

Hart Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 13 November 2017 at Hart Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. T. Britcliffe, K. Brown, K. Geddes, F. Lancaster, J. Littlefair (Chair), Keith Park, 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:** Cllr J. Littlefair, Item 5(a); K. Brown, Item 11 (ii)
4. **Minutes of 9 October 2017:** Approved and signed.
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - (a) **Formal Complaint to HBC:** The Clerk informed that the complaint had been submitted on-line and acknowledged; it was currently being investigated, and both she and Councillor Britcliffe would be asked to provide evidence shortly.
 - (b) **White Hart Car Park Wall ownership** – no further forward with this, as all information gleaned seems to be that the car Park, and thus the wall, are owned by Punch Taverns. **Action:** Clerk to write to Punch Taverns.
 - (c) **Underpass:** The Clerk reported that Chris Scaife had informed her that this had already been cleared by the time of the October meeting. Concerns were raised that a triangular piece of land, next to the last house before the underpass, was meant to be landscaped by Gentoo before the site handover. The householder asked the PC to ensure that trees and shrubs were planted here, to provide her with some privacy. **Action:** Chair to raise with Gentoo.
 - (d) **School Parking:** The Clerk reported that the School Head had discussed the possibility of a pedestrian-controlled crossing being placed on Front Street, near to the Raby Arms, to be paid for from Section 106 monies. The crossing would both facilitate a possible 'Walking Bus', to address the parking issue at the school, and also help to slow traffic through the village. The Head was also writing to all parents asking them not to park in Magdalene Drive. Councillors unanimously agreed to give this proposal their support. **Action:** Clerk to write to HBC Planning to give strong support to the proposal.
 - (e) **Youth 'Shadow' PC** – The Clerk reported that she had attended the school at the time agreed, with refreshments for the children and a handout on the role of the Parish Council, but sadly none had turned up. The School Head and Form teacher were both very disappointed and promised to investigate the reasons. She had now received some feedback - some of the children had felt they had already given their suggestions at the initial exploratory meeting, others had simply forgotten. A 17year old, who wished to be involved, was at Westminster that particular day. The Clerk had agreed, with the Head, to arrange another meeting. Councillors were disappointed, but thanked the Clerk for organising it and encouraged her to try again.
 - (f) **Fly Tipping & Dog Waste** – The Clerk reported that she had placed notices on each of the PC Notice Boards as requested, under the heading 'Save our Countryside!'
- (b) **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman reported that he had recently attended a Parish Liaison meeting and had raised the following points:
 - (i) **Fly Tipping** – HBC reported over 400 penalties issued this year already. (Councillors felt that amount of fine was insufficient to make any real impact).
 - (ii) **State of footpath to Nine Acres;**
 - (iii) **Issues around disability access** around the village – HBC agreed to investigate possibility of installing dropped kerbs at key points;
 - (iv) **Double Yellow Lines in Magdalene Drive** - Chair had stated that he felt these to be a waste of time as they would not be policed, and the 6 minutes legally allowed, was sufficient to drop off a child anyway.
 - (v) **Progress on A179/A19 junction** – HBC reported that Highways England had agreed to fund the signalling of the junction, and work was to start very soon; the A19 flyover at Elwick was also to be funded by Highways England and the By-Pass was to be constructed by 2020, starting in 2018. (vi) **Travellers parking** – the Clerk reported that she had received an update on this issue that very day, from Ward Cllr. Beck, explaining the process legally required to move travellers who had parked illegally, and read this out to the meeting. **Action:** Clerk to keep this on file for future reference.

(c) Ward Councillor's Report: Cllr Beck had sent a written report, which the Clerk read out, as follows:

1. The vagrants who camped illegally on the layby were served with a warrant to leave the area, and moved to the Throston Golf Club. I acted quickly with our enforcement team and Chief Solicitor and the problem was resolved.
2. I reported the issues that we discussed at the last meeting, but to date I have not received any feedback from the Council
3. I am meeting with The Leader and Council Officers tomorrow morning to discuss the ongoing saga around the lack of the Promised CCTV on Middle Warren Play Park, apparently delayed due to parts ordered not being obtained. I will be making it clear that residents are sick of their properties being targets for anti-social behaviour and need results ASAP.
4. I am visiting Elwick and Hart Village Schools this week with the Ceremonial Regalia, and Clavering School Next week. I will be talking to pupils about the importance of taking pride where they live and issues around Litter, Anti-Social Behaviour, Bullying, as well as the History of Hartlepool.
5. I am supporting and launching the Radio Hartlepool Children's Toys appeal on the 23rd November. A shopping Trolley will be in our contact centre for anyone who wishes to donate a new toy, or at Radio Hartlepool office. Toys or Financial donations can be given. This is the 10th Year of this appeal. We don't want any of our young children to face Christmas with nothing, due to the Cuts and Universal Credit, which are affecting many of our young families.

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

9. Website: The Clerk reported that she had registered the new domain name as **hartparish.org**. She hoped to have the site up and running by the December meeting.

10. Correspondence: Letter from HSBC, together with form to be completed, regarding Tax Status of the PC. **Action:** Clerk to complete and return to the bank.

11. Planning Applications: H/2017/0540 - Energy Storage Facility, Whelley Hill Farm – No Objections BUT, would like to see more planting of trees and shrubs to screen the site.
H/2017/0593 - The Cottage, North Hart Farm – (Cllr K. Brown took no part in discussion) - No objection.

12. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

- (a) Cllr Britcliffe raised concern that the gate into the school field was not being unlocked after school, as per the agreement. It was also noted by other Councillors that dogs were being exercised on the field which is NOT allowed; this may be due to the Prohibition sign having gone missing from the gate. New signs were needed on both gates, and the Clerk was asked to contact HBC to request this, as a matter of urgency; the sign to state that No Dogs, Horses or Motor Vehicles are permitted on the field. She was also asked to put a reminder to this effect in Village Life. **Action:** Clerk to write to HBC, requesting action, and to flag up the issue in Village Life.
- (b) Cllr Geddes raised concern about the increasing depth of potholes on the Car Park. Cllr Brown mentioned the need for lighting also. After some discussion it was **agreed** that scrapings should be ordered and spread again, purely as a temporary measure, until a more permanent surface could be afforded, to protect the archaeology. **Action:** Chair to organise temporary resurfacing of car park.
- (c) Cllr Quarmby raised concern in regard to the grit bin near No 1, Burns Crescent, which needs moving back to its original position at the top of the bank, some 20 metres away. It was also noted that the road sign is bent and needs repair, and that the access itself is also in need of repair. **Action:** Clerk to inform HBC and request action.
- (d) Cllr Park raised concerns about the 'Hart' sign at the western entrance to the village, which is in need of urgent repair as it is now leaning badly, having lost one leg some time ago. It was also noted that the wording on the stone sign at this entrance has faded badly and needs repainting. **Action:** Clerk to inform HBC and request action.
- (e) Cllr Lancaster reported that the footpath to Nine Acres is to be sorted soon as, following an accident he had had, whilst trying to avoid the overgrown hedging, he had contacted HBC, with photographs of the pothole which had caused his accident. It was also noted that the hedging is still in need of cutting back to clear the path. **Action:** Clerk to inform HBC and request action.
- (f) Councillor Geddes raised concern about the footpath from Clevecoat which runs behind Mil View; there is a part of the path which has been raised by the roots of a large tree, and which is causing people to

trip, especially in the darker light of winter, when going to and from the school. Cllr Quarmby also noted that the path was now known as 'Dog Shit Alley', due to the large amount of dog waste along it. **Action:** Clerk to inform HBC and request action.

(g) The Clerk apologised for not raising this matter under finance, but asked Councillors to start thinking about what should be in next year's budget and referred them to the Parish Plan and Meeting.

(h) Cllr Brown asked if there had been any further information received on Glebe Farm issue – the lay-by which had been incorporated into the plans for the new housing development. This piece of land had been a problem for some time. **Action:** Clerk to contact Jim Ferguson, HBC, to ask for an update.

Councillor Park volunteered to produce a 'traffic light report' on all matters raised with HBC since the start of the year. This would allow Councillors to see clearly what HBC had actioned already, what was in progress and what had not been addressed at all. This was unanimously **agreed**. **Action:** Cllr Park to produce report as agreed.

13. Date of next meeting: 6.45pm Monday 11th December 2017.

The Clerk asked if it would be possible to move the date of the February meeting, as she had a regular commitment that week. It was unanimously agreed that this should be done. Clerk to inform of new date at next meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm.