



## Minutes of Meeting held at 6.50 pm on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

**Present:** Cllrs. J. Littlefair, T. Britcliffe, K. Geddes and K. Park.

**In Attendance:** M. Ireland, Clerk, Ward Cllr. Cook, Barbara Hind, VCS Officer, HBC.

- 1. Public Forum:** Ms Hind introduced herself and her role, providing infrastructure support to Voluntary & Community Sector organisations in Hartlepool, which included training. Currently embedded in the Learning & Skills Department of HBC, she was also seconded 2 days per week to work with Hartlepower. She informed that a Funding event is to take place at the Central Hub (formerly the Central Library), on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November between 10.00am and 12noon, with many national and regional funding bodies attending to provide information. Following a useful discussion, it was **agreed** that Cllr Park would attend the event if he was able to. **Action:** Cllr Park to attend Funding event.  
*Ms. Hind left the meeting at 7.05pm.*
- 2. Apologies:** Cllrs. Brown. Quarmby and Simmons, Ward Cllr. Cassidy
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** JL – Item 6c.
- 4. Police Report:** The Clerk reported that no apologies or report had been received.
- 5. Minutes Meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> July:** The minutes being deemed an accurate report, Cllr Britcliffe proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Park and unanimously agreed. It was resolved to accept the minutes.
- 6. Matters Arising:**
  - (a) **The Darlings Consultation:** The Clerk reported that Cllr Simmons had kindly collected most of the responses, though 2 had been sent directly to herself. The majority view was that residents did not want a play area situated on The Darlings estate. Councillors therefore **agreed** not to pursue the transfer of land from Gentoo. **Action:** Clerk to inform Gentoo.
  - (b) **Car Park Gate** – The Chairman reported no further information was available as yet. The Clerk was tasked with writing to the school to request public access to the field outside school hours be implemented (i.e. gate unlocked) now the Trustees of the Academy Trust had agreed a licence. It was assumed that the school would be responsible for necessary signage, banning dogs etc.
  - (c) **Chare Wall** – Cllr Park reported that he had done little over the last month, as he had been exceptionally busy, but he was still awaiting responses from two potential contractors. The Chairman informed that Canadian Solar was eager to start developing the site now that formal planning approval had been obtained, but this was not likely to be earlier than August 2022. The Clerk was tasked with submitting the two applications for funding she had drafted the previous year, now the match funding was guaranteed. **Action:** Clerk to submit funding applications.
  - (d) **Defibrillator** – The Clerk reported that The Director of Public Health had, at the request of the Parish Council, instigated an independent enquiry into the incident. She was herself one of those who had been contacted by the investigator. No report of the investigation had yet been received. The Clerk noted that HBC had a new officer responsible for all their defibrillators, Alison Reeve. She had spoken with Alison and agreed to arrange for her to meet the various ‘Guardians’ of the defibrillators in the parishes. The Clerk was tasked with seeking a copy of the investigation report ASAP. **Action:** Clerk to request a copy of the report.
  - (e) **Queen’s Platinum Jubilee** – The Clerk wished to know how many mugs she was to order – it was **agreed** that she should purchase one for every household in the parish. She asked if Councillors had considered joining in with the national Beacon lighting event to celebrate the day. All present thought this a good idea if it was possible. Cllr Britcliffe proposed the new owner of Hart Mill be approached

to see if he would be interested, as this was by far the highest point in the parish, the Chairman **agreed** to do so. **Action:** Cllr Littlefair to approach the owner of Hart Mill.

**7. Chairman's Report:** The Chairman reported that:

- HBC had laid new tarmac in areas of Front Street and Worset Lane, and this had been a good job as far as it went. However, the resurfacing had stopped just before the worst section of road near Nine Acres, and bad parts of Worset Lane had also been left. The resurfacing had led to complaints that drivers were now travelling too fast along Worset Lane, and the lack of mirrors on blind bends in the road, was putting walkers and cyclists at risk; Peter Nixon had informed him that mirrors could not be erected as there were no white lines. The new road level was now 2 or 3 inches above the side of the road, again putting people at risk, as vehicles could easily slip over the edge, and is therefore dangerous. The Chairman further reported that, at the meeting between Parish Council Chairmen and the Leader of the Borough Council and Managing Director, he had informed them that no-one in Hart had been warned in advance of the road resurfacing. As a result, the Borough Council would now forward a weekly notice of roadworks to every Parish Council. The Clerk was tasked with writing to the HBC Works Team, requesting the reasoning for stopping the resurfacing work before Nine Acres, where the road is VERY bad. **Action:** Clerk to write to HBC Officers.
- He had visited a resident of Otteringham Drive who had concerns about an overgrown tree – the matter was referred to Derek Wardle, the HBC Tree Officer.
- He had been advised by Mr. Dixon, a Trustee of the Traveller Site Opposition Fund, that he would soon be leaving the village and wished to transfer the remaining funds to the Parish Council. The monies would be used for the benefit of the village – perhaps going towards the repair of the Chare Wall.
- He noted the re-opening of the Village Hall, with an Open Day event on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September. Although unable to attend himself, he had heard that it had been well supported with a high attendance and he requested the Clerk send a letter of congratulations to the Village Hall Committee for all the work they have achieved. **Action:** Clerk to write to Chairman of Village Hall Committee as requested.

**8. Ward Councillors' Report:** Cllr Cook gave Cllr Cassidy's apologies – the agenda had gone to an unused email address rather than his personal one, which the Clerk noted for future reference. Cllr Cook informed that:

- He was dealing with a large number of issues for residents of the Ward, which were taking some time to resolve due to their complexity.
- The Ward Councillors and the Managing Director had booked a provisional date of 8 October for a walk-about the Ward. He and Cllr Cassidy planned to undertake a preliminary tour with Tony Hansen.
- He was still awaiting updates on who at HBC is responsible for what.
- He was personally very concerned about the quality of the grass cutting undertaken by HBC staff – it seems the staff have no pride in what they are doing, resulting in shoddy workmanship. This is probably due to a combination of lack of training and supervision.
- He, as Chair of the HBC Audit and Finance Committee had been dismayed by the proposal to close the Hartfields NHS Practice. Our MP, Jill Mortimer, had spoken out strongly against the closure. The Practice is one of many around Hartlepool owned by the McKenzie Partnership – who 'look after' 47% of all Hartlepool residents. However, neither the Borough Council nor the MP could prevent this happening, as it was up to the NHS. This is an appalling state of affairs and will have a much wider impact than just those residing at Hartfields.  
All Councillors present expressed their concern about the proposed closure.

**9. Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Park reported that nothing had changed on the 'To Do' list since July. A volunteer Working Party, led by Cllr Simmons, had cleared by hand, the weeds from the most of the pavements along Front Street on Sunday 22 August. Councillors expressed their appreciation. Several residents of Clevecoat Walk, whose land adjoined the beck at the Butts Lane end, had

expressed annoyance that, whilst they were required to keep their side of the beck clear, the Borough Council was not doing the same on the side they owned. Cllr Park noted that NE Ambulance had informed him the defibrillator had been taken out, so it was no longer on the 'active' list. He had checked and sterilised the machine, but it had clearly not been used; the Ambulance Service had been informed and the machine returned to 'active' status.

The Chairman noted that Peter Nixon had informed him that traffic lights were to be installed at the top of the village when the new development is built at Upper Warren.

Cllr Park noted with concern that construction vehicles were trailing mud onto the A179 from that development – mandatory wheel washing of all site traffic should be enforced before a serious accident occurs.

- 10. Financial Reports:** The Financial reports to 9<sup>th</sup> September were presented by the Clerk. It was **resolved** to accept the reports.

<b>Receipts:</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Payments:</b>	<b>£</b>
Interest on Business Account	0.06	Affordable Landscapes (2 Cuts)	346.80
		ICO (Data Protection)	<u>35.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.06</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>381.80</b>

The Clerk reported that she had received yet another letter from HSBC wanting her to confirm Parish Council details again – the third time in the last 6 months, and yet they still hadn't progressed the request for on-line baking!

- 11. Correspondence:** (i) Request for funding from Victim Support National Fundraiser – noted; (11) Elan City – information on traffic management systems -noted; British Legion promoting their 'Tommy' figures for Remembrance Day – noted.

- 12. Planning Applications:** No new applications received to date.

- 13. Annual Parish Meeting:** Whilst the Village Hall had been booked for the 20<sup>th</sup> September, this was felt to be too short notice for residents. The Clerk was tasked with identifying a date around 19<sup>th</sup> October. Invitations to be sent to all residents, Police & Crime Commissioner, PCSO, Hart History Group, PCC, WI, School, Toddler Group and both pubs.

- 14. Matters of Concern to Councillors:** Cllr Park raised concern about the amount of horse droppings being left on pavements around the area – others concurred and the Clerk was tasked with writing to the various livery stables in the area expressing concern. Cllr Littlefair was asked to provide contact details ASAP. **Action:** Clerk to write to liveries as soon as contact information was available.

- 15. Date of next meeting:** 6.45 pm Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at Hart Village Hall.

- 16. Exclusion of Press & Public:** There being confidential matters to discuss, Cllr Cook left the meeting at 8.45.

A confidential Minute records Item 16. **'Vote of No Confidence in HBC'** – update.

*Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.*

