

Hart Parish Council
Minutes of meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 11 September 2017 at Hart Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. T. Britcliffe, K. Brown, J. Littlefair (Chair), Keith Park, J. Quarmby

In Attendance: M. West, Clerk

1. Apologies: Cllr. K. Geddes

2. Public Forum: No members of public present

3. Declarations of Interests: None made

4. Minutes of 10th July 2017: Accepted as correct and signed.

5. Matters Arising: (a) **Car Park resurfacing/Chare Wall updates** - the Chairman informed members that he had attended a meeting at the school, at very short notice, with the head teacher, Tony Watson, HBC and Rachel, Tees Archaeology, to discuss the resurfacing of the car park. He had raised concerns about the abuse of the car park by the school and had informed those present that the PC had discussed the possibility of gating the car park. Rachel had expressed concern about the use of road scrapings as a surface, but the Chairman had explained that without these, the ruins of the Great House (a scheduled monument) would have suffered damage due to the number and speed of vehicles utilising the site. He had also raised the possible use of the Village Hall and Raby Arms car parks by parents bringing children to school; a new footpath around the car park; parents driving too fast through the village and up to the school and the Borough Council's proposed placing of yellow lines along both sides of Magdalene Drive. The Head teacher had mentioned the possibility of a 'walking bus'.
The Clerk then informed Councillors of meetings she had had with surveyors to discuss the repair to the Chare Wall and the possibility of including this within a much larger project which could be the subject of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, and with the school ascertain if they would be interested in being part of such a bid. After some discussion, Councillors agreed that once sufficient information had been collected, villagers and other stakeholders should be invited to a public meeting to discuss the potential of such a bid. One of the first actions would be to identify ownership of the Chare itself. **Action:** Clerk to investigate ownership of the Chare and to continue working towards a proposal for a lottery bid.

(b) **White Hart Car Park Wall ownership** – Cllr Britcliffe state that his investigations were still ongoing.

(c) **The Darlings site handover issues** – Cllr Park reported that the revised radius for access into the site, though not perfect, was acceptable, however the gullies throughout the site need to be thoroughly checked to ensure that they were actually fully functioning. The Chairman raised concern that the bench had not yet been refurbished and replaced, and that this had been one of the conditions agreed when the site was purchased; Cllr Britcliffe that the footpath underpass was in need of urgent tidying and resurfacing. The Clerk proposed that a letter be sent to Gentoo, outlining the issues and reminding them of the agreement. **Actions:** Clerk to draft a letter to Gentoo and forward to the Chairman; e-mail Chris Scaife re underpass.

6. Chairman's Report: The Chairman reported on outcomes of the July Parish Liaison meeting as follows:

- The meeting had been held with the school to discuss the car park;
- The bridge over the beck is to be examined and repaired if necessary;
- School House Lane has been cleaned up;
- The wildflowers planted in the village had regrettably been infested with weed seed;
- The fly tipping Freedom of Information response had been discussed;
- He had raised the matter of flooding in the village and particularly of Clevecoat, and had also raised the issue of the poor state of repair of Worsett Lane.
- The Elwick By-Pass is expected to be completed by 2020.

Rural Plan: The Clerk reported that the Rural Plan had now been through the Borough Council's internal processes, the Independent Examiner's report being accepted and would be going straight to Referendum.

7. Ward Councillor's Report: No Ward Councillors present. Councillors expressed concern that no Ward Councillors had attended the Parish Council meetings since March. Meetings had previously been regularly

attended by Cllr Beck, and that whilst it was recognised that Cllr Beck's role as Ceremonial Mayor meant he was often called upon for civic duties, neither of the other two Ward Cllrs had attended PC meetings in his place. **Action:** The Clerk to e-mail all three Ward Councillors expressing regret at their lack of attendance, explaining that the PC missed their input and would like them to know of the exciting plans being developed in Hart.

8. Finance Report: (i) The Clerk presented the Transactions Report and Actual against Budget Report. These were **accepted**. (ii) The Clerk informed that hopefully the issue with the Bank had now been resolved, as she had received statements on the Deposit account, though not yet on the Current account; she had spoken to a member of staff in the Hartlepool Branch, who has assured her that these would now be sent to her. (iii) A second bid had been made to the Transparency Fund for website development. (iv) The external Audit had been completed and accounts returned; the public notice advising of this would now be placed on the Notice Board outside the old PO. (v) The annual fee for registration with the Information Commission was due; the Clerk asked that a Direct Debit be set up, this was **agreed**.

9. Correspondence: Letter from AON Insurance advising of transfer of their Parish Council business to BHIB.

10. Planning Application: H/2017/0484 – Trees at Tudor Cottage - No objection.

11. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

- (a) Cllr Park raised concerns about the safety of the pavement beside Mill View, expressing the view that railings were required. He was advised of the village referendum undertaken some years previously which had found that the majority of villagers wanted ALL the railings removed. After some discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should ask the Borough Council for ideas for alternative, more attractive methods of ensuring the safety of pedestrians. **Action:** Clerk to contact Mike Blair.
- (b) Cllr Park also raised concerns about traffic management on the roundabout on the A179, stating that quite often cars trying to enter the village were being endangered by drivers of vehicles crossing the roundabout too quickly. **Action:** Clerk to raise this issue with HBC officers.
- (c) Several Cllrs wished to compliment the Borough Council on the excellent job done in resurfacing North Hart Lane, though Cllr Brown noted that trees along this road were in urgent need of trimming back where bottom growth was blocking lines of sight.
- (d) Cllr Britcliffe asked that the PC write to compliment the owners of the Raby Arms on the restored and re-opened pub and the creation of 15 jobs for local people; they had saved a really important village institution! **Action:** Clerk to write to Chris Taylor and Lee Oliver.

The Clerk asked if Councillors would agree to extend an invitation to all 10-18year olds in the village to form a 'shadow PC' to advise the PC on the youth perspective. This was unanimously agreed. **Action:** Clerk to write invitation for publication in Village Life.

12. Date of next meeting: 6.45pm Monday 9th October 2017.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm.