



## Minutes of Meeting held at 7.00 pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021

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

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

- 1. Apologies:** Cllrs Brown and Geddes, Ward Cllrs. Cassidy and Cook
- 2. Public Forum:** None present
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** J. Littlefair declared an interest in Item 6a
- 4. Police Report:** None received.
- 5. (i) Minutes of Annual Meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> May:** Cllr Britcliffe proposed, seconded by Cllr Quarmby, that the minutes be accepted as a true record; this was unanimously agreed and it was therefore **RESOLVED** to accept them without amendment.  
**(ii) Minutes of 'Ordinary' Meeting held 17<sup>th</sup> May:** Cllr Littlefair noted an error in the address in Item 16 under Actions – the address was Palace Row not The Darlings; this was corrected and acceptance of the amended minutes was then proposed by Cllr Littlefair, seconded by Cllr Britcliffe and unanimously agreed. It was resolved to accept the amended minutes.
- 6. Matters Arising:**
  - (a) **Solar Farm application progress** – Jim Ferguson had informed that the application was awaiting a response from Tees Archaeology to the latest Archaeological Report.
  - (b) **Access to Village Field** – The Clerk read out a brief response from Mark Stouph, Chairman of the Trustees, stating the matter would be discussed at the next Board Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July. The Clerk was requested to contact the Academy Trust on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July if no response had been received by then.
  - (c) **Red Gap Applications** – The Clerk informed that an application for a new laptop had been submitted in the amount of £1,080 however, when she started the application for the gate to the car park, she had realised that permission would need to have been received from both Historic England and HBC Planning Department, before an application would be accepted and no application had therefore been submitted.
  - (d) **Car Park Gate** – The Clerk reported she had contacted HBC who required a pre-planning application be submitted, with a map, site plan, and gate design at a cost of £144, and informed it could take up to 6 weeks to process. She had contacted Historic England, who also required a written application with site plan and gate description, however she had been informed verbally that permission would be given. She had then contacted two companies, The Gate Company and SSS, both of whom had made site visits and provided quotes for an electronic gate. One key issue had been raised by both companies, the gate would require an electricity supply, and there was no electricity on the site, other than an HBC lamp post. As HBC had previously refused to allow a CCTV camera to be linked to the lamp post, she felt it unlikely they would agree to an electronic gate using their supply. After a discussion, Cllr Park agreed to draw a site plan and Cllr Littlefair to approach the school in regard to installing a separately metred supply from the school for a gate and CCTV.  
**Actions:** Cllr Littlefair to approach school head, Cllr Park to draw site plan, Clerk to contact Academy Trust as discussed.
- 7. Chairman's Report:** The Chairman reported that he had recently been approached by a resident regarding trees on land behind Milbank Close overhanging his property; he had advised that it was legally acceptable to cut back the branches that overhung only as far as the fence. He had recently

attended a virtual Rural Crime Forum in his capacity as NFU representative; the new Police & Crime Commissioner had attended the meeting, though he hadn't chaired it. The PC Chairman had asked why Parish Councils had ceased being invited to attend, and had raised several issues about the attitude of Cleveland Police call centre staff to reports of crime, e.g. a report of a dog bite – response: a waste of police time; theft of a public authority equipment – response: what has it got to do with you? Quad bikes trespassing on farmland and damaging crops – response from PCSO – they have to practice somewhere! He had also asked that the police write to each Parish Councils identifying which PCSOs covered their area. Finally, Cllr Littlefair informed that Cllr Hilary Thompson, Chairman of Elwick Parish Council, had extended an invitation to all rural Parish Councillors to meet Jill Mortimer MP at a social gathering at her house on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July from 2.00pm. This was to be purely social, not a business meeting!

- 8. Ward Councillors' Report:** Cllr Riddle noted that Cllr Cassidy now worked for Jill Mortimer MP. He had attended several training events organised for new Borough Councillors, including one on Planning. He had been unable to attend either the Code of Conduct event or the Licensing event, but noted that Cllr Cassidy was now Chair of the Licensing Committee, and Cllr Cook, Chair of Audit & Governance Committee of which, he himself was now a member and Cllr Mike Young was once again Chair of Planning Committee. Ward Councillors had raised with officers the issues requested at the May PC meeting and Cllr Cook is arranging a 'walk-about' with Officers and Parish Councillors. Cllr Riddle then requested he be allowed to speak about Neighbourhood Watch (NW), to which the Chairman agreed. He noted that Hartlepool NW Schemes had been invited to join the County NW Scheme, though he did not see any benefit to this himself. HBC was investigating the possibility of rolling out NW across the Borough, using CCTV with a central hub.
- 9. Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Park spoke to the 'To Do' report circulated in advance of the meeting; most of the issues remained unchanged from his May report. Of particular concern is the state of the single pavement in Butts Lane from Main Street down to the beck, the main route to the school, in Magdalene Drive, which is narrow and does not allow use by pushchairs and wheelchairs; a resident with a mobility scooter cannot use the pavement because it is so uneven and unsafe and has to drive on the road, with fast traffic. Speeding through the village, both on Main Street and on Butts Lane, is both an HBC and a police issue; it urgently requires physical traffic calming measures to be installed and/or speed cameras.
- 11. Chare Wall:** Cllr Park reported that he had contacted 3 potential contractors and discussed issues that would need to be taken into consideration when giving a quote for the work - limited access, storage of equipment, drainage and planning. He agreed to send the information to the Clerk, in order that she could produce an official invitation to tender. He stated that did not envisage any work commencing in the current year. Cllr Simmons requested the 'story' of the Chare for the fundraising group.  
**Actions:** Cllr Park to send information on tender requirements to the Clerk, Clerk to send Chare 'story' to Cllr Simmons.
- 10. Financial Reports:** The Financial reports to 13<sup>th</sup> June 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	0.03	Affordable Landscapes	436.80
HMRC VAT repayment	<u>589.48</u>	D.M. Ireland (repayment for printer ink)	89.30
		SLCC (Clerk's annual membership)	<u>130.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>589.51</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>656.10</b>

The Clerk reported that she had been unable to make the donation for equipment to the Hartlepool Litter Pickers, as she had been unable to find any contact details or constitution for the group. Cllr Simmons agreed to obtain these.

**Action:** Cllr Simmons to provide contact details for Hartlepool Litter Pickers.

- 12. Correspondence:** Letter from the Norther Lights Learning Trust – discussed earlier in the meeting.

**13. Planning Applications:** No new applications had been received, but the Clerk informed that an application, H/2020/0390, relating to a variance of condition for the permission granted to 11 Burns Close regarding an extension, which should have gone to the cancelled April meeting, had accidentally been omitted from the May meeting. Councillors agreed they had no objections to the amendment.

**14. Annual Parish Meeting:** With the delay in the lifting of Covid restrictions, it was agreed to postpone the Annual Parish Meeting until September. The Clerk noted that the Parish Council need a new 5-year plan and the Parish Meeting would be a good opportunity to invite suggestions from electors. It was agreed that the newsletter should include:

- information on the PC response to the Covid pandemic – volunteers and services
- the effect Covid had had on our main projects owing to the Covid impact on funding from potential funders
- legal agreement regarding the village field in progress
- gate for car park and/or CCTV
- general decline in maintenance of public areas in the village by HBC.

It was further agreed that a letter should be delivered to every household in the village regarding a proposed children's play area, inviting suggestions of where it could be placed – e.g. behind Milbank Close, at The Darlings, on vicarage land? The Clerk suggested that it would provide an ideal opportunity to ask for volunteers to help with village maintenance, planting, litter picking and so forth – an hour per year could make a huge difference.

**Actions:** Cllr Littlefair to consult Rev Janet regarding the vicarage land, Clerk to contact Gentoo about land at The Darlings and to draft letter and newsletter.

**15. Matters of Concern to Councillors:** None raised.

**16. Date of next meeting:** 6.45 pm Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at Hart Village Hall

*Meeting closed at 8.15 pm.*