Punch Taverns requesting urgent response to her original letter.
(c) **Gentoo** – The Chairman reported that Gentoo will arrange for the landscaping of the triangle, and refurbishment and replacement of the bench, as requested, to be done before Christmas.

KP joined meeting.

(d) **Issues reported to HBC** – The Clerk read out e-mailed responses received from Peter Frost and Mike Blair. These included the information that (i) farmer(s) had objected to the speed humps offered by HBC and that the possibility of a pedestrian-controlled crossing would be investigated. A couple of Councillors felt that, having had time to consider this proposal, a pedestrian-controlled crossing might cause problems for those living nearby, due to flashing lights and/or beeping. Following a brief discussion, it was **agreed** that the Clerk should inform Mr Frost that Councillors’ preferred option for speed control was flashing signs at each end of the village indicating a vehicle’s speed.
(ii) The PC was advised to contact Steven Abbey directly, with regard to the grit bin in Burns Close, and
(iii) that the footpath behind Mill View would be inspected and cleansed. **Action:** Clerk to contact Steven Abbey re moving the grit bin in Burns Close. (Other issues raised at this point are reported under Item 12).
(e) **Youth ‘Shadow’ PC** – The Clerk reported that another meeting had been agreed for 3.00pm on Friday 19th January 2018, at the school.
6. **Chairman’s Report:** The Chairman reported that he had obtained and helped to erect the Christmas Tree for the Village Hall. Cllrs Britcliffe and Geddes reported that the ‘Heart of Hart’ Carols event on the previous evening, at which the Christmas lights were switched on, had been a great success. The Clerk was asked to write to the Village Hall Committee to thank them for the lovely Christmas display outside the Village Hall. **Action:** Clerk to write to Village Hall Committee. The Chairman had reported some blocked drains to HBC and had been in contact with Gentoo about the final stages of the Darlings development. (see Items 12 and 5(c)). The Chairman also extended an invitation to the 17year old who had expressed an interest in politics, to attend PC meetings; all Councillors felt it would be of real benefit to hear the views of younger members of the community.
7. **Ward Councillors’ Report:** Cllrs Beck & Robinson had sent a written report, which the Clerk read out, as follows:
“Dear Residents. Firstly, Jean and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas. This Year has been one of the most productive on our ward with The Council listening and acting on



Resident Concerns, We have listed some of the Achievements by your Labour Councillors in this Newsletter. We do need to look forward and as your Ward Councillors be Honest as to what can be done within the present budget controls.

COUNCILLOR PAUL BECK

As Ceremonial Mayor of Hartlepool I have recently visited Schools on your Ward, keeping my promise to support our young children using the Ceremonial Mace and Wearing the Ceremonial Robes and teaching them the History of our Great Town. Being Mayor of Hartlepool is a great Honour, but I am still your hardworking Ward Councillor dealing with issues as they arrive. So please contact me if you have any concerns.

We reported fly tipping on Worset Lane just recently and the Council responded promptly.

We have again asked the Council to Trim Back Trees that are Blocking out Lighting in certain areas of the village. I had the Honour of opening THE SUMMER FAIR this year which despite the weather was a great event.

We supported the parking restrictions agreed outside the Village School

I recently acted swiftly on the blocked drains issue on the Hart to Clavering Walkway reported to me by residents.

I acted swiftly to get the Illegal caravanners on The Hart Layby and Throston Golf Club removed.

I was deeply Saddened to learn of the Passing of Bob Johnson the Church Warden. Both Bob and Anne were really supportive to me and Mary and he will be greatly missed.

My Civic carol service is at St Hildas on the 18th December 18.15pm, everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be offered.

I have a Coffee morning at the Civic Centre on the 12th December 10am till 12 pm. Raffle, tea, coffee, hot mince pies, cake and biscuits. All proceeds going to the Radio Hartlepool Christmas Gift Appeal which is in its tenth year. This is part of my promise to support all our young children regardless of race, ability, etc. Please feel free to come along and support."

8. Finance Report: (i) The Clerk presented the Transactions Report and Actual against Budget Report. These were **accepted**.

Receipts	£	Payments	£
Donation	<u>75.14</u>	D.M. Ireland (Clerk's salary x 3 months)	474.50
		HMRC (PAYE)	116.05
		D.M. Ireland (repayment of web-site costs)	<u>426.51</u>
Total	75.14	Total	1,017.06

(ii) The Clerk informed that Mazars LLP have been appointed as External Auditors for 2018/19.

9. Website: The Clerk reported that she had not made as much progress as she had wished with the new website, as she had had to subscribe to an update to increase the number of pages available. She tabled an outline of what she thought the website could look like, together with suggestions as to detailed content, and asked for feedback. Councillors were very supportive of the suggestions and encouraged her to keep up the good work.

10. Correspondence: Letter appointing external auditors (see Item 8(ii)).

11. Planning Application: H/2017/0491 – CCTV cameras for the tower of St. Mary Magdalene Church – strongly supported.

Cllr Britcliffe asked if the Parish Council had been consulted on the increase in the number of houses to be built of the land adjacent to Glebe Farm, which had now been increased twice from the original plan for 20 dwellings, firstly to 27 and now to 29. The Clerk could not remember having received notification of this latter increase, but had given the Parish Council's objection to the first increase, which had been recorded in the minutes of July 2017. **Action:** Clerk to contact Planning Officer Ryan Cowley to ask why PC had not been consulted and to put on record an objection to this further increase.

12. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

(a) Several Councillors raised concerns about the number of blocked or broken drains in the village. Some of these were becoming a safety hazard in the cold weather with localised flood waters freezing and causing pedestrians to slip. In particular opposite the Pumping House, where there is a collapsed drain; in Burns Close, opposite the cottages in Butts Lane, from Nine Acres down to South View and in the road into The Fens opposite the Darlings estate, where drains are blocked.

(b) Cllr Brown also noted that a combination of blocked drain and heavy lorries had led to the asphalt



being broken in Butts Lane, and that a street light was off at the top of North Hart Lane.
(c) Cllr Quarmby noted that in very windy weather, the bin beside the bus stop is blowing inside out, causing litter to be spread around the street and that the street sign at Burns Close needed replacing. As there were now quite a few issues arising, Councillors asked the Clerk to request a visit from Mike Blair and Peter Frost, who would be accompanied by Councillors on a walk around the village to identify exactly what needed doing and where. **Action:** Clerk to inform HBC of issues and request a site visit.

The Clerk informed that progress on the proposal to repair/refurbish the Chare Wall and Car Park seemed to have stalled. She asked for permission to convene a meeting in the New Year with all interested parties. **Unanimously Agreed. Action:** Clerk to arrange a meeting in late January.

13. Date of next meetings: 6.45pm Monday 8th January and Monday 5th February 2018.

Meeting closed at 8.32 pm.