 **Minutes of Meeting held at 6.50 pm on Monday 11th October 2021**

**Present:** Cllrs. J. Littlefair, T. Britcliffe and D. Simmons

**In Attendance:** M. Ireland, Clerk, Ward Cllr. Cassidy.

1. **Public Forum:** No members of the public present.
2. **Apologies:** Cllrs. Brown, Geddes, Quarmby and Ward Cllrs. Cook and Riddle
3. **Declarations of Interest**: None
4. **Police Report:** The Clerk reported that PCSO Hestor had informed there had been no issues.
5. **Minutes Meeting held 13th September:** The minutes being deemedan accurate report, Cllr Britcliffe proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Simmons and unanimously agreed. It was **resolved** to accept the minutes and Confidential Minute.
6. **Matters Arising:**
7. ***School Field Access:*** Cllr Britcliffe had opened direct contact with the CEO of the Northern Lights Learning Trust; she intends to get the draft licence agreement to us by the end of October. Cllr Britcliffe was hoping to obtain access to the field in the meantime, but this had not yet been agreed. Cllr Simmons noted, for information, that sadly the Hart Annual Fireworks Display had been cancelled, and would no longer take place, due to issues of noise, numbers attending from outside the village, and animal welfare.
8. **Defibrillator –** The Clerk reported she had still not received a response from the Director of Public Health, to her request for a copy of the investigation report ASAP, even though she had copied in all 3 Ward Councillors to the request. She noted that Cllr Park had reported the unit had been opened but not used on 23rd September – it had since been disinfected and returned to active status.
9. **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee –** The Clerk wished to know exactly how many mugs she was to order –she believed there to be some 260 households in the parish, but was not exactly sure. It was agreed that 7 boxes of mugs be purchased.

1. **Chairman’s Report:** The Chairman reported that:
   * He had attended a second HBC Audit & Governance Committee at which the potential closure of the Hartfields Surgery had again been discussed. There was clearly strong feeling from both residents and Councillors that the surgery should be retained and a further 12-week Consultation period had been agreed. The results of this would go to the first to the Council and then to the CCG for a final decision, probably around February/March 2022.
   * There was considerable concern about the A179, now that early morning and evening were dark – there had been 3 crashes in the last week alone. The 60mph speed limit at the crossing of Hart Back Lane/School Lane with the A179 was greatly to blame. Vehicles coming at this speed from the town, rushing towards the A19, were often not aware of traffic crossing the road in front of them until too late. It was further noted that traffic lights would be more useful than a roundabout at the western junction of the village onto the A179, as traffic would have to stop completely. **Actions:** Cllr Cassidy to raise this with Kieran Bostock, HBC, Clerk to do same with Police.
   * The Chairman noted the ‘Vote of No Confidence’ issue was on-going, Cllr Moore not having responded to requests for a further meeting, nor the Borough Solicitor’s comments of the Draft Charter. Cllr Cassidy stated he had not seen the Draft Charter and the Clerk was requested to circulate to all 3 Ward Councillors immediately. **Action:** Clerk to send copy of the Draft Charter to Hart Ward Councillors.
   * A formal meeting was to be arranged with Jill Mortimer MP, for Parish Council representatives. Cllr Cassidy noted that she attended Westminster Monday – Wednesday every week when the House was sitting, therefore it would be best to arrange a meeting from later in the week. – noted.
2. **Ward Councillors’ Report:** The Clerk informed that Cllr Riddle’s report for September had not arrived due to problems with his computer, however she had now received it, along with a report for October, which she had tabled. Councillors noted the contents. Cllr Cassidy reported that Cllr Cook was not well and had sent his apologies.

Cllr Britcliffe noted the excellent hedge cutting that had recently been undertaken, but raised concern about the amount of weed in pavements that had been left untreated and also, the poor quality of the grass-cutting undertaken by HBC staff. This clearly indicated either a lack of training or supervision and needed to be addressed. Cllr Cassidy agreed to take this to the Officer responsible. He further noted:

* Traffic calming measures were to be installed in the village using Section 106 monies.
* Phase 1 of the Butts lane drainage works had been completed, though there were still snagging problems to resolve. Phase 2 was to start shortly.
* The Ward Walk-about with the Managing Director had been postponed at his request as the other Ward Councillors had not been available.
* The McKenzie Group Surgery at Hartfields was of concern to all Ward Councillors.

1. **Chare Wall:** The Clerk informed that she had been in contact with BHIB, the Council’s insurers, to discuss liability should the wall collapse. She had been assured that, since the Council had taken all reasonable steps, including putting up notices advising of the danger of falling stones, undertaking a structural survey and was now seeking funding to undertake the refurbishment, any liability was fully covered by our policy. Councillors were reassured to hear this. She further reported that Cllr Park had a site meeting on 23rd September, with representatives of Seymour Civil Engineering, to discuss the feasibility and construction methodology based on the HBC letter and RNJ Survey. She had submitted 2 applications, each for £30,000, as requested; sadly, one of the funders had contacted her only that afternoon, to say they no longer had funding available in this area. As we had only £50,000 committed towards the anticipated £125,000 needed, and this would not be available until the Solar Farm was ‘live’, she would seek alternative funding opportunities. Councillors appreciated her efforts, and agreed that interim action needed to be taken. Cllr Britcliffe proposed that, as a minimum, the wall be taken down to a safe level, and asked Cllr Littlefair if he would store the stone removed. The Chairman agreed and also offered to speak to Cllr Park about the proposal. **Actions:** Chairman to speak to Cllr Park about partial demolition of the Chare wall; Clerk to seek alternative funding.
2. **Queen Elizabeth’s Platinum Jubilee:** The Chairman confirmed that he had spoken with the owner of Hart Mill, who was very happy to hold the beacon on the mill. The Clerk agreed to take him the details provided by the National Jubilee Committee. Cllr Simmons reported that the Village Hall Committee intended to set up a joint Working Party for the event, to which Parish Council representation would be requested.
3. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Park had submitted the monthly Maintenance Report, which the Clerk had tabled. The report was discussed and it was noted as follows:

* Point 1: It was Cllr Littlefair who had cut back the vegetation, not the Borough Council.
* Point 8: Cllr Cassidy to follow-up with HBC. (Butts Lane footpaths)
* Point 11: Cllr Cassidy to follow up with HBC. (Butts Lane flooding)
* Point 17: Covered earlier in the meeting. (Poor grass cutting by HBC)
* Point 19: It was noted that there had been less dog-fouling recently, since one dog walker had been tackled about not clearing up his dog’s mess.

1. **Financial Reports:** The Financial reports to 8th October were presented by the Clerk. It was **resolved** to accept the reports.

**Receipts: £ Payments: £**

Interest on Business Account 0.03 Affordable Landscapes (2 Cuts) 436.80

Affordable Landscapes (2 Cuts) 436.80

D.M. Ireland (salary to 30 Sept) 576.00

HMRC (PAYE) 144.00

**Total 0.03 Total £1,593.60**

The Clerk reported that she had received an invoice from One. Com, who supply our domain name and web-hosting. The invoice for the coming year was substantially more than expected, (£257.70 up from £190.00), as a result of new services being incorporated, however, the Parish Council would not be using these. We were being offered a 25% discount for the first year, to help offset this steep rise. It was **resolved** to pay the invoice, using the25% discount, (£193.30), but to use the coming months to seek another supplier.

1. **Parish Meeting:** Invitations had been issued to all local groups, including the school and PCC and public houses. The police had already accepted the invitation. Fliers were being delivered to all households this week. It was **agreed** that a budget of £50.00 be available for refreshments. Ward Councillors to be formally invited and asked to report. An invitation to be sent to the Leader of the Borough Council to attend. **Actions:** Clerk to invite Ward Councillors and Leader of Borough Council.
2. **Annual Budget & Precept Demand:** Councillors were asked to consider what they would wish to include in next year’s work plan, with a view to any activities being properly costed for the December budget decision. It was **agreed** that a further £2,000 be added to village maintenance/grass-cutting, with the proviso that the precept would not be increased unless an agreement was reached with HBC to take over this work within Hart village. It was **resolved** that residents be asked for their proposals at the Annual Parish Meeting.

1. **Correspondence:** None received.
2. **Planning Applications**:

**H/2021/0354** – Land at The Fens – whilst acknowledging this was just outside the village envelope, the building design is not appropriate for a village setting. **OBJECT**

**H/2021/0419** – land at Upper Warren – **No Objection**

**H/2021/0438** – 18, The Darlings, non-material amendment – **No Objection.**

1. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:**  Cllr Simmons raised concern about the amount of litter seen in the village. She suggested the Council might approach the school with a request they run a competition after the Christmas Holiday, to design an A4-sized poster about litter and dog-fouling. All present thought this an excellent idea, and after a brief discussion it was agreed that the PC would judge the entries, all would be laminated and used around the village, if at all possible, with the overall winner being given a £25 cinema voucher and a framed copy of their entry. **Action:** Clerk to write to school.

Cllr Littlefair reported that a group of young men in two cars had been seen on his farm; they had been followed on CCTV cameras, trying to gain access to buildings & machinery and reported to the police. It turned out they were from Trimdon.

1. **Date of next meeting**: 6.45 pm Monday 8th November 2021 at Hart Village Hall.

*Meeting closed at 8.22 pm*.