

Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 9th January 2023 at Hart Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. J. Littlefair, T. Britcliffe, K. Brown, K. Park and A. Parker

In Attendance: M. Ireland, Clerk, PCSO Geoff Hester and colleague

The Chairman welcomed the Police Officers and wished all present a Happy New Year.

1. **Public Forum:** No members of the public present.
2. **Apologies:** Cllr Quarmby, Ward Cllrs Cook and Cassidy.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None
4. **Police Report:** PCSO Hester had submitted a written report giving statistics for incidents in the whole ward, none of these related to Hart village. He invited Councillors to raise any concerns. Cllr Littlefair reported a growing number of accidents on the A179 due to speeding, exacerbated by the lack of street lighting at present. Speeding vehicles on the A179 were making access to, and egress from, the village extremely difficult at times, and also at the crossroads from Hart Back Lane to School Lane; excessive speed was not confined to the A179, but also occurring regularly on Worset Lane now that it had been resurfaced, despite it having a 40Mph limit. It was suggested that police should monitor speeds on both roads. Cllr Britcliffe raised the issue of paper litter having recently been dropped along the lengths of every rural road to the west of the town, excluding the actual villages, but going through Coal Lane as far as Trimdon. Concern was also raised about a large motorised home parking very regularly at the Dalton/Hart crossroads on Elwick Road - it was believed this was on HBC land, however, it was noted, if this had been a gypsy vehicle it would have been quickly moved on - the same rules should apply to all vehicle owners. PCSO Hester agreed to refer these issues to other Police colleagues.
5. **Minutes of Meeting held on 19th December 2022:** Cllr Park noted that Item 6(a) referred to a 'wooden' gate, this was incorrect, as the gate would be metal. It was agreed to delete 'wooden' from the minute. Cllr Britcliffe proposed acceptance of the amended Minutes with Cllr Park seconding. All present being in agreement, it was **resolved** to accept the Amended draft Minutes a true record. The Chairman signed the amended minutes.
6. **Matters Arising:**
 - (a) **Car Park gate** - Cllr Park informed the planning application had yet to be submitted; he was urged to do so as soon as possible.
 - (b) **Car park sign** - The Clerk reported the sign had been ordered from Ords and paid for, in the sum of £60; Cllr Park asked if it would have appropriate fittings to allow it to be fitted to a gate or post - this was not the case and the Clerk was tasked with requesting Ords to do this. **Action:** Clerk to request Ords to add appropriate fittings to back of sign.
 - (c) **A179 traffic management and South View parking design** - no information received as yet from either Cllr Cassidy or Peter Frost; the Clerk was tasked with reminding Mr. Frost of the considerable time that had passed since the request for additional parking at South View had been made, and that in June he had indicated potential design options were almost ready.
 - (d) **A179 Street lighting** - Cllr Cassidy had informed the problem was greater than had been originally thought and, as a result, would require extensive road works; The A179 being one of the two main conduits into the town from the A19, there would be considerable disruption to traffic whilst the work was being undertaken.
 - (e) **Solar developments** - The Clerk reported that no further information had been received from any of the developers of solar infrastructure works. She noted that the decision on two such developments on the border of County Durham had gone to Appeal having been opposed by both HBC and Durham CC - the Appeal judge had ruled them to be one major Solar farm, of such size that it would have to be referred back to Government.

7. Chairman's Report: Cllr Littlefair reported that:

- He had attended the Parish Liaison Meeting that morning and had raised the following issues:
 - The lack of replacement of the crossroad signs on the A179 knocked down last September;
 - The number of street lights not working on the A179;
 - The public footpath from Elwick to Hart had now become extremely dangerous for pedestrians to use due to the speed and volume of traffic on the A179;
 - The litter dumped on rural roads (reported earlier in the meeting).
- The draft Parish Charter had been presented; a minor amendment had been proposed to one clause, but other than that it had been welcomed by all Chairmen present. The Clerk was thanked for her contribution to the development of the Charter. **Action:** Clerk to circulate draft Charter to parish Councillors.
- Hartlepool Big Clean Up is to be started again - Cllr Britcliffe noted that the problem of fallen leaves affecting most village roads was not being properly addressed by HBC.
- The Vicar had reported the 'Follow That Star' event had been cancelled.
- He had been informed that the hedge between Nine Acres and the A179 was overgrown, leaving poor line of sight and a van was being parked on the corner of the road to the village at Nine Acres, blocking the view of drivers exiting nine Acres.

8. Ward Councillor's Report: Cllr Cassidy had reported via email on the A179 lighting (see 6(d)). Cllr Britcliffe noted with sadness that Mrs. Cook had been rushed into hospital; all expressed sympathy for both Cllr and Mrs Cook. The Clerk was asked to send Cllr Cook a 'Thinking of You' card from the Parish Council. **Action:** Clerk to send card and to ask Cllr Cassidy about progress with Peter Frost and the A179 design.

9. Maintenance Committee Report: Cllr Park spoke to his report previously circulated. He noted very little had changed since his December report; he noted the number of crashes on the A179 had increased due to the inadequate street lighting, which was a major safety concern. Cllrs Britcliffe and Park agreed to inform the Clerk of any progress having been made on the bridge steps.

10. Financial Reports: The Clerk presented the financial reports, which were **approved**.

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
0.00		Ords (Car Park sign)	60.00

11. Correspondence: (i) Justin Goult at HBC - information about electric vehicle charging infrastructure grants now available for community owned land - **agreed** to pass to Hart Village Hall Committee as the only land owned by the Parish Council was the car park, a National Monument and therefore not appropriate. (ii) Alastair Gordon, Founder of ParishUK Network, an invitation to submit information to new website intended to provide information on all parishes in England and Wales - **refused**; (iii) SLCC - Early Day Motion on Standards in Public Life - parish and town councils are being urged to ask their MP to sign this EDM, requesting the Government to revisit its response to the Standards, to bring in tougher sanctions against offending Councillors - **unanimously agreed**.

12. Planning Applications: None received

13. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

- Cllr Britcliffe raised concern that there were insufficient litter bins and proposed HBC be asked to provide another two, one to be placed on the Fens Road where a cycle and pedestrian footpath goes to Clavering and another on the triangle in Butts Lane.
- Cllr Littlefair noted the lack of response to the vacancy on the Parish Council. Hart Hub to be requested to promote and notices placed on Notice Boards and website - **Action:** Clerk.

14. Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council: 6.45pm Monday 13th February 2023 at Hart Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 7.55pm.

Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 13th February 2023 at Hart Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. J. Littlefair, T. Britcliffe, J. Quarmby

In Attendance: M. Ireland, Clerk, James Wheater and Kirsty McGuigan, for Transmission Investment presentation, Ward Cllr Cassidy, 2 PCSOs from 7.00pm, 31 residents.

The Vice-Chairman welcomed everyone and explained that he would be taking the chair for the Transmission Investment presentation, as the Parish Council had agreed the Chairman, as a local landowner, excluded himself from all matters relating to developments along the A179.

1. **Public Forum:** Ms. McGuigan opened her presentation by showing a plan of the proposed site at Hartmoor, and explaining the benefits of selecting this particular site. She explained that her company had been awarded the contract by the National Grid; that the company had not spoken with the Parish Council beforehand as this was company policy in a tender situation. The application was for a Platform and Synchronous Compensators to be built on the site of the current Whalley Hill farmstead. The company was well aware of local feelings about the number of proposed developments around the village, and had therefore opted to stay south of the A179, close to other industrial sites. There would be a 9m high building, housing the compensators; visualisations were currently being prepared showing the development in situ: from the bus stop opposite the site; from the entrance to the village; from the Public Right of Way from Elwick and from Worset Lane. None as yet from the A19 and Cllr Britcliffe suggested this would be needed.

Cllr Britcliffe stated that residents were not happy that the developer had not consulted beforehand, and felt it was disrespectful of the local community. Residents present applauded this statement.

The chair of the meeting opened the floor for questions, (response in brackets) which included:

- Why does it have to be at Hartmoor and not on a brownfield site? (National Grid requirement, no other sub-stations available within demand area/cost)
- Is the Grange Farm application in Durham County going ahead? (Not known)
- Why does the grid need stabilising when it is within 8 miles of a nuclear power station? (Bringing renewable energy - will need to come back to you as this is a very technical question)
- Why not at East Boldon, where there is plenty of land available? (Not sure, will come back to us)
- Will this bring more traffic? (Acutely aware of traffic concerns - construction traffic will be intense for first 6 months)
- Have you factored in the two massive housing developments being built further down the A179 near Hartlepool town? (No response)
- When is proposed to start? (Once planning consent given - hopefully 2025)
- What will happen to the farmland? (It will be completely covered by solar farm required for Electric Forecourt)
- Does this fall within Offgen Rio2 Stage 2 timescales? (Don't know)
- Do the solar farms have a link with you? (NO, all independent)
- Are you aware of the rising number of accidents at the A19/A179 recently and there is no water supply there, should there be a fire at your facility? (Fire Regulations apply to the development)
- Have you any similar development up and running elsewhere in UK? (One being developed in Scotland).

Cllr Britcliffe then posed some questions on behalf of the Parish Council, viz:

- Can you understand why residents are so upset by this application, without you first consulting the community? Why not? when other similar companies have taken the time - it shows a complete lack of transparency. (Business decision not to discuss beforehand)
- How will your application fit with the Electric Vehicle Charging application made by Gridserve? (None of them own the site as yet)
- What direct benefit will there be to the community? Will there be a community fund for example? (No mention of such) A resident commented that the developer would make £14Billion.
- How many long-term jobs will be created? (None).

- Are you amenable to amending your plans? (Possibly - will take this back).
- How will it be powered? Electricity drawn from the Grid).
- If HBC refuses planning permission? (Appeal to Sec of State/High Court).

Cllr Britcliffe informed that as soon as the Planning Application became available, the Parish Council would make it available to residents via the Hart Hub.

He summarised by saying to the representative of Transmission Investment “Hart feels really let down”.

The presenters, PCSOs and residents left the meeting at 7.30 pm.

2. Apologies: Cllrs Brown, Park and Parker, Ward Cllrs Cook and Leedham - accepted.

Cllr Littlefair resumed the Chair.

3. Declarations of Interest: None

4. Police Report: The PCSOs had had to leave the meeting due to being called away on another police matter.

5. Minutes of Meeting held on 10th January 2023: All present being in agreement, it was **resolved** to accept the draft Minutes a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

Cllr Britcliffe gave his apologies as he had another appointment and left the meeting at 7.45pm.

The Clerk noted that as the meeting was no longer quorate, no decisions could be made.

6. Co-option: The co-option of a new Councillor could not be completed due to lack of quoracy.

7. Matters Arising: **(a) Car Park gate** - Cllr Park had forwarded the design for the car park gate installation, but it was not known whether application for planning permission had been made. **(b) Car park sign** - Cllr Littlefair had brought the sign to the meeting; he planned to erect it on two metal posts at the entrance to the car park.

(c) A179 traffic management and South View parking design - Mr. Frost had forwarded two designs for the proposed South View car parking, one of which provided more spaces but meant the green areas would be lost; he also noted that HBC had no funds available for this work. Residents to be consulted before any decision made. **(d) Early Day Motion** - No response from MP.

Actions: Cllr Littlefair to erect sign, Cllr Britcliffe to consult residents of South View.

8. Draft Parish Charter: The document had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Whilst both Councillors present endorsed it, there were insufficient present to record a vote. It was agreed that, as the matter was urgent, the Clerk should email all parish Councillors requesting their views via email, to be ratified at the March Meeting. **Action:** Clerk to request Cllrs respond via email.

9. Chairman's Report: Cllr Littlefair reported that:

- He had attended the Rural Crime Forum with the Clerk. Drone practice was being undertaken on local farms and Speedwatch had taken place in the Village, near the Village Hall, which both Cllr Park and he had attended.
- He had attended a meeting of the HBC Audit & Governance Committee.
- Fly tipping had increased dramatically in the last few weeks, especially along Hart Back Lane and Worset Lane.
- The Clerk had informed she wished to retire shortly and recruitment for a replacement was now underway.

10. Ward Councillor's Report: Cllr Cassidy reported that:

- the issue of Fly Tipping had been raised at the HBC Neighbourhoods Committee; the booking issue at the tip had been discussed but it was introduced because the police were complaining of traffic queuing in the road, which was causing obstruction. Whilst he recognised the booking system was not perfect, it was necessary to manage traffic flow. He noted that the tip at Haverton

Hill did not require pre-booking and was open to anyone. The Clerk queried why HBC had not identified an alternative/extra site for a tip, where traffic would not cause such problems.

- The Committee had agreed a fee of £32 per household for collection of one bin of garden waste, with a £10 charge for a second bin. He noted that HBC was one of the last Local Authorities to introduce a charge for collection of garden waste.
- He had been pleased to see the defibrillator had now been passed into the ownership of the Parish Council.
- He preferred the second option of the tow designs offered by Peter Frost for South View. parking.
- He reminded everyone that photo identification would be needed in order to vote at the next election, in May.

11. Maintenance Committee Report: No report received.

12. Financial Reports: The Clerk presented the financial reports, which were **approved**.

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
Interest (Dec & Jan)	<u>8.75</u>	Bank charges (Dec & Jan) D.M. Ireland (contribution to tel/broadband)	11.60 <u>245.00</u>
Total	8.75	Total	256.60

13. Correspondence: (i) HBC re: Armed Forces Covenant - postponed to March agenda.

14. Planning Applications: None received

15. Matters of Concern to Councillors: None raised

16. Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council: 6.45pm Monday 13th March 2023 at Hart Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm.

**Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 13th March 2023
at Hart Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs. J. Littlefair, T. Britcliffe, A. Parker, J. Quarmby, K. Brown and K. Park.

In Attendance: M. Ireland, Clerk, PCSO Hester

1. Public Forum: No members of the public present.

2. Apologies: Ward Cllrs Cassidy and Cook - accepted.

Cllr Littlefair noted that he and the Clerk had, that afternoon, attended the funeral of Cllr Cook's wife, Brenda, a former Mayor of Hartlepool. Councillors expressed their sadness at his bereavement.

3. Declarations of Interest: None

4. Police Report: PCSO Hester apologised for not having brought a report, but noted there had been very little anti-social behaviour in Hart Ward in comparison to some other Hartlepool Wards. ASB reported this last month included off-road bikes using the by-pass near Hart. Cllr Littlefair reported 3 crashes on the A179 by Hart village in the last week, as well as litter being tipped in Hart Back Lane and Worset Lane. Cllr Park noted the litter was being blown off the construction sites on both the A179 and High Tunstall on Elwick Road, which was wrapping around trees and hedges. He had reported this several times to HBC but nothing seemed to have been done to make the developers act more responsibly. Cllr Quarmby noted a burglary had taken place in Clevecoat Walk.

PCSO Hester left the meeting.

5. Minutes of Meeting held on 13th February 2023: All present being in agreement, it was **resolved** to accept the draft Minutes a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

6. Matters Arising: **(a) Car Park gate** - Cllr Park reported he had prepared the plans for the installation of a gate on the car park; the HBC charge for submitting this was £55. It being **unanimously agreed** to pay this amount, the Clerk immediately drew up a cheque to HBC, which was signed, and countersigned, and given to Cllr Park for inclusion with his plans. **(b) South View parking design** - Cllr Britcliffe stated he had not yet had time to consult his neighbours about which option they preferred. He agreed to report back to the April meeting.

(c) National Grid Auction - the Clerk reported that Jill Mortimer, MP was currently investigating this, as requested.

Actions: Cllr Park to submit Car Park Gate application to HBC Planning, and Cllr Britcliffe to consult the residents of South View about parking design options.

7. Chairman's Report: Cllr Littlefair reported that:

- He knew of three people who had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. The Clerk noted that only one had, to date, submitted an interest in writing, identifying why they wished to join and what they thought they would add to the team. Cllr Littlefair thought two of the candidates were not aware of this and agreed to request them to do so before the April meeting, when a decision would be made.
- A meeting with the Leader of HBC is to be arranged to discuss the energy infrastructure issues.
- The next Rural Crime Forum is to be held in May.
- He had noted mention that booking a slot at the tip was too difficult for many people, and therefore they dump their rubbish in the rural area; he planned to raise this at the next Parish Liaison meeting.
- The Draft Parish Charter had not yet gone to Committee.
- He apologised for not yet having installed the new car park sign, as he had been very busy with lambing; he expected to install it in the next week.

He wondered if the Parish Council wished to do anything specific to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles, or if they preferred to leave it the Village Hall Committee, who seemed to have plans well in hand

for the Sunday 'Big Lunch'. All agreed that there was already sufficient activity for the Sunday; however, as nothing

was planned for the BIG Help Day on the Monday, the Clerk proposed a Litter Pick be held on Monday 8th May morning, with coffee in the Village Hall if it was available. All agreed with the suggestion; it was noted that Debbie Simmons still had the Litter Picking equipment.

Actions: Cllr Littlefair to inform potential Parish Councillor candidates of the need to write to the Clerk; install car park sign, raise concerns about fly tipping/challenge of accessing the tip at Parish Liaison meeting, and inform the Vice-Chairman of any meeting with the Leader regarding the energy infrastructure. Clerk to request Mrs Simmons to post the Litter Pick on the Hart Hub, ensure equipment was available of the day, and request access to the Village Hall for coffee on 8th May.

8. **Ward Councillor's Report:** None received.

9. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Park spoke to his report. Key ongoing issues were:

- Debris and Litter from the Hartwell Park development accumulating along A179
- Flooding on Front Street, at the hart Roundabout on the A179 and in Butts Lane
- Lack of signing at the crossroads on the A179
- The dangerous state of the footpath near the bridge on the footpath from Clevecoat Walk.

Action: Clerk to forward report to Kieran Bostock.

- **Personnel Report:** Cllr Britcliffe reported that a joint advert for the 4 vacancies for a Clerk/RFO, at Dalton Piercy, Elwick, Grindon & Thorpe Thewles and Hart, had been run for the last 4 weeks, posted regionally in Jobs NE, nationally on Indeed, circulated to all PCs in Cleveland and Co. Durham, and posted locally on Notice Boards and Facebook Pages. It had led to 7 Information Packs being sent out. At the closing date of 9th March, only one application had been received, specifically for G&TT PC. After a brief discussion it was **agreed** that, other parishes being in agreement, an advert be placed in the Hartlepool Free Paper, as soon as possible.

Action: Clerk to seek agreement from other Parishes and if they concurred, to advertise post as agreed.

10. **Councillor Co-option:** Discussed under item 7, Agreed to defer to April Meeting.

11. **Financial Reports:** The Clerk presented the financial reports, which were **approved**.

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
Interest (Feb)	3.33	Bank charges (Feb)	5.80
		Affordable Landscapes (Clevecoat Walk clearance)	156.00
		D.M. Ireland (salary Jan-March)	645.60
		HMRC (PAYE)	161.40
Total	3.33	Total	968.80

The Chairman noted that Affordable Landscapes had done a really good job.

12. **Correspondence:** (i) **HBC** re: Armed Forces Covenant - agreed to support. (ii) **Pensions Regulator** - next registration deadline 2nd October 2023 - noted; (iii) **DLUHC** - request for nominations for New Year Honours - noted; (iv) WCCTV - re: mobile CCTV cameras - noted, with a view to potential Red Gap funding application; (v) **Cllr Park** - Rota for opening/closing of the School Field gate - after some discussion it was **agreed to amend** this, adding Cllr Parker to the nominated key-holders, subject to the approval of the Academy Trust.

Action: Cllr Park to amend the School Gate rota as agreed; Clerk to write to Academy Trust requesting additional key holder, Cllr Parker.; Clerk to circulate information from WCTTV and DLUHC to all Councillors.

13. **Planning Applications:**

H/2022/0470 - Whalley Hill - Synchronous Compensators - Strongly Object

H/2023/0041- EIA in relation to H/2022/04675 - Strongly Object

H/2023/0037- 4, Buckingham Avenue, Hart - No Comment

14. Matters of Concern to Councillors: The Clerk reported she had attended a one-day Civility & Respect Training event which had proved very informative and useful. She reminded Councillors of their commitment to undertake such training when they signed up to the Pledge, and noted NALC had several modules in an on-line format.

Cllr Park raised concern about a number of dog walkers allowing their dogs to walk at a distance on an extended lead; sometimes walker and dog were on opposite sides of the road, which could lead to a serious accident. Cllr Littlefair added that walkers often let their dogs loose in his fields, allowing them to foul the land.

He agreed to raise this at the Parish Liaison meeting.

Action: Cllr Littlefair to raise dog issue at Parish Liaison meeting, Clerk to circulate NALC Civility & Respect training information to all Councillors.

15. Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council: Due to the Easter Bank Holiday, this was deferred to 6.45pm Monday 17th April 2023 at Hart Village Hall. Likewise, the following meeting is to be deferred to 15th May.

Meeting closed at 8.25pm.

**Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 17th April 2023
at The Studio, Home Farm**

Present: Cllrs. J. Littlefair, T. Britcliffe, J. Quarmby, K. Brown and K. Park.

In Attendance: M. Ireland, Clerk, Ward Cllr Cassidy

1. Public Forum: No members of the public present.

2. Apologies: Ward Cllr Cook - accepted.

Cllr Littlefair noted with regret the resignation of Cllr Parker, with immediate effect, due to family circumstances.

3. Declarations of Interest: None

4. Police Report: None received.

5. Minutes of Meeting held on 13th March 2023: Item 15 - relating to dog walkers - amend Cllr Quarmby to Cllr Park. All present being in agreement, it was **resolved** to accept the emended Minutes a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

6. Matters Arising: (a) **Car Park gate** - Cllr Park informed the planning application had been submitted; due to an error on the cheque, this had been returned and a new cheque issued. (b) **South View parking design** - Cllr Britcliffe stated he had now circulated the two designs to residents of South View, with a request they vote either for their preferred option or for no change at all. To date he had received 5 responses, of which 3 were for no change. It was agreed to allow another month for replies, before making a decision.

(c) **National Grid Auction** - the Clerk reported that Jill Mortimer, MP had reported on her investigation; the National Grid had informed her that all requisite procedures had been followed correctly.

(d) **Armed Forces Covenant** - The Clerk reported the Parish Council was now signed up to the Covenant.

Action: Cllr Britcliffe to report on outcome of consultation to May meeting.

7. Chairman's Report: Cllr Littlefair reported that:

- The Parish Charter had now been signed by all Parish Council Chairmen and the Leader of the Borough Council.
- Potholes had appeared in the car park and required filling.
- Several residents had complained to him about the number of potholes in Worset Land and Hart Back Lane.

He asked Cllr Cassidy where the car parking was to be provided for The Tall Ships Race; Cllr Cassidy agreed to investigate and report back.

8. Ward Councillor's Report: Cllr Cassidy reported that Cllr Moore had resigned as Leader of the Borough Council, though he would remain a Ward Cllr. Cllr Cowie had resigned as Mayor. A resident had contacted him with a complaint about the lack of grass cutting at The Darlings; the Clerk informed that Kieran Bostock had requested a quote for this from HPC, which she was currently seeking from Affordable Landscapes. Cllr Cassidy noted that he had a meeting arranged with Tony Hanson to discuss the ongoing issue of flooding opposite The Raby Arms. Cllrs informed him it was obvious that there was a blockage somewhere in the gullies, probably due to them silting up.

9. Co-option of new Councillor: The Clerk informed that she had received applications from 4 people, two of whom had made a joint application to share the role. She had advised them that this was not allowed, and it was **unanimously agreed** to request them to submit individual applications. She had contacted the two others and asked them to confirm they were still interested; only one had responded. It was **agreed** to invite all candidates for an informal 'get to know you' chat before the start of the May meeting, with each candidate given 5 minutes to talk with Councillors alone. The Clerk noted that, due to the May Day Bank Holiday the May meeting had been postponed to the 15th, and she was awaiting confirmation the Village

Hall was available. **Action:** Subject to the Hall being available, the Clerk to extend an invitation to each candidate to an informal 5-minutes chat with Councillors, before the commencement of the Annual Parish Council meeting on 15th May.

10. **Field key Holders:** With the unexpected resignation of Cllr Parker, it was agreed the Clerk should withdraw the request to the Trust for a further key. The three current key holders now use a dedicated WhatsApp messaging service to manage the opening and closing of the gate, which seems to be working well. **Action:** Clerk to withdraw request for another key.
11. **Grass cutting at The Darlings:** The Clerk informed she had been contacted by Kieran Bostock with a request that HPC provide a quote for the cutting of the grass on The Darlings estate, which had recently been taken over by HBC from Gentoo. She had requested a quote for the additional work from Affordable Landscapes and was awaiting a response. Councillors agreed to accept responsibility providing HBC met the full cost. **Action:** Clerk to pass on quote from Affordable Landscapes once received, to Kieran Bostock.
12. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Park spoke to his report. It was **agreed** that strong and urgent representation should be made to HBC about the amount of mud and other waste being brought onto the roads from Hart Reservoir and other construction sites in the area (in particular, Elwick Park at High Tunstall and Hartwell Park at Upper Warren); these were of such magnitude as to be a real safety hazard for drivers. **Action:** Clerk to forward Maintenance Report to Kieran Bostock, and make strong complaint about the lack of monitoring of wheel cleaning conditions at the various developments mentioned.
13. **Personnel Report:** The Clerk reported no formal applications had yet been received from the latest advert for her job, placed in the Hartlepool Life free paper. She noted however, she had just had an informal conversation with a potential candidate and was hopeful they would apply. It was **agreed** that Cllr Britcliffe and Littlefair would interview any potential candidate for the Clerk/RFO post.
14. **Financial Reports:** The Clerk presented the financial reports, which were **approved**.

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
Interest (Feb)	4.07	Bank charges (March)	5.40
		HBC (car park planning application)	55.00
		NEREO (Clerk advert)	45.00
		Viking Direct (paper)	<u>28.74</u>
Total	4.07	Total	134.14

15. **Correspondence:** (i) **Resident** requesting trees adjacent to her house be pruned - as these were on HBC land agreed to pass to Len Young, HBC; (ii) **BHIB** - insurance quote for 2023-24 - to be discussed at May Annual PC Meeting' (iii) **Village Hall Management Committee** - hall kitchen to be available at no charge for provision of refreshments to volunteers helping with the 'Community Clean Up' on Monday 8th May, 10.00am-noon - noted with gratitude.
16. **Planning Applications:**
H/2022/0078 - 5, Burns Close - No Objection

H/2023/0423 - 84 hectare Solar Electric Forecourt - Strong Objection. Cllr Britcliffe to draft response and forward to Clerk for submission to HBC.
17. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:**
 - Cllr Littlefair - the amount of rubbish, including aluminium, plastic and fast-food containers being thrown from vehicles on the A179, particularly in the stretch from the Hartwell estate to Worset Lane.
 - Cllr Britcliffe - the grass in the field is too long for children to play ball games. **Action:** Clerk to write to school and Trust asking for this to be cut as soon as possible.
 - Cllr Brown - skip outside Redsill on Front Street is causing problems as just around the bend and oncoming traffic doesn't see it - the bollard is too close to the skip.

18. Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council: Due to the May Day Bank Holiday, this was deferred to 6.45pm Monday 15th May 2023 at Hart Village Hall. **NB:** This will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

Meeting closed at 8.10pm.

**Minutes of Meeting held at 7.15 pm on Monday 15th May 2023
at Hart Village Hall**

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

In Attendance: M. Ireland, Clerk, Ward Cllrs Cassidy and Darby

The Chairman welcomed everyone and congratulated Cllr Darby on his election as Ward Councillor.

- 1. Public Forum:** No members of the public present.
- 2. Apologies:** Cllr Brown - accepted.
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** None
- 4. Police Report:** None received.
- 5. Minutes of Meeting held on 17th April 2023:** The Minutes had been circulated in advance. All being in agreement it was **resolved** to accept the Minutes as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.
- 6. Matters Arising:** **(a) Car Park gate** - The Clerk informed that she had received confirmation from Planning Officer, Stephanie Bell, that the application had been received by the One-Stop Shop.
(b) South View parking design - Cllr Britcliffe reported that a total of 8 neighbour responses had been received, of which 5 opted for Option (b) to lose half the grass, the other 3 had opted for Option (a) - no change. It was **agreed** that Peter Frost be informed of this but, recognising the considerable financial pressures the Council was under, accept that the works would not be undertaken in the near future. However, it was proposed he consider an interim solution to the issue of the tight space, would be to modify the profile of the two access points to South View, to widen the access so that vehicles did not scrape others as they entered.
Action: Clerk to write to Peter Frost accordingly.
(c) Grass cutting - The Clerk informed that Kieron Bostock had accepted the quote for the cutting of grass at The Darlings, and our contractor was now undertaking this. He (the contractor) had notified her of complaints from residents of Burns Close regarding the uncut grass from the triangle on Butts Lane northwards to, and beyond Burns Close. It was noted this area was not part of the contract and was still the responsibility of HBC. It would require a tractor to cut the grass as it was very long and, it was noted, there were some overhanging trees in need of pruning; it was becoming a safety issue as many dog walkers had to walk in the road as the pavement was inaccessible due to the long grass, and traffic was often travelling at speed. **Action:** Clerk to inform Kieran Bostock of the issue.
- 7. Chairman's Report:** Cllr Littlefair reported that:
 - The Coronation weekend had been very successful and the Village Hall Committee were once again to be commended for the social events organised. The Parish Council had organised a 'Spring Clean Up' of the village for the Bank Holiday Monday morning - even though it rained much of the time, weeds had been cleared along Front Street, although there still remained a lot more to do; the two Parish Council notice boards had been cleaned and, it was clear the one beside the Old Post Office was in dire need of some TLC. Chris Taylor had offered to do this, which was much appreciated. The Clerk was thanked for providing refreshments for the many volunteers who had participated.
 - He had, with the Clerk, attended the recent Rural Crime Forum, held at Redcar. Progress on rural crime understanding was being made, albeit slowly, and a team of Special Constables was to be recruited to deal solely with rural crime.
- 8. Ward Councillor's Report:** Cllr Cassidy reported the Borough Council's Annual Meeting was to be held the next day. A new Leader would be elected; he was standing down as Chairman of the Neighbourhoods Committee. The three Ward Councillors had agreed that Cllr Leedham would focus on Bishop Cuthbert, whilst he and Cllr Darby would focus on Clavering and the village. Cllr Darby **agreed** to forward his contact details to the Clerk.

Action: Cllr Darby to forward his contact details to the Clerk.

9. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Park spoke to his report. It was noted that, despite being frequently reported to HBC, nothing seemed to have been done about the mud brought onto local roads by development vehicles - this needed enforcement. 20mph signs along Butts Lane might ameliorate the speeding traffic issue and the urgent need for a replacement signpost at the Hart back Lane/School Lane crossroads on the A179 might avert a tragic accident. **Action:** Clerk to forward the report to Kieran Bostock, highlighting the key issues.
10. **Personnel Report:** The Clerk reported a formal application for the Clerk/RFO post had just been received and forwarded to Cllrs Britcliffe and Littlefair. It was **agreed** that Cllr Britcliffe, Littlefair and Quarmby would interview the candidate in early June, at the Studio, Home Farm, dates and times to be mutually agreed. **Actions:** Clerk to forward the application to Cllr Quarmby; Cllrs Britcliffe, Littlefair and Quarmby to inform the Clerk of their availability in the first week of June, the Clerk to then invite the candidate for interview.
11. **Financial Reports:** The Clerk had not produced reports this month as no transactions had taken place, and the cheque book was with the Internal auditor.
12. **Correspondence:** none received.

13. **Planning Applications:** *It was noted that the Parish Council had not received consultation letters on several of these applications.*

H/2023/0086 - Plot 3, Manor Park - **No Objection**

H/2023/0126 - Gas powered stand-by Electricity Sub-station, Worset Lane - no site plan has been provided - **EIA is definitely required**

H/2023/0470 - Land adjacent to Hartmoor Substation - **strong Objection.**

H/2023/0075 - Land to the south of A179 and west of Middle Warren known as Upper Warren - **No Objection.**

H/2022/0459 - North east corner Whelley Hill Farm, Worset Lane - *Cllr Littlefair declared an interest and took no part in the discussion.* **No Objection**

H/2023/0096 - Land south of Elwick Road, High Tunstall - concerns were expressed about the state of Elwick Road beside this development. **Object.**

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

The Annual Meeting of Electors (Annual Parish Meeting) must be held before 30th June; depending on Hall availability, it was agreed to hold this on Monday 19th June.

- Cllr Britcliffe raised concern about the flower tubs around the village. For several years volunteers have maintained these, but several of them have either died or moved away; we need to check who is responsible for each and whether they will to continue to plant and water them. **Action:** Maintenance Committee & Clerk.
- Cllr Littlefair raised concern about the level of fast-food franchise waste being discarded along rural roads. He proposed the police should put pressure on the Borough Council to require these businesses to write the registration of the vehicle on each cup/food box provided to take-away customers, which would allow those dumping their rubbish to be tracked and prosecuted.

15. **Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council:** 6.45pm 12th June 2023 at Hart Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.07pm.

DRAFT

**Minutes of Meeting held at 7.15 pm on Monday 12th June 2023
at Hart Village Hall**

Present: Cllrs. J. Littlefair, J. Quarmby, J. Wilson, K. Brown, K. Park and S. Brookes.

In Attendance: M. Ireland, retiring Clerk, Fiona Ford, incoming Clerk, PC Ben Hayes and colleague

1. **Public Forum:** No members of the public present.
2. **Apologies:** Cllr Britcliffe, Ward Cllrs Cassidy & Darby, PCSO Hestor - accepted.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None
4. **Police Report:** PC Hayes reported that he had been advised on anti-social behaviour by some youths on land near the Vicarage, and asked if anyone recognised any of the youths to please inform the police. Cllr Littlefair informed of speeding in Worset Lane where a 40mph speed limit was constantly being ignored. Cllr Park noted the 20mph speed limit was not being respected by some drivers in Butts Lane and that drivers entering the village from the A179 west entrance were often travelling at 70mph when they hit the 20mph village speed limit. Cllr Littlefair noted the fly tipping, especially in Hart Back Lane, and rubbish from development sites in the locality were causing problems. The Clerk tabled a letter from PC Lee Mapplebeck regarding recruitment of a team of Special Constables designated for rural areas, and asked if the accompanying poster could be displayed on the noticeboards. Councillors **agreed** with the request. PC Hayes reminded that up-to-date information was available on the Hartlepool Neighbourhood Police Facebook page.

The Chairman thanked the Officers for attending and they left at 7.08pm.

The Chairman welcomed new Councillors Stuart Brookes and John Wilson, and incoming Clerk, Fiona Ford.

5. a) **Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 11th May 2023:** The Minutes had been circulated in advance. All being in agreement it was **resolved** to accept the Minutes as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.
b) **Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11th May 2023:** The Minutes had been circulated in advance. All being in agreement it was **resolved** to accept the Minutes as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.
6. **Matters Arising:** (a) **Car Park gate** - Cllr Park noted that no further information had been received as yet from HBC.
(b) **South View parking design** - The Clerk reported that no response yet been received from Peter Frost.
(c) **Grass cutting** - The Clerk informed that, having checked the map attached to the contract with HBC, it was apparent that the Parish Council was responsible for the grass cutting on Butts Lane as far as Burns Close, and she had advised Affordable Landscapes that this should now be included in their fortnightly cutting schedule. She understood that the grass had now been cut.
(d) **Flower tubs** - Cllr Park reported no progress as yet with identifying people willing to adopt for flower tubs left untended due to their previous adopters either having left the village or no longer able to maintain them. It was **agreed** that residents should be asked to adopt any untended tubs - notice to be placed on Hart Hub.
7. **Annual Governance and Accountability Report (AGAR):** The accounts having been approved at the Annual Meeting, and the Internal Auditor having now given a clean bill of health, the Clerk read out the Governance questions one by one, with Councillors stating how they believed each should be answered. All questions were answered in the affirmative and the Clerk completed the sheet accordingly. The Chairman then signed the completed document. The Clerk then requested Councillors agree the dates for the Exercise of Public Rights (to examine the accounts). The requirement was for a period of exactly 30 days, which must include 1st July. It was agreed to start on 12th June and close on 21st July. The document was completed and signed by the Clerk, to be posted immediately on the noticeboards and website.

8. **Chairman's Report:** Cllr Littlefair again welcomed new Councillors and reported that the Personnel Committee had interviewed Fiona Ford and, having found her to be a suitable candidate, had offered her the post, to commence 1st July. Other than that, not a lot has happened this past month as he had been away on holiday.

9. **Ward Councillor's Report:** None received. Councillors expressed disappointment that Ward Councillors were neither in attendance, nor had provided a written report.

10. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Park spoke to his report. It was agreed that the three top priorities should be the focus of attention in correspondence with Kieran Bostock: (i) the flooding near The Raby Arms, (ii) The missing signs at the crossroads on the A179 and (iii) Hart Reservoir traffic dropping mud etc on the road. It was further noted that a sign indicating 'pedestrians crossing' was needed at the crossroads as this was a public Right of Way leading from hart to Elwick. It was proposed that Peter Frost be requested to attend the July meeting with his proposals for the A179. **Actions:** Clerk to forward Maintenance Report to Kieran Bostock, focussing on the three identified priorities and invite peter Frost to July meeting.

11. **Personnel Report:** Covered under Chairman's report.

12. **Financial Reports:** The Clerk presented the Financial Reports which were accepted.

Receipts	Payments:	
HBC (Precept, Concurrent & LCTSS grant) 11, 260.00		
Interest (March) <u>9.18</u>		
76.80		
	Bank charges (April)	6.60
	Hartlepool Life(Clerk advert)	
	BHIB (Annual insurance premium)	422.65
	Affordable Landscapes (grass cutting)	<u>2,232.00</u>
Total	Total	2,738.05
11,269.18		

13. **Correspondence:** (i) Letter and poster re Specials from PC Lee Mapplebeck - noted. Clerk to forward to Debbie Simmons for placing on Hart Hub. (ii) HBC regarding TPOs on register - noted. Clerk to forward copy to Cllr Park.

14. **Planning Applications:**

H/2023/0265 - Thorpe Bulmer Farm - **No Comment**

DCC - Solar Energy Supplementary Planning Document consultation event - Cllr Britcliffe to be requested to attend to represent views of Hart PC.

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

- Cllr Brookes raised concern about parking on double yellow lines outside The White Hart and the old Post Office, with vehicles often being left overnight. (HBC Enforcement issue)
- Cllr Brown raised concern about the hedge at the old Post Office which was so overgrown the finger post to the Saxon Church could no longer be seen. He noted that whilst the Notice Board was being cleaned in early May, the householder had stated he would prune it back, but to date this had not been done. He also raised concern about the state of the roads near local developments, which were littered with construction debris.

16. **Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council:** 6.45pm 10th July 2023 at Hart Village Hall.

NB: *Cllr Park tendered his apologies for this meeting.*

Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

**Minutes of Meeting held at 7.15 pm on Monday 10th July 2023
at Hart Village Hall**

Present: Councillors John Littlefair (Chair), Joanne Quarmby, Stuart Brookes, Tom Britcliffe and Keith Brown

In Attendance: Fiona Ford - Clerk, Ward Councillor Rob Darby, member of the Public (Item 1), PC Ashley and colleague

1. Public Forum

A member of the public raised concerns about the overgrown hedges at the properties on Butts Lane and also the hedges from Butts Lane to Burns Close. It was noted the property owners will need to arrange to have their overgrown hedges trimmed, and the other hedges will be added to the Parish Councils maintenance plan. **Action: Clerk to arrange**

It was also noted the grass on the bridleway at the top of Butts Lane to Thompson's Pond was extremely overgrown limiting access to the pond. A discussion then took place regarding the areas within the farmers land and public footpath/bridleway. **Action: Councillor John Littlefair to contact the Farmer**

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Keith Park and John Wilson

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in any items on the agenda.

4. Police Report

PC Ashley presented the report for the Hart Ward which covered 1st June to 30th June 2023 and advised on the following:

8 reports of ASB Nuisance
2 Burglaries
11 reports of Theft
8 reports of Criminal Damage

There had been an issue with a group of youths at the beck near the vicarage, however it was noted this is being dealt with by the parents. Fly tipping was also discussed, Councillor Rob Darby asked the Parish Councillors to contact him direct and he will liaise with the relevant department at HBC to have it removed asap.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th June 2023

The Minutes had been circulated in advance and were agreed as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

6. Matters Arising

- a) **Car Park gate planning application** - Deferred to the next meeting for Councillor Keith Park to update.
- b) **South View Parking Design** - Clerk to chase up Peter Frost
- c) **Flower Tubs** - Councillor Joanne Quarmby to ask the Village Hub to ask for volunteers
- d) **Maintenance Committee and HBC attending future meetings** - Clerk to contact Kieran Bostock/Peter Frost and invite to September meeting
- e) **Parking on double yellow lines** - A discussion took place regarding parking on double yellow lines and also cars parking on the bend opposite the Raby Arms. Double yellow lines would not be suitable opposite the Raby Arms as there would be no where for the residents to park. It was felt the white line should be relocated back to its original location. A discussion then took place regarding Shane Moors suggestion at the Annual Parish Meeting regarding enforcement and either using trained volunteers or employing someone to undertake the role. Councillor Rob Darby to look in this further.
- f) **Overgrown hedge at the Old Post Office** - it was noted this still had not been cut back. Councillor John Littlefair to speak to the owner

7. Chairman's Report

Councillor John Littlefair reported that Minna Ireland (the Clerk for the past 12 years) had now retired and would like to formally acknowledge her services and send a letter of thanks from everyone at the Parish Council and also organise a leaving meal. *Action: Clerk to send letter and arrange a date for a meal*

It was noted that Front Street has been sprayed but the cut at the back of Mill View still needs to be sprayed.

Finally, the next Parish Council Liaison Meeting would take place on Wednesday 20th September at 5.00 pm in the Civic Centre and is open to all Parish Councillors.

8. Ward Councillor's Report

Ward Councillor Rob Darby advised that he is contact with Sylvia Tempest regarding testing and emissions of the substation on the A179 and the concerns raised at the Annual Parish Meeting. He will also explore the parking enforcement to determine how it would work in principle and the process etc.

9. Maintenance Committee Report

There was no report available as Councillor Keith Park was on holiday. Clerk to check what was issued at the previous meeting for reference.

10. Personnel Report

There were no items to discuss and it was agreed to remove the item going forward.

11. Financial Report

The following cheques were presented and signed:

HMRC	100873	£167.52
Affordable Landscapes	100874	£630.00
Total		£797.52

The Clerk then presented a Change of Address form and Mandate to add Fiona Ford and Councillor Stuart Brookes as signatories.

12. Correspondence

HBC - Appointment of Independent Members to the Independent Remuneration Panel. Clerk to forward to all Councillors for information

13. Planning Applications:

D/2023/0031 - 12 Manor Park Gardens, Discharge of conditions - No Comment
Mobile Phone Masts - It was noted concerns had been raised via email

14. Matters of Concern to Councillors

The following items were discussed:

- Ongoing concern of dog fouling throughout the village
- Tall Ships Event - Write to HBC (The Mayor, The Leader and Managing Director) acknowledging it was a fantastic event and well done to everyone involved

15. Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11th September at 6.45pm in Hart Village Hall.

NB: Councillor Joanne Quarmby tendered her apologies for this meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.55pm

Signature _____

**Minutes of Meeting held at 7.15 pm on Monday 10th July 2023
at Hart Village Hall**

Present: Councillors John Littlefair (Chair), John Wilson, Stuart Brookes, Tom Britcliffe and Keith Brown and Keith Park

In Attendance: Fiona Ford - Clerk, Ward Councillor Rob Darby, member of the Public (Item 1), PCSO Davenport

1. Public Forum

There is a concern the car park and back wall are in such poor condition and don't portray to visitors attending tours of the Church.

they are letting theThe car park and the back wall is an issue. Letting the village down with the state of the car park

John Pearson tidy round the back and clear back where the picnic benches are.

Ask John Pearson to trim back the overgrown area along the wall in the October half term.

John has erected a sign to advise no overnight parking but need to inform English Heritage

A discussion took place around the maintenance. It was noted John Littlefair filled some pot holes last winter.

It was noted the flower tubs look fantastic this year.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors Joanne Quarmby and Tom Cassidy

3. Declarations of Interest

John Littlefair declared an interest in Item 12b

4. Police Report

PCSO Davenport advised the Hart Ward for August were as follows:

2 burglaries

11 thefts

6 criminal damages

21 ASB calls

It was noted a speed awareness event is to be organised. A car was also stolen but then further recovered.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th July 2023

The Minutes had been circulated in advance and were agreed as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

6. Matters Arising

a) **Church Car Park gate planning application** - Check the response from the One Stop Shop/Pre application. Need the specification/drawings for the gate and the necessary words for the application form. Dig out the correspondence and email Tom and Keith Brown to determine the next steps etc. Clerk

- b) **South View Parking Design** - Peter Frost gave options and the preferred option was to put some parking in. Chase up Peter Frost and see where things have got to Clerk
- c) **Flower Tubs** - Thank you to all the volunteers
- d) **Maintenance Committee and HBC Site Visit** - Clerk to chase up and get a date for the site visit
- e) Parking on double yellow lines - Discussion took place agreed to raise at HBC Liaison Meeting on 20th September 2023
- f) Hedge at the Old Post Office overgrown - Residents to arrange for the cutting back of the hedge
- g) **Maintenance Committee and HBC attending future meetings** - Clerk to contact Kieran Bostock/Peter Frost and invite to September meeting

Remove Hedge and yellow lines from the next agenda

Hedge Cutting and Gulleys Parish walkabout asap Ward Councillor, Maintenance Rep, Chairman

Friday 15th

Tuesday 19th

Wednesday 20th

7. Chairman's Report

Parish Liaison meeting. would take place on Wednesday 20th September at 5.00 pm in the Civic Centre and is open to all Parish Councillors.

Sprays various areas through the village. Julia Taylor querying RAAC in the town Council. Past on the HBC

Issue with the works to the roundabout and not being informed sooner. Disappointing that we haven't been informed sooner as part of the Charter.

8. Ward Councillor's Report

Ward Councillor Rob Darby has contacted Tony Anson directly asking for the signage A179 to be re-erected. Need to raise at the Liaison Meeting

9. Maintenance Committee Report

Keiths list
Flooding

Add to budget defibs pad replacement - aprox £100
Discussion around the budget and ringfencing money for the

There was no report available as Councillor Keith Park was on holiday. Clerk to check what was issued at the previous meeting for reference.

10. Financial Report

The following cheques were presented and signed:

HMRC	100873	£167.52
Affordable Landscapes	100874	£630.00
Total		£797.52

The Clerk then presented a Change of Address form and Mandate to add Fiona Ford and Councillor Stuart Brookes as signatories.

11. Correspondence

HBC - Appointment of Independent Members to the Independent Remuneration Panel. Clerk to forward to all Councillors for information

12. Planning Applications:

Email Tom re planning applications to ensure correspondence gets emailed through to me

Tom had a meeting with planning to raise concerns regarding the numerous planning applications emerging for EV/Solar etc. It was noted the following applications had been dealt with as follows:

H/2022/0470 - Clerk advised the previous objections still apply

H/2023/0181 - Tom submitted the objection

A discussion then took place regarding the applications and

13. Matters of Concern to Councillors

The following items were discussed:

- Fly tipping at The Tilery Farm fly tipping been reported
- Salt Bin on Butts Lane,

Email everyone re date for food with Minna

14. Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council

The next meeting will be held on Monday 9th October at 6.45pm in Hart Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signature _____

**Minutes of Meeting held at 7.15 pm on Monday 11th September 2023
at Hart Village Hall**

Present: Councillors John Littlefair (Chair), John Wilson, Stuart Brookes, Tom Britcliffe and Keith Brown and Keith Park

In Attendance: Fiona Ford - Clerk, Ward Councillor Rob Darby, member of the Public (Item 1), PCSO Davenport

1. Public Forum

A member of the public raised the poor condition of the church car park and was concerns around the image it portrayed to visitors of the Church and Village. A discussion took place and it was agreed to arrange for John Pearson to trim back the overgrown area along the wall and picnic bench area in the October half term.

It was noted Cllr Littlefair had erected a sign in the car park advising on no overnight parking, which is great, however English Heritage need to be informed. **Action - Cllr Littlefair to contact English Heritage.**

A discussion then took place around maintenance and it was noted the flower beds that had been planted by volunteers looked great. It was noted the potholes in the Church car park filled in by Cllr Littlefair would need to be undertaken again in Winter 2023.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Joanne Quarmby and Tom Cassidy.

3. Declarations of Interest

John Littlefair declared an interest in Item 12b.

4. Police Report

PCSO Davenport advised the August figures for Hart Ward were as follows:

2 burglaries

11 thefts, a car had been stolen, but recovered

6 cases of criminal damages

21 ASB calls

It was noted a speed awareness event is to be organised.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th July 2023

The Minutes had been circulated in advance and were agreed as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

6. Matters Arising

- a) **Church Car Park gate planning application** - A discussion took place and Cllr Park advised a drawing/specification for the gate needed to be produced. Clerk to check the response from the One Stop Shop/Pre application. **Action - Clerk to pull together the requirements and email Cllrs Britcliffe and Park.**
- b) **South View Parking Design** - It was noted Peter Frost had given some options a while ago, with the preferred option to create parking. **Action - Clerk to ask Peter Frost for an update.**
- c) **Flower Tubs** - A formal thank you to all the volunteers for planting and maintaining the flower beds was noted.

- d) **Maintenance Committee and HBC Site Visit** - No date had been agreed for the site visit. **Action - Clerk to chase up.**
- e) **Parking on double yellow lines** - A discussion took place and it was agreed to raise the concerns at the Parish Council Liaison Meeting on 20th September 2023.
- f) **Hedge at the Old Post Office overgrown** - It was noted the residents will be arranging for the hedge to be cut back.

It was agreed to remove Items e and f from future agendas.

7. **Chairman's Report**

It was noted the various areas within the village had been sprayed to remove weeds.

An email had been received querying which buildings in Hartlepool have Raac; it has now been passed on to HBC.

Although an email regarding the roundabout works was sent a few days before the works commenced, it was disappointing to have not been informed sooner, as per the Charter.

A reminder that the Parish Liaison Meeting will take place on Wednesday 20th September at 6.00 pm in the Civic Centre.

8. **Ward Councillor's Report**

It was noted Ward Councillor Rob Darby has contacted Tony Anson and requested a formal update on the outstanding maintenance issues throughout the village, which will be raised at the Parish Council Liaison Meeting.

9. **Maintenance Committee Report**

The maintenance list previously circulated was discussed and it was agreed to raise the issues with HBC at the site meeting and also at the Parish Council Liaison Meeting.

It was noted the approximately £100 would need to be added to the 24/25 budget to cover the replacement defibrillator pads. **Action - Clerk to include a budget line when preparing next years budget**

10. **Financial Report**

A finance report covering April to September was presented and the following payments were noted:

July to September

Clerk wages (April to June)	£670.08
HMRC (PAYE April to June)	£167.52
Clerk Tel/Broadband (April to June)	£67.50
Expenses (Annual Meeting)	£45.87
Affordable Landscapes (grass cutting)	£3,838.80
Information Commissioners Office	£35.00
Bank charges (May to August)	£24.80
Sub-total	£4,849.57

The Clerk advised the bank wrote to the previous Clerk advising there was an issue with the Change of Address Mandate Form. **Action - Clerk to speak to bank and if necessary, submit a new form.**

11. **Correspondence**

The Clerk advised any correspondence received not discussed would be forwarded on to everyone via email.

12. Planning Applications

A discussion took place regarding planning applications and Cllr Britcliffe advised he had met with HBC to raise concerns regarding the numerous planning applications emerging for EV/Solar etc; it was noted the following applications had been dealt with as follows:

H/2022/0470 - Installation and operation of a Grid Stability Facility, Land Adjacent to Hart Moor Substation Clerk advised HBC the previous objections still apply

H/2023/0181 - Construction and operation of a gas powered standby electricity generator and related infrastructure - Cllr Britcliffe Tom the objection

Action - Clerk to email Cllr Britcliffe correspondence with HBC Planning Department

13. Matters of Concern to Councillors

The following items were discussed:

- Fly tipping at The Tilery Farm fly tipping been reported
- Salt Bin on Butts Lane

14. Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council

The next meeting will be held on Monday 9th October at 6.45pm in Hart Village Hall. **Clerk to also email everyone to arrange meeting up with previous Clerk.**

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signature _____

**Minutes of Meeting held at 7.15 pm on Monday 9th October 2023
in Hart Village Hall**

Present: Councillors John Littlefair (Chair), Stuart Brookes, Tom Britcliffe and Keith Brown and Keith Park

In Attendance: Fiona Ford - Clerk, Ward Councillor Rob Darby, 2 members of the Public

1. Public Forum

A member of the public raised concerns with the overgrown hedge at No 3 Butts Lane, as it was difficult to walk along the footpath. A discussion took place and it was agreed to write to the residents and request they cut back the hedge. **Action - Clerk to write to resident**

Another member of the public introduced herself as a new resident in the village and advised she would like to become involved with the Parish Council and/or any community activities.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs John Wilson and Tom Cassidy.

3. Declarations of Interest

John Littlefair declared an interest in Item 12.

4. Police Report

The September figures for Hart Ward were as follows:

Burglary - 6 (Solar Park and construction compound at the roundabout)
Theft - 16

Criminal Damage - 4
ASB Nuisance - 22

It was noted more Speed Watch events are to be arranged.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th September 2023

The Minutes had been circulated in advance and were agreed as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

6. Matters Arising

- a) **Church Car Park Sign and English Heritage** - Now the sign has been erected any asb needs to be formally reported to the police. English Heritage still need to be advised the sign has been erected.
- b) **Car Park Gate Planning Application** - It was agreed Councillor Park would email the various companies and ask for a quote to produce the documentation needed to submit the planning application. **Action - Councillor Park**
- c) **South View Parking Design** - It was noted Peter Frost had given some options a while ago, with the preferred option to create parking. **Action - Clerk to ask Peter Frost for an update.**
- d) **Maintenance Committee and HBC Site Visit** - The site meeting/walkabout took place on 2nd October with John Littlefair, Keith Park, Kieran Bostock, Gary Jones, Paul Hurwood and Ralph Young. Councillor Park to produce minutes/actions to share with HBC to agree timescales.

7. Chairman's Report

HBC Parish Liaison Meeting - Councillor Littlefair provide an update from the meeting. A discussion then took place regarding improving infrastructure in the village and Town.

8. Ward Councillor's Report

It was noted the outstanding maintenance issues were formally raised at the Parish Council Liaison Meeting with Tony Hanson, Director of Neighbourhood Services

9. Maintenance Committee Report

A discussion took place regarding the contributions that will be received from the Solar Park and Battery Farm (Clearstone and CS UK Holdings) which will go towards funding the Heart of Hart Project. Cllr Littlefair declared an interest.

Cllr Britcliffe advised the Planning Enquiry had begun and would provide details of any outcome at the next meeting.

10. Financial Report

The Clerk advised that the Change of Address Bank Mandate Form still had not been accepted by HSBC, resulting in no bank statements being available to undertake a bank reconciliation. She also mentioned looking to introduce online banking so statements would be readily available. A discussion took place and it was agreed to also explore switching banks to reduce the bank charges. **Action Clerk to look into an alternative bank account.**

The following cheques were then signed:

100877	Affordable Landscapes	£916.80
100878	Clerk wages (July to September)	£645.60
100879	HMRC (PAYE July to September)	£161.40
100881	Geoxphere (Digital Mapping)	£67.50
Total		£1,791.30

11. Correspondence

- Agreeing a representative on the Rural Neighbourhood Planning Group - Advise Brian Walker to send the information to Stuart Brookes and Keith Park
- HBC Portal Training - noted
- Car Park at School - email via Councillor Wilson advising improvement works could be undertaken to the Church car park. Agreed that half term week would be best. Clerk to check with Reveren Janet Burbury a suitable date.

12. Planning Applications

H/2023/0057 - Construction of a new grade separated junction comprising erection of bridge structure and of new highway North of Elwick Village linking to the existing highway, with associated hard and soft landscaping, drainage features and ancillary works - A discussion took place and it was agreed to reiterate Elwick Parish Councils concerns.

13. Matters of Concern to Councillors

No additional issues.

14. Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council

The next meeting will be held on Monday 13th November 2023 at 6.45pm in Hart Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Signature _____

**Minutes of Meeting held at 7.15 pm on Monday 13th November 2023
in Hart Village Hall**

Present: Councillors Tom Britcliffe (Chair), Keith Brown, Keith Park, Joanne Quarmby, Stuart Brookes

In Attendance: Fiona Ford - Clerk, Ward Councillors Rob Darby and Tom Cassidy, 2 members of the Public

1. Public Forum

A member of the public enquired about the Ash trees and ash dieback near where she lived. A discussion then took place around trees in the village and how they were maintained.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs John Wilson and John Littlefair.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. Police Report

The September figures for Hart Ward were as follows:

Burglary - 1

Theft - 6

Criminal Damage - 3

ASB Nuisance - 11

It was noted more Speed Watch events are to be arranged.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th October 2023

The Minutes were agreed as a true record. The Vice Chairman signed the minutes.

6. Matters Arising

- a) **Butts Lane Overgrown Hedge** - Councillor Littlefair has spoken to the owner and requested the hedge is cut back.
- b) **Church Car Park Sign and English Heritage** - It was noted the sign needs to be removed as in an inappropriate location. **Clerk to speak to Councillor Littlefair to resolve**
- c) **Car Park Gate Planning Application** - Councillor Park has now emailed the companies requesting a quote for the documentation needed to submit the planning application and is awaiting responses. Emailed to be forwarded to the Clerk. **Action - Councillor Park**
- d) **South View Parking Design** - It was noted Peter Frost had given some options a while ago, with the preferred option to create parking. **Action - Clerk to ask Peter Frost for an update.**
- e) **Maintenance Committee and HBC Site Visit** - The minutes from the 2nd October Site Meeting/Walkabout had previously been circulated and a discussion took place regarding progress made. It was noted that Councillor Park would continue to liaise with HBC around environmental issues.

7. Chairman's Report

Cllr Britcliffe delivered the Chairmans report in Councillor Littlefair's absence and noted the Christmas Trees for the Village Hall and Church were being picked up w/c 20th November 2023. An emergency clear out of the gullies at Butts Lane was undertaken in October, thanks to all involved. The Church Car Park surface had also been repaired, which had been organised by Councillor Wilson. **Clerk to thank Councillor Wilson and the Contractor.**

8. Ward Councillor's Report

Councillor Darby reported he attended a fundraiser at Hart Primary School on Friday 10th November along with the MP, The Leader of the Councillor and four other Councillors. Another fundraiser is organised for 15th December and it would be great to promote it throughout the Village. **Clerk to contact Kimberley Butler at the school for further information, which can be displayed on the Hart Hub page.**

Councillor Cassidy noted now the works to the roundabout have been completed, he felt it operated much better. He advised he is also liaising with HBC around the flooding issues as well as the an issue with the iron fence at the Darlings

9. Maintenance Committee Report

In additional to the report discussed under Item 6a, a discussion took place regarding the area between the wall and fence at the school and concerns with rats. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

10. Village Field Rota

It was agreed Councillor Keith Park would unlock the gates on a weekend throughout the winter.

11. Financial Report

The Clerk advised that Councillor Littlefair would need to visit a branch to update his signature, which would enable the address to be updated. She also advised that she had looked into different banks, but they all charge a monthly and transaction fee apart from Starling Bank, however it was noted that the previous Clerk advised Starling was not suitable for Parish Councils. Clerk to continue to explore cheaper options. The following cheques were then signed:

The following cheques were then signed:

100882	Clerk wages (October 2023)	£215.20
100883	HMRC (PAYE October 2023)	£53.80
100884	Clerk reimbursement (stationery and postage)	£34.09
100885	Affordable Landscapes	£458.40
	Total	£761.49

12. Correspondence

Request for donation towards Village Life - Contribute £30 next month

13. Planning Applications

No planning applications to discuss

14. Matters of Concern to Councillors

No additional issues.

15. Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council

The next meeting will be held on Monday 11th December 2023 at 6.45pm in Hart Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Signature _____

**Minutes of Meeting held at 6.15 pm on Monday 11th December 2023
in Hart Village Hall**

Present: Councillors John Littlefair (Chair), Tom Britcliffe, Keith Brown, Keith Park, Joanne Quarmby, Stuart Brookes
In Attendance: Fiona Ford - Clerk, Ward Councillor Rob Darby

1. Public Forum

No members of the public

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs John Wilson and Tom Cassidy.

3. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Littlefair declared an interest in Item 13.

4. Police Report

There was no Police Report available.

5. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th November 2023

The Minutes were agreed as a true record. The Chairman signed the minutes.

6. Matters Arising

- a) **Butts Lane Overgrown Hedge** - Part of hedge has been cut back, however still needs cutting back further.
- b) **Church Car Park Sign and English Heritage** - It was noted the sign can remain in situ, Resolved
- c) **Car Park Gate Planning Application** - It was noted Councillor Park had received a couple of responses and will chase up the remainder. **Action - Councillor Park**
- d) **South View Parking Design** - Action - Clerk to ask Peter Frost for an update.

7. Chairman's Report

Councillor Littlefair advised he had attended the Parish Council Liaison Meeting with HBC and the following items were raised and discussed:

- Debris on the road from the works at the reservoir
- Speeding through the village
- Ongoing issues with drainage problems in the village
- Parking enforcement on a Saturday evening

It was noted planning permission for the Elwick Bypass should be submitted in the next few months. Councillor Littlefair also thanked HBC for cutting back the hedges at Nine Acres.

8. Ward Councillor's Report

Councillor Darby advised he was liaising with the police regarding the parking tickets recently issued and the potential for permits was discussed. It was noted Hart School fundraiser would take place on 15th December 2023.

9. Maintenance Committee Report

The list of outstanding items were discussed and it was agreed the items needs to be prioritised accordingly. Councillor Park would raise the issue with rats with HBC and Councillor Darby would mention it to the school. **Action - Councillors Park and Darby**

10. Parking on the Front Street

It was noted that due to an illegally parked car going viral on social media, parking enforcement attending the village on a Saturday evening and several people received tickets. A discussion then took place regarding double yellow lines and parking issues within the village.

11. Financial Report

It was agreed to make a £50 donation to Village Life and the North East Air Ambulance. **Action: Clerk to obtain payment details for next month and forward Village Life contact details to Councillor Darby.**

The financial report was then discussed and the following cheques signed:

100886	Clerk wages (November 2023)	£215.20
100887	HMRC (PAYE November 2023)	£53.80
	Total	£269.00

The draft 2023/2024 budget was discussed and it was agreed to ringfence £10k for the Heart of Hart/Church Wall Project. The options for the precept were then discussed and it was agreed the household amount would remain the same as 2022/2023; however due to the increase in the tax base due to additional houses, the precept would increase to £8,159. **Action: Clerk to check with HBC regarding how that will be presented on the Council tax bill.**

12. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to discuss.

13. Planning Applications

It was noted the Solar Farm and infrastructure on A179 had been approved through a planning appeal.

A discussion then took place regarding concerns around what is discharged into the air from the power station on A179. **Action: Councillor Park to draft a question for HBC**

14. Matters of Concern to Councillors

No additional issues.

15. Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council

The meetings for 2024 were then agreed as follows:

Monday 8 th January 2024	Monday 12 th February 2024
Monday 11 th March 2024	Monday 8 th April 2024
Monday 20th May 2024 (third week of May)	Monday 10 th June 2024
Monday 8 th July 2024	Monday 9 th September 2024
Monday 7th October (first week of October)	Monday 11 th November 2024
Monday 9 th December 2024	

All meetings will take place at 6.45pm in Hart Village Hall

Meeting closed at 8.20 pm

Signature _____