

**Hart Parish Council**  
**Minutes of meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 9 October 2017 at Hart Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs. T. Britcliffe, K. Brown, K. Geddes, F. Lancaster, J. Littlefair (Chair), Keith Park

**In Attendance:** Ward Cllr P. Beck, M. West, Clerk, J. Brash, D. Metcalfe, P. Britcliffe

**1. Apologies:** Cllr. J. Quarmby

**2. Public Forum:** Mr. Metcalfe asked why the public were given no information in regard to the proposed **Gas-Powered Electricity Sub-Station**, which had just been given Planning permission. Cllr Littlefair immediately declared an interest as the landowner. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council had only been alerted to the plans due to a Councillor having seen a notice at the A179 west junction to the village; the Parish Council had immediately put in a very strong objection, a copy of which had been placed on each of the Noticeboards.

Cllr Britcliffe stated that he had been inundated with objections since planning had been approved, and went on to describe in detail what had occurred at the Planning Committee meeting, viz the Chairman of Regeneration Committee, sitting beside the applicant's agent, had read from a pre-prepared script in support of the application, handed to him by the applicant's agent. The most worrying aspect of this intervention was that it asked the members of the committee to move away from the planning officer's recommendation to refuse and implied that the objections of the Parish Council were not important. He, TB, had earlier spoken against on behalf of the Parish Council, stressing the lack of consultation, the inappropriateness of the site, and the availability of better sites within the hectares of available industrial land within the town. The latter arguments had been completely ignored; there had been no debate, the Chairman had put it straight to vote. Both Mr. Metcalfe and Mr. Brash expressed concerns about the way HBC is dealing with such applications in the rural area, and asked about a right to appeal the decision. Cllr Britcliffe explained that third parties, such as the Parish Council, had no right to appeal; however, he had been advised that a formal complaint should be made in this instance, as what had happened in the Council Chamber had clearly been wrong. A formal complaint by the Parish Council would require a full investigation by the Borough Solicitor and Chairman of Planning Committee, and potentially a requirement for the application to be reviewed.

Asked what further action could be taken, it was suggested that the PC should write to Westminster. Mr Metcalfe expressed the view that the Parish Council hadn't done enough to alert residents to the potential impact of this development, and that notice boards were not read, people being too busy, and that alternative ways should be found to communicate with residents.

The Clerk mentioned that there was potential for a cross-Parish approach, as Dalton Piercy PC was also concerned about recent planning decisions, and had asked for a meeting. It was **agreed** that such a meeting should be arranged as soon as possible, and invitations extended to all Hartlepool rural Parish Councils. It was further **agreed** that where HBC was not consulting residents affected by planning applications, then the PC should undertake such consultation itself.

**Action:** Clerk to arrange meeting and invite other Parish Councils. PC to note for future reference, the need to consult residents more directly.

Mr. Britcliffe wished to draw attention to the state of the grass as one enters Voltigeur Drive, which is a mess.

Mr. Metcalfe and Mr. Britcliffe left the meeting at 7.50pm.

**3. Declarations of Interests:** None made, other than that of Cllr Littlefair earlier.

At this point the Ward Councillor asked if he might give his report as he had to leave by 8.00pm.

**7. Ward Councillor's Report:** Cllr Beck reported that:

- he had requested that Highways put flagstones from the back of Hartfields down to the bus stop on the A179 due to disabled residents having to walk along the cycle lane;
- he had reported the considerable amount of fly-tipping in Worset Lane;
- he had succeeded in getting speed restrictions, in the form of rubber sleeping policemen, on to Rafton Drive near the play area;
- that bus stops are soon to be installed along Merlin Way, now that it has been adopted and has a

regular bus service;

- that he is working with the Highways Department to get a Lay-By installed near Orchid Road and double-yellow lines to stop cars parking on the highway and blocking the line of vision;
- he is dealing with overhanging trees around the Ward which are blocking street lighting, and finally
- he is to visit the schools in Elwick and Hart, on 14 November between 9-12, with his full Mayoral insignia and robes, and Clavering school on 16<sup>th</sup> at 1.00pm.

Cllr Britcliffe reported that trees had grown over the pavement between Nine Acres and the village to such an extent that villagers were having to walk in the road. Councillors noted that overhanging trees were also causing problems in other areas including: along the by-pass, Butts Lane and from the A179 roundabout at the bottom of the village down to the West View roundabout and Cllr Geddes mentioned the willow tree near the bridge over the beck.

A large amount of fly-tipping had been seen since Sunday, at the junction of Butts Lane and Green Lane.

**Action:** The Clerk to report as soon as possible.

Cllr Beck left the meeting at 8.06pm.

4. **Minutes of 11 September 2017:** Cllr Britcliffe noted that Minute 7c should read 'Butts Lane' not 'North Hart Lane. With this amendment the minutes were accepted as correct and signed.
5. **Matters Arising:** (a) **White Hart Car Park Wall ownership** – Cllr Britcliffe stated that the pub is owned by Punch Taverns and probably the car park too, as it is not on the HBC land register. He had thought that the wall belonged to White Cottage, but Cllr Littlefair had ascertained from the cottage owner that she only had right of access through the car park. Cllr Britcliffe informed that Craig Temple, HBC, had suggested that the Parish Council advertised for someone to come forward to claim ownership or the PC would take it. Before taking this action, it was **agreed** that the Chairman should ask Joe Brown whether he had any knowledge of the ownership, and also check with Punch Taverns. **Action:** Chairman to contact J Brown and Punch Taverns.  
  
(b) **The Darlings site handover issues** – Cllr Littlefair reported on a letter received in response to his, viz that Gentoo Homes had relocated the bench and would be re-varnishing it before the end of the month. The site gullies fall under the provisions and standards of a Section 38 agreement made with HBC, who will adopt them. Prior to adoption the gullies will be inspected by Highways Officers of the Council – any issues with the gullies will be picked up as part of this process, and any potential problems resolved prior to adoption. The underpass is outwith their remit of works on the site, and the Borough Council should be responsible, especially if it is impacting on safety. Councillors noted that the underpass is a Right of Way and suggested that the Clerk contacted Chris Scaife, HBC Access Officer again, expressing the urgent need to clear and clean it up. **Action:** Clerk to contact Chris Scaife.  
Mr. Brash stated that he thought that the grassed area between the Raby Arms car park and the road had been adopted by HBC...? It was thought the fencing around the area to be very poor, being only wooden slats rather than cast iron railings.  
  
(c) **Youth 'Shadow' PC** – The Clerk reported that she had attended the school at the invitation of the Head Teacher, to talk about the proposal with the Year 7 students. It had proved very successful with many ideas forthcoming. An initial meeting had been arranged there and then, to take place at 3.30pm on Monday 6 November. Another young lady, studying for an A level in politics, had also indicated an interest, but was visiting Westminster on the date of the first meeting. She had also attended a very constructive meeting between the school and Historic England, to discuss the car park, and had agreed that it would be ideal if the PC and school could work together on finding a solution that would preserve the site of the Scheduled Monument whilst at the same time provide sufficient spaces for staff cars.
6. **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman said he had nothing further to add as the car park and planning issues had already been covered.
8. **Finance Report:** (i) The Clerk presented the Transactions Report and Actual against Budget Report. These were **accepted**. (ii) The second bid to the Transparency Fund for website development had been successful. She asked how Councillors would wish to proceed with website development – the PC could

purchase an independent website developer or she could, herself, develop a simple site to meet the requirements of the Transparency Legislation, using a template used by other Parish Councils. It was **agreed** that the latter option should be pursued, with Cllr Park providing support. A draft of the new website to be brought to the next PC meeting for approval. **Action:** Clerk to develop website.

**9. Correspondence:** Letter from Gentoo already covered under Item 5b.

**10. Planning Applications:** H/2017/0492 - 24, Evergreen Close - No objection  
H/2017/0537 - 28, Crocus Gardens - No objection

**11. Matters of Concern to Councillors:**

(a) Worset Lane fly-tipping - Councillors felt that a large part of the problem is that HBC charges to collect large items from residential dwellings and there is a long waiting list for such collections. Also, HBC has not made it clear that most items are **NOT** charged for at the Council's tip.

The Clerk was asked to put a notice up on the Parish Notice Boards to this effect, to request residents to report anyone seen fly-tipping, noting their registration number and taking a photo if at all possible. (Fly-tipping should be reported to 014239 523333), also dog fouling patterns and timings of, should be reported to the Dog Wardens (anonymously if preferred). **Action:** Clerk to produce notice.

(b) Clerk asked to flag up with HBC Officers concerns for the safety of disabled wheelchair users where paths are overgrown and they are forced to use the road. **Action:** Clerk to notify HBC Officers.

**12. Date of next meeting:** 6.45pm Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm.