



Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 8th November 2021

Present: Cllrs. J. Littlefair, K. Brown, K. Park, J. Quarmby and D. Simmons

In Attendance: M. Ireland, Clerk

1. **Public Forum:** No members of the public present.
2. **Apologies:** Cllr. Britcliffe, Ward Cllrs. Cassidy, Cook and Riddle

The Clerk notified Members of the resignation of K. Geddes. The Chairman expressed his appreciation of her contribution over the years and asked that she be thanked on behalf of the parish Council.

Action: Clerk to inform HBC and ask if we need to co-opt, send thankyou to Mrs. Geddes).

3. **Declarations of Interest:** None
4. **Police Report:** The Clerk reported that PCSO Hestor had sent a report of the crime statistics for the Ward; these included a burglary, a theft, one criminal damage, and anti-social behaviour, none of which were in the village, mostly on Easington Road and Bishop Cuthbert. Cllr Simmons noted that the report did not include the incident at Mr. Jenkins premises. Cllr Littlefair noted that when he had called the police to report poaching, he could get no response for 15 minutes, by which time the poachers had disappeared. In the meantime, he had sent messages to PCSO Hestor and PC Andy Hampson, but neither had responded in time, though PC Hampson had rung later and thanked him. He also noted that the number plates of 2 suspicious vehicles had been given to the police.
5. **Minutes Meeting held 13th September:** The minutes being deemed an accurate report, Cllr Brown proposed acceptance, seconded by Cllr Simmons and unanimously agreed. It was **resolved** to accept the minutes.
6. **Matters Arising:**
 - (i) **School Field Access:** Cllr Britcliffe had informed the Clerk via email, that he had not as yet received a copy of the draft legal agreement promised by the Northern Lights Academy Trust. He noted that he intended to enquire as to the reason.
 - (ii) **Defibrillator** – The Clerk reported she had now received the report of the investigation from the Director of Public Health. It identified that HBC had no records/audit trail for the 6 defibrillators they purchased and recommended they be fully serviced and transferred to the ownership of the relevant parish councils. Cllr Park informed he had now registered the Hart defibrillator on the national ‘Circuit’ network.
 - (iii) **School Anti-litter Campaign** – the Clerk reported she had not yet received a response to her letter of 14th October.
7. **Christmas Trees:** Councillors **agreed** to purchase a 6’ tree for the church and a 14’ tree for the Village Hall.
8. **Chairman’s Report:** The Chairman reported that:
 - He had attended a third HBC Audit & Governance Committee, whose priority for the year was to tackle child poverty.
 - He had been approached by Mrs. Ann Johnson who was seeking sponsorship for the proposed church garden. There was concern that one of the paving slabs on the path from the car park to the church/Chare is a potential safety hazard and needs

re-siting as a matter of urgency. Councillor Park agreed to get this done. **Action:** Cllr Park to ensure slab is re-sited appropriately as soon as possible.

- The Borough Council were investigating the possibility of reducing the speed limit along the A179 to 50mph. Councillors felt this was insufficient around Hart, and a fixed speed camera needed to be installed on both carriageways, either side of the entrances to Hart village.
- The Chairman noted the 'Vote of No Confidence' issue was on-going, and the four Chairs of the rural parish councils had met the previous week to discuss further action.

9. **Ward Councillors' Report:** The Clerk informed that Cllr Cassidy had submitted a report as follows:

- He had instructed HBC to start proceedings to transfer ownership of the Hart Village defibrator - Craig Blundred- Director of Public health is investigating what we need to do to hand the site over to the Parish Council with a view to getting this concluded asap.
- Ground Maintenance within the village - Winter programme of works is commencing across the town and these will be picked up in due course
- Kieran Bostock would welcome discussions around grounds maintenance well in advance of next year's cutting season to allow time for agreements to be drawn up etc.
- A179 Speed limit reduced to 50mph – he is still awaiting an update from HIGHWAYS regarding this request.
- Nearby drain on Butt Lane needs a JCB digger to solve issue, parish council happy to do this with permission from HBC. The team regularly inspect the culvert in the area to monitor flood risk. If this relates specifically to the culvert area then access via a JCB may be difficult. HBC would welcome the support of Cllr. Littlefair and request he holds discussions with Scott Parkes to look at individual areas, then Scott will ensure this is done in a safe and co-ordinated manner.
- He had been asked by the Managing Director whether Hart Parish Council would like to adopt the new Councillor Portal to report issues directly to HBC – training will be provided.

Parish Councillors received the report with thank to Cllr Cassidy. The Clerk was tasked with making an appointment with Kieran Bostock, before the December meeting, to discuss grass-cutting. It was noted that the new manhole cover, opposite the bungalows in Butts Lane, is raised above road level which is not acceptable. **Actions:** Chair to contact Scott Parkes, Clerk to make an appointment with Kieran Bostock.

10. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee:** Cllr Simmons reported that the proposed working party had not yet met.

11. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Park tabled the monthly Maintenance Report. The report was discussed and it was noted as follows:

- Point 2: A working party to be convened to cut back the remaining vegetation at the bridge and clear the moss from the footpath in Clevecoat Walk.
- Point 7: The pavement from Front Steet to Clevecoat Walk has now been resurfaced, which is much appreciated, however the problem with the camber remains.
- Point 8: Hart Lane Roundabout remains a flooding concern as the blocked /high gully is not allowing surface water to drain.
- Point 10: Butts Lane flooding – Cllr Littlefair to contact Scott Parkes.
- Point 12: Chare Wall – detailed drawings not yet completed. One contractor has to date submitted a quote for the works. Two others expected. It was **agreed**, with Cllr Park objecting, that the Chare Wall be reduced to a safe height as soon as possible, with supervision from Tees Archaeology.
- Point 16: An appointment to be made with HBC to discuss grass-cutting.

Actions: Cllr Simmons to organise a working party to cut back the vegetation and clear the moss from the footpath; Chairman to contact Scott Parkes regarding Butts Lane; Cllr Park to forward any quotes to the Clerk; Clerk to send report to Kieran Bostock and arrange a meeting, and contact Tees Archaeology regarding the Chare wall.

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

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
Interest on Business Account	0.03	One.Com (website)	193.30
		Communicopr (Jubilee mugs)	1,657.92
		D.M. Ireland (Parish Meeting expenses)	50.00
		Affordable Landscapes (grass cutting)	<u>218.40</u>
Total	0.03	Total	2,119.62

The Clerk noted that she had paid the One.Com £193.30 as calculated based on their 25% reduction in fee, however they had actually charged her card with £198.37.

13. Annual Parish Meeting: It was felt the meeting had gone well, with several new residents in attendance. The Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Inspector Mark Haworth had both spoken and made promises about improving the police service to the rural community which would need to be monitored. Several positive suggestions had been made as to what the PC might add to Parish Plan, including:

- Plant trees on the land behind Milbank
- Develop a children's play area
- Flower tubs in the car park – note tourists often cannot access the car park due to use by school.
- A village orchard
- Lighting on the footpath through the Chare
- Speed chevrons at the village access off the Hart Roundabout – note there is wasted space here.

14. Annual Budget & Precept Demand: It was agreed that the budget should include an increased amount for grass-cutting; other projects identified by residents to be costed.

15. Correspondence: None received.

16. Planning Applications: None received

17. Matters of Concern to Councillors: No further issues identified.

18. Date of next meeting: 6.45 pm Monday 13th December 2021 at Hart Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 7.58 pm.