



Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 14th February 2022

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

In Attendance: Police Sergeant Phelan, PCSP Geoff Hester, M. Ireland, Clerk

1. **Public Forum:** No members of the public present
2. **Apologies:** Parish Cllr Simmons, Ward Cllr Cassidy
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None made
4. **Police Report:** PCSO Hester reported Ward statistics for January as follows: 1 Burglary, 2 thefts, 4 cases of criminal damage and 12 instances of Anti-social behaviour. Speed watches have been held and one driver spoken to about his speed on entering the village; others are being dealt with by the police. The Ward Newsletter is available on the Cleveland Police website:
www.cleveland.police.uk
Cllr Britcliffe noted that an increase in poaching and hare coursing seen around the area had been causing concern among villagers, also 2 Range Rovers had been stolen - which Sgt Phelan noted the police were aware and had been investigating. Cllr Littlefair noted frustration within the farming community that the police appeared to be doing nothing, and believed this was because poaching was so far down their priority list. Sgt Phelan explained that crimes reported were graded on the level of risk to life.
The Police Officers were thanked for their attendance and it was agreed to put the link to the police newsletter on the Hart Hub.
5. **Minutes of 18th January 2022** - Cllr Britcliffe proposed and Cllr Brown seconded the adoption of the minutes. All present being in agreement, it was **resolved** to accept the draft Minutes a true record.
6. **Matters Arising:** (a) **School Field** - Cllr Britcliffe reported that the draft lease had recently been received, (he provided copies for other Cllrs to read); the Clerk had given the original 2 copies to himself and the Chairman; all three felt the lease was essentially alright, giving access to the field during daylight hours except for 8.00am to 4.00pm, Monday to Friday, during school terms.
However, there were three key issues of concern:
 - (a) The licence was only for 12 months
 - (b) Would the Trust require £250 every year and
 - (c) Only one named key-holder was to be allowed.He had sought advice from 2 experts in licences of this nature and held a meeting with the Chairman and Clerk, following which he had contacted Mark Stouph, Chairman of the Board, raising these concerns. A written reply had been received very quickly, which was reassuring. Mr Stouph responded that the intention was the lease would be renewable every year, there would be no further legal cost and that the Trust would consider having up to three named keyholders if that would be helpful.

After a brief discussion, Cllr Britcliffe proposed the acceptance of the amended licence; this being unanimously agreed, it was then **resolved** the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should sign the amended documents on behalf of the Parish Council and the Clerk was to send these via Recorded Delivery to the Trust. It was further **resolved** the initial named key holders were to be Cllrs

Britcliffe, Park and Quarmby. It was further **agreed** the Parish Council should ensure signs were erected at the entrance gate, to which they had keys, that 'NO DOGS, HORSES OR VEHICLES' were to be allowed on the field without the express permission of the Parish Council.

Actions: Cllrs Britcliffe and Littlefair to sign both original copies of the amended (in handwriting) of the Licence agreement and forward to the Clerk; Clerk to send both copies to the Learning Trust, with the names of the proposed key holders. Clerk & Cllr Britcliffe to discuss with school the proposed signage.

(b) **School Anti-Litter Competition** - the Clerk informed the school had been very supportive and the children were to be asked to produce A4 posters, all to be completed by the end of the half-term break. After a brief discussion it was agreed all those Councillors available view the entries at the school, (date & time to be confirmed), before deciding on the winner.

Actions: Clerk to arrange date & time with the school for viewing the competition entries; ALL Cllrs available to attend the judging.

(c) **Weed Clearing/Chare Wall working party** - no further progress due to inclement weather.

(d) **Footpath in car park** - the Clerk reported the footpath had now been re-laid to the complete satisfaction of the Vicar.

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

- He had been dealing with the licence and footpath.
- He had noted an increase in anti-social behaviour.
- He was pleased the police had been carrying out speed checks in the village but these also need to be undertaken on the by-pass.
- He was very concerned to hear there were proposals to change the traffic flow on the A179 and would much prefer a single carriageway in each direction.
- He noted the lamp post /crossroads sign on the eastward carriageway of the A179 just before School Lane had been down since November and had been reported several times.
- The Leader of the Borough Council, Cllr Shane Moore, has said on his Facebook page that he is a strong supporter of Parish Councils, so it is surprising he refuses to work effectively with 4 of the 5 PCs in Hartlepool. The information he gave about some of the rural PCs in this Facebook post had been incorrect and in one instance, the opposite of the actuality. He had yet to respond to an invitation from the Chairs of the rural parish councils in Hartlepool to meet to discuss issues.

8. **Ward Councillors' Reports:** Cllr Cassidy reported that:

- The Mayor, Cllr Brenda Loynes, had sadly passed away on 8th February. Her funeral was to be held at All Saints Church, Stranton at 12.30pm on Wednesday 23rd February, followed by a short service at the Crematorium. Refreshments would be available after the ceremony at Park Drive Cricket Club.
- A179 update, proposals have been put forward by Peter Frost as part of the Upper Warren development. The proposal would change the layout of the A179 road meaning one lane going up the bank towards the A19 and two lanes going down towards the round-about, these proposals are to help with congestion, however I have objected on the proposal on the basis this proposal does not include any speed reductions and I've requested they think again and include a 50mph speed limit.
- Hartfield's GP update - the engagement process will not begin until after Local elections in May. To save the practice will require residents to "Show there is a demand for it" - when the engagement process starts it is vital that everyone engages with the process.

Councillors appreciated the report sent in by Cllr Cassidy, but were deeply concerned about the proposals for the A179. The Clerk was requested to obtain a copy of the proposal from Peter Frost.

It was **agreed** that Cllrs Britcliffe and Littlefair would attend the funeral to represent the Parish Council, the Clerk already to attend on behalf of Elwick PC.

Actions: Clerk to request copy of A179 proposals; Cllrs Britcliffe & Littlefair to attend funeral.

9. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee:** The next meeting of the planning group is to be held at the Village Hall, 7.00pm on Wednesday 16th February.
10. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Park had circulated a report in advance of the meeting. Key items to note were: continuing flooding opposite The Raby Arms and at the roundabout. Cllr Littlefair reported the cess pit at Glebe Farm, owned by the Wilkinsons, is overflowing and running down Front Street. Cllr Park queried progress on the grass-cutting - the Clerk informed that a meeting was being arranged with Kieran Bostock to agree the licence for this. Cllr Park asked about progress with the digital mapping project and reminded that he had requested a copy of the digital map so that he could record the PC assets. Councillors thanked him for his offer and **agreed** the Clerk should request a copy from the supplier.
11. **Financial Reports:** The Clerk presented the financial reports, which were approved.

Receipts:	£		Payments:	£	
Interest on Business Account		0.03	Bank charges		6.60
Total	0.03		Affordable Landscapes (footpath)	180.00	
			Total	186.60	

The Clerk noted in particular, the new bank charges, which have been implemented since December 2021. All the major banks had now removed the free banking previously available to charities and community organisations. It would appear the charges are based on £5 per month for service plus an amount per transaction. This was an unexpected cost and not included in the budget. Cllr Park asked why the Council was not using internet banking - the Clerk explained the service had been requested of the bank on several occasions over the last two years, the relevant paperwork completed and handed in to the local branch, but nothing happened as a result. She had raised this when undertaking the security check with the bank the previous month, but had heard nothing further. Councillors **agreed** a formal complaint should be made to the bank as this would require a response. They also suggested the Clerk identify the bank used by HBC, check which institutions would offer internet banking and ask the local Credit Union if they would provide a banking service to the Parish Council.

Actions: Clerk to contact HBC, other banking institutions, credit union and make formal complaint to current bank as agreed.

12. **Correspondence:** None received
13. **Planning Applications:** None received
14. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:** Cllr Quarmby raised concern that a brown bin left on the public footpath behind Mill View was being used as a dog bin and was now overflowing and smells disgusting. It appeared that HBC refused to collect as a brown bin is not their responsibility. Cllr Brown concerned that a fallen tree branch, on the land in Butts Lane beside the school, needs removing, and requested Derek Wardle undertake an inspection of the trees along the section of the road between the school and North Hart Farm.
Actions: Clerk to inform Chris Scaife and Derek Wardle HBC.
15. **Date of Next Meeting:** 6.45pm Monday 14th March 2022 at Hart Village Hall.

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00pm



Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 14th March 2022

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

In Attendance: Ward Cllr R. Cook, M. Ireland, Clerk

1. **Public Forum:** No members of the public present
2. **Apologies:** Ward Cllrs Cassidy and Riddle (the latter had requested his apologies be recorded for the previous meeting also)
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None made
4. **Police Report:** No officers present nor report received. The Clerk noted the Ward Newsletter is available on the Cleveland Police website: www.cleveland.police.uk.
Cllr Littlefair informed that he and the Clerk had attended the Rural Crime Forum the previous week at Police Headquarters. Few members of the public had been present, however there had been a very frank exchange of comments about lack of police support for the rural community, especially in following up or attending on reported crime. Chief Inspector Jon Hagen, based in Redcar & Cleveland, had now taken on responsibility for the police handling of rural crime and gave a commitment to improving the service to rural residents, with key areas of improvement identified and agreed with those present. Kelly Close had reported on a new initiative to tackle hacking and internet fraud - Cyber Protect and Prepare; she was willing to check computers to assess vulnerability to cyber crime and could be contacted on 07525 410652. Councillors requested the local Inspector be made aware of the need for a report to every PC meeting. **Action:** Clerk to contact local Police Inspector as requested.
5. **Minutes of 14th February 2022** - Cllr Britcliffe proposed and Cllr Brown seconded the adoption of the minutes. All present being in agreement, it was **resolved** to accept the draft Minutes a true record.
6. **Matters Arising:** (a) **School Field** - The Clerk reported that the signed copy of the licence had now been received. Cllr Britcliffe noted that he had collected three keys from the school, which would provide access temporarily via the double gates at the top of the field, whilst a new 'kissing gate' was installed at the other end for public use. The keys would be held, as previously agreed, by himself, Cllr Park and Cllr Quarmby; they would liaise over a rota for the opening/closing of public access to the field. It was further agreed that a sign, to say 'No Dogs, No Horses and No vehicles without written permission of Hart Parish Council' be purchased and installed at the new gate once it had been installed. Cllr Britcliffe offered to write a piece for the Hart Hub. **Actions:** Clerk to purchase sign when appropriate, Cllr Britcliffe to write piece for Hart Hub.
(b) **Anti-Litter Poster competition** - The Chairman informed that Cllr Britcliffe, the Clerk and he, had attended the school the previous week to judge the entries. The children involved in the school's Eco Club had been welcoming and keen to show off their work around the school and the competition entries, of which there were approximately 60 - the standard of the entries had been very high. After shortlisting, the final decision was to award the First Prize to Seren, an 11-year old, and a Runner-Up prize to Arabelle, a 6-year old. The Clerk had framed the 2 winning entries and these were displayed for other Councillors to see; Cllr Britcliffe would present the prizes (framed poster for both and family cinema tickets for the winner) at the school Assembly on the following Friday. Copies of the winning posters would be made for placing around the village.

(c) **Weed-Clearing/Chare Wall Working Party** - Cllr Simmons reported that, due to inclement weather, this had yet to be convened, however, she proposed that it take place at 10.00am on Saturday 2nd April. The date being acceptable to all, Cllr Littlefair agreed to spray the weeds beforehand with insect-friendly weed killer, and Cllr Simmons agreed to call for volunteers for the Working Party via the Hart Hub. Cllr Simmons noted she was uncomfortable with removing stones from the wall as she was unclear as to which should be photographed. After a brief discussion it was **agreed** that, only if a stone was in danger of falling, should it be removed and photographed only if it had signs of having been worked. **Actions:** Cllr Littlefair to spray weeds and Cllr Simmons to put on Hart Hub.

(d) **Digital Map** - the Clerk informed that she had contacted the supplier and access to the technology was to be provided to Cllr Park later that week.

(e) **Brown Bin on footpath** - the Clerk reported that Chris Scaife, HBC, had agreed to have the bin removed.

(f) **Licence for grass-cutting** - the Clerk reported that she had received the licence from HBC and had circulated it to Councillors in advance of the meeting. The licence was for one year, ending 31 March 2023 and covered the whole area within the village footprint. Councillors being in **agreement**, the Clerk signed the licence and **agreed** to deliver it to HBC for their Solicitor to countersign. She further **agreed** to write a short piece for the Hart Hub.

Cllr Simmons noted her appreciation for the work on clearing fallen trees behind Palace Row, recently undertaken by HBC; the work had been to a high standard and a small oak sapling, which had worked loose, had been securely restored.

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

- He had attended the HBC Audit & Governance Committee. He noted the public engagement, in regard to the McKenzie Medical Practice at Hartfields, had now been delayed to late May/early June and would take 9 weeks. Cllr Cook noted that only 70 residents were actually registered with the practice and encouraged other residents to move to that practice and use it in order to save it from closure.
- He had attended the Rural Crime Forum (covered earlier).
- He had taken part in the judging of the anti-litter poster competition at the school.
- He had received the design proposals for the A179, produced by Peter Frost and forwarded by the Clerk, and remained deeply concerned about them. The proposal to have the dual section of highway suddenly reduce to one lane was a recipe for accidents. Councillors felt strongly that the whole A179 should be dualled as far as the A19, and as soon as possible and in the meantime, traffic lights at the roundabout and speed cameras along the section of A179 beside Hart village, should be installed.
Cllr Cook noted that, once the new roundabout at Middle Warren was open (due later this week), the traffic lights would be removed, which would increase the speed of traffic; further; as soon as the roundabout was completed, the developers planned to commence work on a new main sewer, which would result in Merlin Way being closed for three weeks. This would cause considerable problems for users of private and public transport as a long detour would be required. He proposed to request that Merlin Way be closed in two phases to allow traffic movement on one side during the works. Councillors warmly support this proposal. Cllr Cook offered to request Kieran Bostock attend the next HPC meeting, in April, to discuss the proposals for the A179; this was strongly endorsed by all present. **Action:** Cllr Cook to request attendance by Kieran Bostock at April meeting of the parish council.
- He had attended the Civic Funeral of Cllr Brenda Loynes.
- He had received copies of recent correspondence between Cllr Riddle and Cllr Shane Moore and reiterated the Vote of No Confidence in HBC still stood, as the Charter had not been progressed. In response to a query from Cllr Cook, the Chairman gave a brief summary of the history behind and since the unanimous vote - viz: Vote of No Confidence taken in March 2021, meeting to discuss with Council Leader and discuss draft

Charter (produced by rural PCs) in August 2021 when Leader and HBC Managing Director had agreed to pursue a Charter, forward comments on the draft by Borough Solicitor, and hold another meeting in September. **None of these actions had taken place.** Leader had refused to allow presence of Clerks at the meetings, and had sent libellous email to EPC Clerk, who had simply been doing her job. Cllr Cook requested another copy of the draft Charter be sent to his personal email and stated he would be taking the matter up with the Leader.

The Chairman requested Councillors consider whether the Vote should be rescinded and whether he should now attend Parish Liaison Meetings. Parish Councillors agreed that the Chairman should resume attendance at Parish Liaison meetings, but the Vote of No Confidence would not be withdrawn until the matters which led to it, and the adoption of a Charter, were resolved. **Actions:** Cllr Cook to discuss the Vote of No Confidence with Leader, in attempt to break the deadlock, Chairman to attend next Parish Liaison meeting, Clerk to forward another copy of draft Charter to all three Ward Councillors.

8. **Ward Councillors' Reports:** Cllr Cook reported that he had already covered the Hartfields Medical practice engagement process and the debacle of the A179 traffic lights. He was becoming very concerned about the number of large development applications being received for this area, and the ability of the inadequate road infrastructure to support the level of traffic that would ensue. In response to a query about HBC plans for the Jubilee, Cllr Cook reported that he had yet to be advised on what was being planned, however, he was aware that, between 7.00 and 9.00pm on Wednesday 16th March, Victoria Square was to be lit in support of Ukraine and that residents were invited to bring along their own lights in support.
9. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee:** Cllr Simmons reported that plans were almost complete for four days of celebration, including a beacon lighting, 'Dance through the Decades', exhibition of memorabilia, service of thanksgiving and procession through the village to a 'Big Jubilee Lunch'. These would be finalised at the next meeting on Monday 21st March. Fundraising activities were taking place including a 'Race Night' on 26th March at the Village Hall, tickets £5 each to include Pie & peas.
10. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Park had circulated a report in advance of the meeting. Key items to note were: continuing flooding opposite The Raby Arms and at the roundabout; the lack of a clear, 'Left-hand turn' signs at the junctions of Hart Back Lane and School Lane on the A179, and speeding traffic in Butts Lane. This latter could be addressed by placing horizontal red lines across the road to slow traffic. It was **agreed** to remove the HPC action from Point 7 - Hart school, as this had been done already, and remove altogether Point 13 - Village Grass Cutting not value for money, in future reports.
11. **Financial Reports:** The Clerk presented the financial reports, which were approved.

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
Transfer of Traveller Fund	1,748.50	D.M. Ireland (repayment of postage, prizes)	41.09
Interest on Business Account		Bank charges	5.40
Total	1,748.53	D.M. Ireland (salary Jan-March including back pay to April 2021)	616.00
		HMRC (PAYE)	154.00
		Total	816.49

The Clerk noted that ALL the High Street banks had now introduced bank charges for charities and parish councils, and that other banks such as Starling would not allow double authorisation as was required for a parish council. There was no longer a Credit Union in Hartlepool and enquiries with the national Credit Union Association had elicited the response that Credit Unions did not provide banking services. It was therefore **resolved** to remain with the current bank.

12. **Correspondence:** (i) HBC- information on the election timetable - noted; (ii) NALC - new NJC agreed salary rates for 2021-22 including 1.75% pay increase, to be implemented immediately - implemented; (iii) Historic England - email regarding delayed application for permission to install gate to car park - **agreed** to not pursue at present due to costs.

13. **Planning Applications:**

H/2022/0024 - White Hart Inn - No comment

H/2022/0040 - Kirkefields Stable site - Support

H/2022/0043 - Land south of A179 - No comment

H/2022/0045 - Land north of A179 and west of Tremaine Close - **Objection** - this application is for land within the strategic gap and therefore contravenes both the Rural Plan and Local Plan.

H/2022/0052 - 6, Burns Close - No Objection

H/2022/0055 - Land beside White Cottage, Hart - This application will create a problem with vehicle access to White Cottage; currently vehicles can access a turning circle, this will be removed if this application is approved, requiring vehicles at White Cottage to reverse out over a public footpath onto the main road a danger for both pedestrian and oncoming vehicles. If approved, to be subject to rear wall being constructed of stone to match the walls on either side.

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

Cllr Brown concerned that no action has been taken about a fallen tree branch, on the land in Butts Lane beside the school, which needs removing. Agreed Clerk to again request Derek Wardle undertake an inspection of the trees along the section of the road between the school and North Hart Farm as these could fall and damage the new school wall. Cllr Littlefair - fly tipping in Hart Back Lane - mattresses and tyres.

Actions: Clerk to remind Derek Wardle HBC of earlier request and report fly tipping.

The Clerk requested Councillors to agree the date for the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting. It was agreed this should be held in May, ideally the week commencing 16th. **Action:** Clerk to book Village Hall ASAP.

15. **Date of Next Meeting:** 6.45pm Monday 11th April 2022 at Hart Village Hall.

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55pm



Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 11th April 2022

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

In Attendance: PCSOs G. Hester and V. Hocking, M. Ireland, Clerk

1. **Public Forum:** No members of the public present
2. **Apologies:** Ward Cllrs Cassidy, Cook and Riddle, Parish Councillor Britcliffe
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None made
4. **Police Report:** PCSO Hester introduced his colleague, PCSO Vanessa Hocking and then informed that several speed checks had been undertaken at entrances to the village over the last few weeks; several drivers had been found to be exceeding the limit. They have also been visiting Worset lane, but had not discovered anything illegal. Cllr Littlefair noted that a silver BMW had been stolen at the weekend, though it was believed the perpetrator was known to the owner. The car stolen earlier last month had been found at Dalton Piercy. The Officer reported that there had been a significant increase in the theft of high value vehicles in the last few months, with Range Rovers being a particular target. He suggested that owners keep their car keys in a Faraday pouch, or similar, to prevent potential thieves from hacking them. Cllr Park informed of a motorbike 'screaming' up Butts Lane on a regular basis, and also that he had reported a quad bike and scrambler bike being used on the road without licence plates. All noted that it had been fairly quiet on the crime front in recent weeks and thanked the Officers for their visible precedence, which had clearly had an impact. PCSO Hocking informed that she and colleagues would be delivering road safety talks at the village primary school after the Waster break. **Action:** Cllr Simmons to place advice on Faraday pouches on Hart Hub.
5. **Minutes of 14th March 2022** - Cllr Quarmby proposed and Cllr Simmons seconded the adoption of the minutes. All present being in agreement, it was **resolved** to accept the draft Minutes a true record.
6. **Matters Arising:** (a) **Anti-Litter Posters**- The Clerk requested instruction on what to do with the wining posters. After a brief discussion it was agreed that 5 copies of each should be laminated and placed at those sites around the village most affected by litter. (b) **Grass cutting** - the Clerk reported that the signed Licence had now been received and that John Pearson contracted to maintain the green spaces around the village with the exception of The Darlings and Manor Park. She further informed that the cost per cut were about to rise considerably, due to the effect of the huge recent increase in the price of fuel; this could not have been foreseen and the contract would therefore have to be carefully managed to stay as far as possible within budget. Should this become impossible, then she would bring the matter to the attention of Councillors. Cllr Park informed that he was in process of producing a digital map of the areas to be included in the contract. (c) **Annual Parish Meeting** - the Clerk informed that the Village Hall had been booked for Tuesday 17th May and requested suggestions for guest speakers. It was agreed that invitations be sent to Jill Mortimer, MP, the new Chief Constable of Cleveland Police and HBC Managing Director, Denise McGuckin. (d) **South View parking** - the Clerk informed that she and Cllr Britcliffe, together with 2 residents of South View, had met with Peter Frost on 1st April to discuss the parking issue. Mr Frost had **agreed** to consider options and send these for discussion as soon as possible. (e) **Tree branch** - The fallen tree branch, near the school on Butts Lane, had now been removed along

with other tree debris, but the requested tree survey had not yet been undertaken, though this had been urgently requested. Cllr Brown noted that several trees were in a dangerous condition and were a safety hazard. **(f) School Field gate** - it was noted that the new 'kissing' gate had recently been installed; it was expected that, once the school re-opened after the Easter break, that keys to the gate would be provided. In the meantime, the large gate would continue to be available and the rota for opening/closing was working well.

Actions: Clerk to laminate 5 copies of each Anti-Litter poster and pass to Councillors for placement around the village; to invite those identified to the Annual Parish Meeting; to consult the school on wording and placement of notice about usage of the school field.

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

- He had noted an increase in the amount of litter being dumped from cars, especially on Hart Back Lane, School House Lane and around Nine Acres - much of this appeared to be 'fast-food' detritus, from McDonald's and other similar suppliers.
- The state of Hart Back Lane was now very dangerous as, near the turbine, the surface is breaking up and falling into the field and there are several very large potholes.
- Only 4 nominations for the Parish Council had been received within the regulation time, therefore there would need to be 3 co-options later. Cllr Quarmby and Simmons apologised for missing the deadline.
- The Parish Liaison Meeting planned for 4th April had been cancelled due to the Leader of the Borough Council having Covid. It was expected to be rescheduled, possibly on 28th April, but the four Rural Parish Chairmen were not happy with the proposed agenda, in particular the issue of the lack of consultation on S106 funds and the removal of key sections of the draft Charter.

8. Ward Councillors' Reports: No report received.

9. Queen's Platinum Jubilee: Cllr Simmons reported that there had been no changes to the plans, and the group were at the stage of allocating tasks for the events. The 'Race Night' had been very successful. The Clerk noted that she had agreed to print 250 fliers to be issued with the Platinum Jubilee mugs early next month and reminded Councillors that £500 had been ringfenced for the Jubilee should it be needed. She further noted that the Beacon had been ordered in the name of the Parish Council, but that payment had been made by an individual; in order to comply with VAT legislation, the payment would need to be made by the PC; the issue was now in process of being resolved, to ensure probity; she had also informed the PC's insurers of the proposed Jubilee activities.

Cllr Simmons noted that HBC had now advertised that a grant of between £50 and £250 would be available to community groups wishing to hold street parties for the Jubilee; a charge of £50 for bollards would be made; the group were applying for Front Street to be closed on the Sunday afternoon. Cllr Littlefair noted that HBC had only recently appointed an officer to oversee Jubilee activities on behalf of the Council.

10. Maintenance Committee Report: Cllr Park had not produced a written report, but gave a verbal update on previous issues raised, noting that very little had yet been done by HBC.

- The signs to the village - at the western end and at the crossroads had not yet been replaced and this was a safety issue. PCSO Hester requested photographs of the places where signs were missing, be sent to him in order that he might raise the issue with his superiors.
- Flooding - at the eastern entrance to the village and on Butts Lane not yet resolved.
- The steps at the bridge end of the public footpath from Clevecoat Walk were in a dangerous condition.
- Parking on the pavement outside the Old Post Office continued to be an issue, with families having to walk small children/pushchairs in the road as a result; this was right beside the access to Butts Lane, leaving drivers with a blind corner.

- Litter from the construction site on the A179 had blown across the highway and covered both sides of the road for some distance; he had raised this issue with HBC, but it had been volunteer litter pickers who had cleared most of it. It was poor site management on the part of the developer and HBC should enforce action to prevent this re-occurring.
- Dogs - waste was proliferating again - several owners/walkers were leaving bags full of dog waste on the side of the road or throw it into the hedges; many dogs were being seen off the lead in public places - this was not to be condoned.
- Cllr Simmons noted that only 2 volunteers had turned up to help with the Chare wall on Sunday - and neither of these was a Parish Councillor, which was embarrassing; quite a lot of debris and stones had been removed and placed in the neighbouring garden. Cllr Littlefair offered to spray any weed growth in the near future.
- The brown bin full of dog waste in Clevecoat Walk had now been removed, thanks to Chris Scaife.

Actions: Cllr Park to send photographs of where missing signposts should be to PCSO Hester; Cllr Littlefair to spray weeds on the Chare wall; Clerk to inform Kieran Bostock, HBC, of maintenance concerns.

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

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
Interest (Business Account)	<u>0.15</u>	Bank charges	5.40
		Northern Lights Learning Trust (Licence)	132.00
		D.M. Ireland (stationery)	<u>52.89</u>
Total	0.15	Total	190.29

the Clerk informed that the annual accounts would be passed to the Internal Auditor as soon as the next bank Statement had been received, the only expected amendment from the report tabled today would be the Bank Charges for March. She would be again submitting an Exempt report to the External Auditors as the turnover was under £25,000.

12. Correspondence: (i) HBC- information on a Consultation being undertaken on Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment for Hartlepool - agreed to place information on Hart Hub. **Action:** Cllr Simmons to place information on Hart Hub.

13. Planning Applications:

H/2022/0098 - Plot 11, Manor Court - No comment

H/2022/0052 - 6, Burns Close - No Comment

H/2022/0115 - The Old Granary, Middlethorpe Farm - no decision until Councillors consider the application further - concerns expressed about this being a retrospective application, the impact on neighbours, of covenant on these houses, height etc. **Actions:** Councillors to send comments to Clerk by Thursday 14th April; Clerk to submit comment based on majority view.

14. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

Cllr Simmons raised concern about the state of the recently resurfaced pavement alongside the road beside South View - part of this has raised and is a trip hazard for pedestrians.

Cllr Quarmby asked when the sign for the School Field were to be available - the Clerk noted that she had been requested not to process this until requested by Councillors. It was agreed the school be consulted on the wording and placement of the sign(s). **Actions:** Clerk to inform HBC of pavement issue and consult school on signage.

15. Date of Annual Meeting of the Parish Council: 6.45pm Monday 9th May 2022 at Hart Village Hall.

Chairman closed the meeting at 7.58pm



Minutes of Meeting held at 7.22 pm on Monday 9th May 2022 at Hart Village Hall

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

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

1. **Public Forum:** No members of the public present
2. **Apologies:** Ward Cllrs Cassidy and Leedham, PCSO Hester
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None made
4. **Police Report:** None received
5. **Minutes of 11th April 2022** - Cllr Quarmby proposed and Cllr Simmons seconded the adoption of the minutes. All present being in agreement, it was **resolved** to accept the draft Minutes a true record.
6. **Matters Arising:** (a) ***School Field notice*** - The Clerk reported that the school had agreed to take responsibility for the signs at the public entrance to the field. Cllr Britcliffe agreed to collect the keys of the new pedestrian access gate.
7. **Chairman's Report:** Cllr Littlefair reported that:
 - The recent elections had brought in new Ward Cllr John Leedham, who replace John Riddle, who stood down. The Clerk was requested to send a letter of congratulations to Cllr Leedham and thanks to John Riddle for his service to the community.
 - He had attended the Parish Liaison meeting with the Leader of HBC, Cllr Shane Moore. It had been a fairly positive meeting but there was still the issue regarding the draft Charter. The next meeting was to provide an update on the Elwick By-Pass. Rural Parish Chairs had proposed a working party be set up to work on the Charter, consisting of 2 Ward Cllrs (preferably from parished Wards), a member of the HBC legal team, 2 parish council reps and a Clerk. All would have equal status. The rural Parish Chairmen had agreed to recommend that our reps be Roderick Thompson, EPC, Lyn Noble, DPPC and Minna, Clerk to Hart PC. Parish Councillors **agreed** the nominations unanimously. Cllr Cook asked the numbers had been decided, and noted that he was not aware of any Ward Councillors being approached to join the Working Party. He also asked if substitutes were to be allowed. The response was that numbers were simply to get the working party moving as swiftly as possible - the important point being that each side was equally represented and there had been no discussion on substitutions.
 - The Platinum Jubilee mugs, purchased by HPC, were delivered on Saturday.
Action: Clerk to write to Cllrs Leedham and Riddle, order mugs and produce flyers.
8. **Ward Councillors' Reports:** Cllr Cook reported that the first part of the HBC AGM was to be held on 21st, with the second part being held on 26th - this would be the ceremonial installing of the Mayor. He represented a grouping of Independents and Hartlepool People, who would not be part

of the Coalition of Conservatives and Independents selected to run the Council. He further noted that due to purdah, "everything had come to a halt".

9. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee:** Cllr Simmons reported that the mugs and programme for the Jubilee weekend events had been delivered by Jubilee Committee volunteers; she had 11 mugs left, but there were still 33 households in the village yet to receive one as well as approximately 20 outlying households, therefore another 42, at least, were needed. The Clerk was requested to enquire if the company was able to produce more and, if so, to order 3 boxes. Cllr Simmons noted that another 50 flyers were also needed. **Action:** Clerk to order 3 boxes of mugs and produce 50 flyers.

10. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Park had circulated the report in advance. Key points to note -

- A179 - Peter Frost to be invited to next Parish Council meeting
- Hart Back Lane is currently being resurfaced however, it appears the section from Home Farm gate to the A179 has not been included, and this is where the worst potholes are. It is understood that HBC will only resurface a 9' width, which does not include the pull offs. It was noted that extra concrete was placed at the A179 end to improve access for the Tall Ships race - and Councillors asked if will this be resurfaced across its full width?
- Residents are complaining of vehicles speeding towards Clavering down Worset Lane since that road was resurfaced.
- Cllr Park tabled a map of the proposed grass cutting areas in the village; after being reviewed by Councillors, the 2 sections either side of Home Farm on Front Street were removed. Residents of The Darlings were concerned that their grass was not included; the Clerk had explained that this was because the land belonged to the developer, who was responsible for its maintenance. Cllr Britcliffe accepted this but thought that, as all residents contributed to the precept, we should cut the grass if we could afford to do so and take over the land as previously offered by the developer.

Actions: The Clerk to request a quote from Affordable Landscapes for cutting the grass in The Darlings, to forward a copy of the grass cutting map to Cllr Cook and forward the report and concerns to Kieran Bostock and Peter Frost.

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

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
HBC (Precept, Concurrent & LCTSG)	11,306.00	Bank charges	6.60
Interest (Business Account)	<u>0.17</u>	Bullfinch (Gas Equipment) Ltd (Jubilee Beacon)	<u>588.00</u>
Total	11,306.17	Total	594.60

12. **Correspondence:** (a) NHS. Consultation on Hartfields Surgery - noted. Poster to go on Notice Boards and website, also on Hart Hub.

13. **Planning Applications:** None received

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

Cllr Simmons raised concern about: (a) the state of the car park and requested it be tidied up before the Jubilee; Cllr Littlefair **agreed** to do this. (b) the lamp post outside Bede Cottage is a H&S hazard, as children keep removing the tape put on by HBC as a temporary mend; it needs a permanent fix.

Cllr Simmons requested the Clerk to forward contact details for the PCSOs.

Cllr Park raised concern about the chevrons at the roundabout which are so faded as to be useless - they need renewing.

Cllr Quarmby raised concern about people parking inconsiderately near drive entrances, making it difficult for residents to turn in or out.

Cllr Britcliffe wished to put on record congratulations to Hart Primary School, Hartlepool Town Primary School Football Champions.

Actions: Cllr Littlefair to tidy car park ASAP; Clerk to inform Rob Daley of lamp post issue, Peter Frost of chevron issue and to forward contact details for the PCSOs to Cllr Simmons.

15. **Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council:** 6.45pm Monday 13th June 2022 at Hart Village Hall.
(NB: Cllr Cook gave his apologies for the June meeting in advance)

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.38pm



Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 13th June 2022 at Hart Village Hall

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

In Attendance: M. Ireland, Clerk, Ward Cllr Cassidy, Ms. Rachel Ness, Clearstone Energy

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Parker to her first PC meeting, and invited Ms Ness to make her presentation.

- 1. Battery Storage at Worset Lane Proposal:** Ms Ness gave a Powerpoint presentation which covered the need for battery storage for renewable energy, such as wind and solar energy, which was intermittent, being dependant on the weather. Currently this meant that at times of greatest demand, there was insufficient energy to meet needs, a problem which would be resolved by having excess energy stored in batteries. This particular proposal was part of the National Grid's 'Pathfinder' project, designed to address critical infrastructure where there is a regional deficiency, such as at Hartlepool, where this site would provide approximately 200mg of storage capacity. The reason the Worset Lane site had been chosen by the National Grid was because of the amount of renewable energy production in the near vicinity and easy access to the main grid. Clearstone Energy was committed to improving biodiversity and low carbon emissions on the site by at least 10% and the site was to be positively managed to benefit nature. The extremely large batteries were to be placed at the lowest point on the site - there was no fixed design at present, as consultations were still ongoing. (NB: This is a pre-application consultation exercise - which Councillors welcomed). The actual planning application will probably be submitted in July. There will be a 12-month construction period, with approximately 1 to 2 articulated lorries per day accessing the site, mostly via the A179. She noted that 2 pieces of equipment would be over 15m tall and these would be brought via the port at Hartlepool. The site would have a 40-year life expectancy, then be decommissioned and the land returned to agricultural usage. Once the site was 'live' there would be minimal traffic, and no large vehicles at all. Cllr Britcliffe requested a photomontage beforehand, to which Ms. Ness agreed. As yet there had been no request for an Environmental Impact Assessment but if Councillors wished to see the plans these were available on the Planning Portal under H/2022/0198. Councillors appreciated the need to store electricity at low demand periods, but asked about the community benefit for local residents - Ms. Ness explained that there would be no major employment generated, though some minor consultancy and planting contracts would be available to local businesses. Any financial agreement would not be part of the Planning discussions, as Clearstone did not wish to appear to be influencing inappropriately. She would herself now be the main contact for the PC with Clearstone Energy.

Ms Ness was thanked for her presentation and left the meeting at 7.30 pm.

- 2. Public Forum:** No members of the public present
- 3. Apologies:** Parish Cllr Simmons, Ward Cllrs Cook and Leedham.
- 4. Declarations of Interest:** None made
- 5. Peter Frost, Highways Manager, HBC:** Mr. Frost covered a number of issues of concern previously raised by Councillors, including:

 - Hart Reservoir issues - the owner has agreed to keep the road clean; HBC will monitor the situation. Cllr Park noted that Planning Enforcement should insist that every construction site should have wheel cleaning available on site.

- A179 - the current plan was to have a 2-lane approach into town, with only 1 lane from the Hart roundabout.
- The Chairman noted the crossroad signs at the A179 approaches to Hart Back Lane and School Lane needed replacing urgently.
- Cllr Park requested new signs to the village from the A179, as the current signage was not clear.
- Elwick Bypass - the Compulsory Purchase Orders had not yet been initiated.
- Hart Back Lane - several Councillors noted that since the resurfacing, traffic was now travelling too fast along the lane, where there were several blind spots; there were still massive potholes at the A179 end of this road and Worset Lane.
- Plans were being progressed for South View; Cllr Britcliffe noted that not all residents in the road were supportive of extra parking being made available, and asked that the designs be sent to the PC to share with residents before any decision was made.
- Traffic calming for Front Street was currently being redesigned, as following consultations with the emergency services, the original plans were deemed not suitable.

The Chairman thanked Mr Frost warmly for coming to speak to the PC in person, and noted it was much appreciated.

6. **Police Report:** None received; the Clerk was requested to raise this with the local Inspector. She noted that there had been a considerable number of farm break-ins and thefts of vehicles, equipment, tools etc in recent weeks, around the Hartlepool rural area and asked that farmers be notified to be extra vigilant. **Action:** Clerk to contact Hartlepool Inspector regarding attendance/reports.
7. **Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting and the Ordinary Meeting that followed it, 9th May 2022:** - Cllr Britcliffe proposed and Cllr Brown seconded the adoption of the minutes. All present being in agreement, it was **resolved** to accept the draft Minutes a true record.
8. **Matters Arising:** (a) ***Grass cutting at The Darlings*** - The Clerk reported that the contractor had stated the extra cost for cutting the 2 areas of grass would be £25 per cut. She was asked to contact Gentoo to state the PC would be willing to undertake this for the current financial year, at the residents' request, if gentoo was in agreement, and potentially for a longer period, though we would appreciate a financial contribution from them. The letter to include an explanation of the agreement with HBC. **Action:** Clerk to write to Gentoo accordingly.
9. **Chairman's Report:** Cllr Littlefair reported that:
 - Cllr Cassidy had been appointed as Chair of HBC Neighbourhood Services Committee and offered congratulations;
 - There had been break-ins at several farms around the village;
 - A new supply of Jubilee mugs was now available for delivery for all those who were missed on the first delivery. Mugs were to be given to the 3 Ward Cllrs as well.
 - He had met with and explained the background, of HBC adopting the land in 1977, to the couple at Holyrood, who have now removed the hedging they had planted and stopped cutting the trees, however the line of sight is still compromised due to raised borders. Cllr Cassidy was requested to investigate the matter. **Action:** Cllr Cassidy to investigate line of sight issue at 1, Holyrood.
10. **Ward Councillors' Report:** Cllr Cassidy reported that he had been appointed to Chair of Neighbourhood Services Committee and Cllr Cook to Chair of Audit & Governance Committee; Cllr Leedham had been appointed Vice-Chairman of Children's Services Committee; all were congratulated by Parish Councillors.
There had been an Engagement Meeting at Hartfields on 21st May, where residents had shown a willingness to compromise, to have the Medical Centre open on specific days for those who are vulnerable.

11. **Queen's Platinum Jubilee:** The Chairman reported it had been a very good event, and recognised that a lot of people had put a great deal of work into ensuring it happened; houses around the village were dressed, the beacon lit, a dance, parades/processions and picnics held, and our MP visited. The Clerk was requested to write to the organising Committee formally to express our thanks for their efforts. The Clerk noted the PC had yet to receive the monies for the Beacon.
Action: Clerk to write.

12. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Park had circulated the report in advance. Key points to note -

1. Water standing opposite to Raby Arms.
 2. Water standing on road during light rain.
 3. The open ditches east of the access lane to North Hart farm are still to be resolved.
 4. The sign for The Darlings needs replacing - damaged in January.
 5. Large potholes at A179 end of Worset Lane and Hart Back Lane.
- Steps at south end of footpath from Clevecoat Walk need to be made safe for pedestrians.

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

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
Interest (Business Account)	<u>0.16</u>	Bank charges	5.40
		BHIB (insurance)	421.15
		D.M. Ireland (Jubilee Mugs)	1,049.66
		D.M. Ireland (Parish Meeting expenses)	57.22
		Affordable landscapes (grass)	856.80
		D.M. Ireland (gift for Auditor)	<u>29.00</u>
Total	0.16	Total	2,419.23

14. **Correspondence:** None received.

15. **Planning Applications:** None received.

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

No issues raised but the death of Joe Brown, a former Parish Councillor, was noted with sadness; his funeral is to be at 11.00am on 29th June at Hart church.

17. **Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council:** 6.45pm Monday 11th July 2022 at Hart Village Hall.
(NB: Cllr Cassidy gave apologies for both himself and Cllr Leedham for the July meeting in advance)

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30pm



Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 11th July 2022 at Hart Village Hall

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

In Attendance: M. Ireland, Clerk, Ward Cllr Cook, 6 residents

The Chairman agreed to take Item 8 immediately following Item 1.

1. **Public Forum:** A resident requested use of the school field after 10.00am during the school holidays, and to cut a section of grass on it in order to facilitate the playing of cricket/football. All Councillors present **agreed** this was acceptable. All were reminded that the gate is opened/closed each day on rota by Cllrs Britcliffe, Park and Quarmby.
Another resident requested the old path beside the wall in the car park onto the school field be reinstated. The Chairman informed that access to the field at this gate was not within the gift of the Parish Council, and it was the Academy who run the school who had closed off the access. However, he was willing to approach the school to see if the access could be reinstated, though he was not hopeful of a positive outcome. **Action:** Chairman to liaise with school about access to the field from the car park.
One resident left the meeting.
8. **Car Park Gate:** A resident of Magdalene Drive informed that there had been a great deal of nuisance/anti-social behaviour in the car park for some time, usually in the early hours of the morning, especially during the summer months. This took the form of loud music, cars racing around, drug dealing/misuse, fast food containers dumped. It was very intimidating for residents as there were often four people in every car, and the police response to reports from residents had been very slow, thus the problem people had left long before the police arrived on the scene. The residents preferred solution would be to have a vehicle barrier across the access, with only pedestrian access permanently available. The resident further informed that he and his neighbours were willing to open/close the gate, if installed, every day if required.
The Chairman noted that he had also received requests from people wishing to attend church functions such as funerals who could not access the car park due to it being used by the school and also that there had been some items stolen from the church, always at night. It was **agreed** the Parish Council would investigate the options for a vehicle barrier. Cllr Britcliffe noted the school now had a new caretaker who was very helpful. Cllr Park noted that previous research had indicated a 4m, powder-coated, galvanised manual gate would cost in the region of £2,000, whilst a single barrier, galvanised pole would cost around £1,500.
The resident suggested the school be asked to contribute an annual fee for use of the car park. It was also suggested that a 'kissing gate' be installed at the side to prevent access by motor vehicles and/or horses. Cllr Park was requested to meet with residents to ensure common agreement to the proposed gate and then provide a sketch of a similar gate to that to the Fishponds Field, to accompany any planning application. **Action:** Cllr Park to liaise with residents of Magdalene Drive and produce sketch as agreed.
All residents left the meeting
2. **Apologies:** Parish Cllr Quarmby, Ward Cllrs Cassidy and Leedham.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None made
4. **Police Report:** No police in attendance nor report received. The Clerk informed of the response from Inspector Zoe Kelsey, in which she stated the police would do their best to attend but officer numbers sometimes precluded this. The Chairman reported on the Rural Crime Forum attended by

both himself and the Clerk; the same issues always raised by attendees, promises made by Police Officers but nothing resulted. He felt it a waste of time to attend.

5. **Minutes of Meeting held on 13th June 2022:** Cllr Britcliffe proposed and Cllr Brown seconded the adoption of the minutes. All present being in agreement, it was **resolved** to accept the draft Minutes a true record. Cllr Cook noted that Peter Frost had not contacted any Hart Ward Councillors since the June meeting; he personally wished to ensure that a full consultation was held with villagers before any traffic/road infrastructure plans were implemented.
6. **Matters Arising:** (a) ***Grass cutting at The Darlings*** - The Clerk reported that Gentoo had informed her they were in negotiation with HBC to pass the land over to HBC, therefore were not in a position to agree any grass-cutting. (b) ***Holyrood*** - No information had been received from Cllr Cassidy following his visit to Holyrood Drive to examine the line-of-sight issue.
7. **Jubilee Beacon:** The Clerk informed she had received a request from the Jubilee Committee for the Beacon, purchased by the Parish Council, to be given on permanent loan to the church museum. This was unanimously **agreed**. She further reported that, if all parties were in agreement, the remaining funds were to be used to purchase a stone bird bath, to be placed at the centre of the new church Community Garden, and to be engraved with the wording "To commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II". This too was unanimously **agreed**.
9. **Chairman's Report:** Cllr Littlefair reported that:
 - He had sent a condolence card to Joe Brown's family on behalf of the Parish Council
 - He had received several requests from residents asking for a vehicle barrier on the car park
 - At the HBC Audit & Governance Committee, the Hartfields Medical Practice had been discussed; there will be no report to the Committee until October/November at the earliest. locally, therefore demand for this medical. Thousands of new houses are being built so demand for the Hartfields Practice should grow. He noted the NHS had reorganised the CCG, bringing all areas in the north, including Cumbria, Durham, Northumberland, Teesside & Tyneside to form a regional Integrated Care Board (ICB), of which the Tees Valley would be a sub-region.
 - Jubilee Committee - covered earlier
 - 1, Holyrood Crescent - following on from his conversation with the owner, some of the border had now been removed, though there still remained some, causing line-of-sight issues.
 - HBC were offering a Planning Training event to parish councils between 5 and 8.00pm on Wednesday 13th July. Neither he nor Vice-Chairman Britcliffe could attend as both would be out of the area on business. Cllrs Park, Parker and Simmons agreed to attend.
 - HBC were also offering training on the new Councillor Portal.
10. **Ward Councillors' Report:** Cllr Cook reported: (i) that, as the Chairman had already covered the Hartfields Medical Practice issue, he would not repeat the information. (ii) He apologised that, when he was originally asked to join the Charter Working Party, before the May election, he had declined as he was then too busy; he later spoke to Cllr Moore and was advised that the 2 HBC Councillor representatives had already been selected - Cllrs Moore and Young. Cllr Littlefair noted the original request for a Working Party had been made in April, and as yet nothing had been done. Cllr Cook stated he would ask to attend as an observer. (iii) he was not happy about the lack of communication with Ward Councillors by the Police; every ward was in the same position and it was very frustrating. Cllr Littlefair noted that even with lots of CCTV evidence, the police will not use it, saying the faces are not clear enough, even though other people are easily able to identify the individuals on the screen!
Cllr Cook agreed to speak to Cllr Cassidy about Holyrood, to Cllr Moore about the Charter Working Group and Peter Frost about the traffic proposals that would affect Hart.

11. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Park had circulated the report just before the meeting, so most had not had the opportunity to read it. Key points to note -
1. Traffic calming measures - nothing yet
 2. Flooding - road to the Fens and at the roundabout on the A170, Burns Close and Butts Lane.
 3. The steps off the public footpath between Clevecoat Walk and Front Street - Clerk asked to send request to Chris Scaife again
 4. Lamp post on A179, that came down in November, still not replaced and thus there is no lighting at the crossroads
 5. Gate into car park
 6. Chare wall - as soon as funding is confirmed, PC to go out to tender
 7. Front Steet parking - still no feedback from HBC.

It was **agreed** there was no longer a need for an organised litter pick as so many volunteers already doing this on a regular basis, which is much appreciated.

Dog Dirt is increasingly a problem again. Cllr Simmons agreed to put a notice on the Hart Hub requesting dog walkers to take dog waste home.

Actions: Cllr Simmons to put notice about Dog Dirt on Hart Hub; Clerk to contact RNJ to request a quote for producing a spec and drafting a tender document for the Chare Wall refurbishment.

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

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
HMRC (VAT repayment)	887.20	Bank charges	<u>5.00</u>
Interest (Business Account)	<u>0.17</u>		
Total	887.37	Total	5.00

13. **Correspondence:** Request from agent for Reliance Energy, applying for a Battery Storage facility at Worset Lane, to meet with Parish Council; the Clerk had advised too late for July meeting, next meeting September - noted.

14. **Planning Applications:** H/2022/0246 - single storey front extension, 10, The Darlings.

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

Cllr Simmons requested permission to prune a crab apple tree near the Memorial Bench in Buckingham Close - **agreed**. She further noted a tree opposite No 9 Palace Row needed crown lifting. The Clerk was requested to ascertain from Derek Wardle whether the tree had a TPO. Cllr Brown noted that two, double-headed street lights at the west entrance to the village off the A179 were not working and the sign had still not been replaced. **Actions:** Clerk to contact Derek Wardle about tree and Rob Daley about street lights.

16. **Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council:** 6.45pm Monday 12th September 2022 at Hart Village Hall.

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.28 pm



Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 26th September 2022 at Hart Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. K. Brown, T. Britcliffe (in the chair), K. Park, J. Quarmby

In Attendance: M. Ireland, Clerk; Mark Christensen, Reliance Energy

1. **Presentation by Reliance Energy:** Mr. Christensen was accompanied by 2 colleagues on-line. He gave a slide presentation about the project to build a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) on land off Worset Lane, near the gas-powered sub-station, explaining the need for storage of the energy generated by both solar and wind, to even out supply. Cllr Britcliffe noted the complete lack of consultation before the gas-powered sub-station was installed, despite there being more than sufficient brown-field sites within the urban area; he expressed appreciation, on behalf of the PC for Reliance coming to talk in advance of submitting an application. He explained that the main concern was the visual impact on the area and the village, with the site being beside the A179, the main route into Hartlepool town, and thus would need considerable natural landscaping to both disguise it and increase bio-diversity.
Mr. Christensen received several questions from Councillors following his presentation, including:
 - why their site was so much smaller than that of Clearstone's (1.1 hectares: 10 hectares) - down to the use of different technology.
 - Why not build a mound along the edge of the A179 to hide the site - insufficient land available.
 - What community benefit will accrue from the development? For example, the repair to the Chare wall, a gate for the car park - to be discussed at a later stage.He informed that Reliance Energy was to hold a public meeting on Tuesday 18th October at the Village Hall, 2.00 -7.00pm and all households would receive a flier in advance. Their aim was to submit a planning application in early November.
Mr. Christensen was thanked for his attendance, as were his on-line colleagues, and left the meeting.
2. **Public Forum:** No members of the public were present, but the Clerk informed of receipt of a letter from a resident requesting support for regular meetings to keep people informed of the rapidly changing energy situation. She also informed Councillors of an opportunity to work with Hartlepower, to organise an event that would cover more than just energy costs, and was asked to keep the resident informed of these plans.
3. **Apologies:** Apologies had been received from Cllrs Littlefair and Parker - both accepted. The Clerk informed of the resignation of Cllr Simmons, with immediate effect. Cllr Britcliffe expressed, on behalf of colleagues, both his sadness and understanding of her reasons, and wished to put on record the Council's appreciation for all the work she had undertaken since joining the Parish Council. This expression was warmly endorsed by all present. Ward Cllrs Cassidy, Cook and Leedham had also submitted apologies. **Action:** Clerk to send Mrs. Simmons flowers and Thankyou card from PC, and inform HBC of her resignation.
4. **Declarations of Interest:** None made
5. **Police Report:** No police in attendance nor report received. The Clerk was requested to inform Inspector, and also the Police & Crime Commissioner.

6. **Minutes of Meeting held on 11th July 2022:** Cllr Britcliffe proposed and Cllr Park seconded the adoption of the minutes. All present being in agreement, it was **resolved** to accept the draft Minutes a true record.
7. **Matters Arising:** (a) **Car Park gate**– Cllr Park had consulted residents of Magdalene Drive as requested; all approved of the gate suggestion, although only 3 written responses had been received, however, concerns had been expressed about residents being responsible for opening and closing a manual gate. Whilst Councillors present agreed a planning application should be made for a gate, it was **agreed to defer** this until after the October meeting, when the matter could be discussed more fully, as it will need commitment from residents. (b) **Access to field from car park** - Cllr Littlefair had approached the school about this; the school were not hopeful but had agreed to submit the request to the Trustees - no formal response as yet. (c) **Quote for Chare Wall works specification** - the Clerk reported receipt of a quote from RNJ, of just under £7,000. This was felt to be acceptable, but the contract could not yet be issued as only 45% of the funding had as yet been secured. (d) **Charter** - the Clerk reported that progress was slow, the last scheduled meeting had been cancelled due to the death of the Queen. The Parish representatives had been asked to collate a wish list for the Charter and HBC were to do the same; as yet, nothing had been received from HBC although the Parish list had been submitted over 2 weeks ago. Councillors expressed the need to move things on yet were still adamant that a Charter was needed. **Actions:** Clerk to add car park gate to next agenda, to respond to RNJ accordingly and forward quote to Cllr Park.
8. **Civility and Respect Project:** The Clerk had circulated information on this issue in advance of the meeting. She informed that for some years now there had been growing concern across England that many Clerks and even some Councillors were being bullied or harassed by Councillors, with many becoming ill, or even leaving the profession as a result; the situation had become so serious that both NALC and SLCC had carried out surveys into this escalating issue. They had set up a joint Project which had led to them to request that Councils pledge to commit to standing up for civility and respect in their councils. They were now asking Councils across England to sign a pledge which would commit them to the following:
- Undertaking recommended training for Clerks, Chairpersons and Councillors
 - Having a Dignity at Work Policy
 - Following good practice in employment
 - Having good governance
 - Continuing to lobby for change in legislation (including sanctions)
 - Calling out bullying and harassment when it happens
 - Seeking professional help at early stages of a problem
 - Learning from best practice.

Whilst the Clerk recognised that there was not a problem with this issue within Hart Parish Council, but as we were asking the Borough Council to sign up to the pledge, as part of the move towards a Charter, she felt it only right that the parish councils do the same. All present concurred with the request and Cllr Britcliffe proposed, with Cllr Quarmby seconding, that Hart Parish Council sign the Pledge; this was unanimously supported and it was **resolved** that Hart Parish Council would sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge. **Action:** Clerk to sign up immediately on behalf of the Parish Council.

9. **Chairman's Report:** Cllr Britcliffe reported that he had spoken with Cllr Littlefair in advance of the meeting and could report on his behalf, as follows:
- The keys to the main gate to the field will also open the car park gate but must not be used for this.
 - There were still a couple of boxes of Jubilee mugs remaining, Cllr Littlefair proposed these be given to the children who attend the Hart Toddler Group. **All concurred.**

- He had, on behalf of the Parish Council, signed the Civic Book of Condolence for the Queen, attended the proclamation of the new King and had attended the Civic Church Service held in Hart.

Cllr Britcliffe thanked the Clerk for organising the framed photograph of the Queen, Book of Condolence and flowers placed in the church for residents to sign, and the photographs and words of condolence on the parish notice boards, which several residents had commended.

10. Ward Councillors' Report: No report received.

11. Maintenance Committee Report: Cllr Park had circulated the report before the meeting. Key points to note -

1. Traffic calming measures - nothing yet
2. Flooding - road to the Fens and at the roundabout on the A170, Burns Close and Butts Lane.
3. The steps off the public footpath between Clevecoat Walk and Front Street
4. Lamp post on A179, that came down in November, still not replaced and thus there is no lighting at the crossroads.
5. Hedges from Nine Acres into the village, and on the road to The Fens were badly overgrown, forcing pedestrians into the road.

Action: Clerk to forward to Kieran Bostock.

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

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
Interest	<u>0.79</u>	Bank charges (June, July & August)	19.00
		Affordable Landscapes (grass cutting)	1,713.60
		D.M. Ireland (repayment for toner, photos, flowers for Queen)	117.00
		D.M. Ireland (repayment of website hosting & domain name)	193.27
		D.M. Ireland (salary July - September)	607.28
		HMRC (PAYE)	<u>151.82</u>
Total	0.79		2,836.97

The Clerk informed that she had received a letter from HMRC fining the Parish Council £100 for non-payment of PAYE as at July. Fortunately, she always kept a receipt of PAYE submissions made via PAYE Tools, and had informed HMRC by letter that not only had the payment had been made before the end of June and cleared through the bank, but she enclosed a copy of the PAYE submission showing receipt by HMRC.

13. Correspondence: (i) HBC- Parish Councillor Induction Training, 5.30pm, Wednesday 28th September at Civic Centre - Cllr Parker now unable to attend due to Covid. (II) Statkraft - deferring attendance at October meeting until later date - Councillors noted strong opposition to this development was already being heard.

14. Planning Applications:

- H/2022/0219 - 12, Manor Park Gardens, Hart - No objection
- H/2022/0265 - Thorpe Bulmer Farm, Butts Lane, Hart - No objection
- H/2021/0312 - Land near Sheraton Hall Farm, Sheraton - **Appeal against planning refusal** - Fully support HBC's refusal - refreshing to see their stance on development in this rural location.
- H/2022/0316 - 4, Buckingham Avenue, Hart - No comment
- H/2022/0247 - 4, The Darlings, Hart - No objection.

15. Matters of Concern to Councillors: None raised. All encouraged to seek a replacement for Cllr Simmons.

16. Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council: 6.45pm Monday 10th October 2022 at Hart Village Hall.

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 pm



Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 10th October 2022 at Hart Village Hall

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

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

1. **Public Forum:** No members of the public were present, but the Clerk informed that she had responded in writing to the resident who had asked for support for meetings to keep residents informed of energy costs, as requested. She further reported that she was awaiting confirmation from Hartlepower as to an appropriate date from those offered by the Village Hall, for an Energy Open Day event, which she was organising with Hartlepower and other agencies.
2. **Apologies:** Cllr Brown and Ward Cllr Leedham.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Littlefair in Item 13.
4. **Police Report:** No police in attendance, report received from PCSO Hester, who had been off work since late May due to long Covid. He reported 5 Burglaries, 1 Theft and 2 cases of Criminal damage had been reported in the whole of Hart Ward in September as well as 12 cases of nuisance anti-social behaviour. Cllr Littlefair and the Clerk reported on the Rural Crime Forum they had attended on 30th September. Hartlepool now has a designated PC for rural crime, PC Ben Hayes; the Clerk had met with him that day and had updated him on the particular issues facing the rural areas of Hartlepool including: drugs, fly-tipping, hare coursing, poaching, speeding through the villages and dog-related issues such as fouling, gates being forced/left open allowing stock to escape from fields, etc. Cllr Littlefair noted the Cleveland Constabulary campaign to recruit 15 more Special Constables, to focus specifically on rural crime. The next Rural Crime Forum is to take place from 10-30-12.30 at Police HQ, Hemlington on Wednesday 25th January 2023.
5. **Minutes of Meeting held on 26th September 2022:** Cllr Britcliffe proposed and Cllr Park seconded the adoption of the minutes. All present being in agreement, it was **resolved** to accept the draft Minutes a true record.
6. **Matters Arising:** (a) **Car Park gate-** Cllr Park had received no further comments from residents of Magdalene Drive. He had received quotes of around £3,185 for the installation of both wooden vehicle and pedestrian access gates, and was expecting at least one more. It was **agreed** that an application for planning permission be made to HBC immediately. The Clerk requested Cllr Park be available to support her with the application, to which he agreed. (b) **Access to field from car park** - Cllr Littlefair had approached Mrs. Crowe about this, the response had been that consideration would be given for this access to be used but only on special occasions, such as the summer fete. Cllr Britcliffe requested the rota for opening the gate to the field be reviewed; Cllr Park had carried the majority of the load over the summer, but was not available to open every day from now on, and he was himself not available as much. Cllr Parker agreed to join the rota in the place of Cllr Britcliffe, leaving Cllrs Park, Parker and Quarmby to agree the rota for the next few months. The Clerk would inform the Trust of the change of key-holders.
(c) **Civility and Respect Pledge:** The Clerk reported that the Council was now signed up to the Pledge, and would be receiving a certificate to that effect, as well as being listed on the NALC website.

Actions: Clerk & Cllr Park to liaise on planning application for car park gate, Clerk to inform Trust of change in key holders, Cllrs Park, Parker and Quarmbly to liaise over rota for gate opening/closing.

7. Chairman's Report: Cllr Littlefair reported as follows:

- He had spoken with the school about the gate from the car park (reported above)
- He had attended the Rural Crime Forum (reported above)
- He had noted the Constabulary need for rural Specials and hoped everyone would advertise this opportunity
- He supported the Civility and Respect Pledge
- He noted with sadness the resignation of Cllr Simmons and thanked the Clerk for sending her flowers and card.

8. Ward Councillors' Report: Cllr Cassidy reported that on 2nd November, the Neighbourhoods Committee, of which he was Chair, would make a site visit to the Recycling Centre on Burns Road, to see how it works and what issues arise from the current provision; a report would then go to the Committee meeting on 3rd December, which had some challenging decisions to make. He had received a request regarding overgrown trees behind Milbank Close and had forwarded this to the relevant department. Cllr Britcliffe alerted him to the on-going issue of overgrown hedges along the pavements between Nine Acres and the village, and from the village to The Fens, which had been reported several times to HBC, yet nothing had been done to rectify the problem, leaving residents having to walk in the main road. Cllr Littlefair added the wall at The Fens, owned by the Borough Council, was in such a poor state of repair that stones were continually being taken from it - this had been reported numerous times over the last few years but again nothing was being done. Cllr Cook reported that Peter Frost had sent an update, on 23rd September, to all Hart Parish Councillors and the Clerk, about the issues raised earlier in the year, and asked if it had been received - all agreed they had done so. He then spoke about the Hartfields surgery situation - the report had not gone to the September Audit Committee as expected, as it had first been submitted to the Integrated Care Board (ICB); it was now to be presented at the Committee meeting on 24th November. He confirmed that more residents were now using the surgery, but did not expect that to affect the result of the consultation. Cllr Park noted that he had been informed by an officer of the Borough Council, that the pavement along Front Street, from Butts Lane to Voltigeur Drive was apparently not owned by anyone. Cllr Britcliffe, noted this was nonsensical as it clearly belonged to the Borough Council as they maintained it.

9. Maintenance Committee Report: Cllr Park reported no new issues had arisen since the September meeting, neither had any action been undertaken on these issues by the Borough Council.

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

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
Interest	<u>1.01</u>	Affordable Landscapes (grass cutting)	<u>428.40</u>
Total	1.01		428.40

11. Budget Proposals: The Clerk was requested to include in the budget proposals, as well as the normal administration of the Parish Council, grass-cutting - recognising the increasing costs of fuel and staff, the gates for the car park, the initial costs of professional support in preparing for the restoration of the Chare Wall (the main restoration to be funded from external sources), the renewable licence to use the village field, bank charges and the cost of defibrillator spares.

12. Correspondence: (i) email from Alison Reeves, notifying she was leaving Council employment and informing of a spare defibrillator battery left for the Clerk at the Civic Centre Reception Desk. - Cllr Park to collect. (ii) Seascapes, Clavering Sound Mirror Community Archaeology Project, notifying of the archaeological dig to be commenced on 17th October at Clavering Road - Clerk to request information be put on Hart Hub. (iii) Arup Group regarding an application for planning permission to be made by Gridserve Sustainable Energy Ltd for an electric vehicle charging station and ancillary retail and lounge

facilities on the A179 at Whelly Hill Farm - Clerk to request their attendance at a PC meeting as soon as possible.

Actions: Ward Councillors to seek information as to if and when the defibrillators will be passed into PC ownership; Cllr Park to collect spare defibrillator battery from Civic Centre Reception; Clerk to request Mrs. Simmons to post information regarding the Clavering Sound Mirror dig be put on Hart Hub, to write to invite representatives to attend PC meeting to discuss Electric Forecourt.

Councillor Britcliffe then gave Parish and Ward Councillors a brief update on the number of renewable energy applications currently agreed or being requested around Hart, using a map to identify the concentration of these. Councillor Littlefair was excluded from commenting on these and on the following planning application.

13. Planning Applications:

H/2022/0302 - Synchronous Condenser with ancillary infrastructure, landscaping etc - Land north of Hart Moor Farm. Councillors again expressed concern at the proliferation of applications for developments, related to renewable energy, that were in danger of turning the A179/Hart area into an industrial black spot. Cllr Britcliffe agreed to draft a response on behalf of HPC and forward it to the Clerk to put on the Planning Portal.

Action: Cllr Britcliffe to draft response, Clerk to put on Planning Portal when received.

14. Matters of Concern to Councillors: Cllr Parker raised a resident's concern about the lack of cover at the bus stop opposite the Village Hall, where children and residents often had to wait in the pouring rain; the resident asked if a canopy, over the bench situated there, could be provided. **Action:** Clerk to ask Peter Frost if this was the Borough Council's responsibility

15. Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council: 6.45pm Monday 14th November 2022 at Hart Village Hall.

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.37 pm



Minutes of Meeting held at 6.50 pm on Monday 14th November 2022 at Hart Village Hall

Present: Cllrs. T. Britcliffe (in the Chair), K. Brown and K. Park

In Attendance: M. Ireland, Clerk; Emma Harding, Planning Manager, and Rupert Salmon, Development Manager, Gridserve; PC Ben Hayes.

1. **Public Forum:** No members of the public being present, Cllr Britcliffe welcomed the presence of a Police Officer and invited the Gridserve representatives to give their presentation on the proposed Electric Forecourt on the A179, close to the A19. The company are proposing to build a network of these Electric Forecourts across the UK.

The site proposed is 84 hectares, much of which will be a solar farm, which will provide the electricity on site for a variety of electric vehicle charging points; excess energy produced will be sent via the National Grid to support their other sites around the country.

The solar panels will be on trackers to follow the sun, and these will be a maximum of 3metres tall. A battery storage facility (BESS) is included, but the representatives could not give us information on the height/size of this or explain nor explain why it was situated close to the road rather than at the point nearer to the 'industrial' type infrastructure already existing nearby.

The actual garage forecourt will cover around 2 acres and contain retail facilities and a caf . Also on site will be an Electric Vehicle leasing business, and an educational facility with a pedestrian walk around the solar farm.

Councillors were informed that a planning application had already been submitted, because of demand from the National Grid, though Gridserve would have much preferred to have consulted the PC beforehand - even though this has been in for scoping for over a year.

Of great concern to Councillors was the access to the site from the A179 being at the pinch point near the Sheraton junction, where there are traffic jams at morning and evening peak times - the very point at which so many accidents have occurred over the last couple of years, which would make it very difficult for vehicles to access the site. Cllr Britcliffe noted that at some point the road will be made fully dualled, and asked if the company had allowed for this - apparently not.

It was also noted there was little in the way of landscaping, and Councillors expressed concern at the further removal of precious farmland, which will further impact on the biodiversity of the area of Hart. There seemed to have been no thought given to the impact of this development on the residents of Hart village; the representatives stated the reduction in air pollution and noise, and the contribution the site will make to the UK economy, were seen as sufficient compensation - they were asked to reconsider this and contact the Clerk with the details they had been unable to provide during the meeting.

The Gridserve representatives left the meeting at 7.40pm.

2. **Apologies:** Cllrs Littlefair and Parker, Ward Cllrs Cassidy, Cook and Leedham.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None

4. **Police Report:** PC Ben Hayes was warmly welcomed. He informed that he had additional responsibility for Rural Issues in the Borough and, he stated, he would not make promises he could not keep, but he would try to attend as many PC meetings as possible. He noted a 'Drone' event had taken place on the 8th related to poaching, that he was liaising with colleagues in the Durham Constabulary, as many offences were close to the border between them, and that an unmarked police vehicle would be in the area in the next few weeks. He also informed of a 'Bike Build' event to be held on 16th December, from 9.30am to 4.30pm, and asked that this information be widely circulated, including children. Cllr Britcliffe expressed gratitude on behalf of all Councillors for his attendance. **Action:** Clerk to request Bike Build be posted on Hart Hub. *PC Hayes left the meeting at 7.59.*
5. **Minutes of Meeting held on 10th October 2022:** Cllr Britcliffe proposed and Cllr Park seconded the adoption of the minutes. All present being in agreement, it was **resolved** to accept the draft Minutes a true record.
6. **Matters Arising:** (a) **Car Park gate** - The Clerk noted no progress had been made as yet.
(b) **Defibrillator** - No information received from Ward Councillors.
7. **Councillor vacancy:** The Clerk informed that HBC had now requested the Parish Council co-opt another member. **Action:** Clerk to place notice of vacancy on Hart Hub.
8. **Removal of trees from land behind Millbank Close and Voltigeur Drive:** A resident had raised concern, via email, about a number of trees removed or hard pruned over the last few years. The Clerk noted the land in question belonged to the Borough Council. Councillors recognised the resident's concerns but noted that HBC had the legal right and a duty to manage their trees as they saw fit. **Action:** Clerk to inform resident.
9. **Chairman's Report:** Cllr Britcliffe reported that Cllr Littlefair had informed him, prior to the meeting that:
 - He had concerns about the number of street lights not functioning on the A179, especially the ones near the School Lane access, which made it dangerous for drivers exiting the village via this route
 - He had purchased 2 Christmas Trees, a 16' tree for the Village Hall and a 6' tree for the church; these would be collected on 23rd November.
10. **Ward Councillors' Report:** Cllr Cassidy had reported via email that the overgrown hedges reported at the October meeting had been cut by the Borough Council, with the support of the landowner, who would pay for the work. Councillors noted that nothing appeared to have been done about the wall at The Fens, reported to HBC many times.
11. **Maintenance Committee Report:** Cllr Park reported little had changed from the previous month. The Clerk had instructed the contractor to tidy the vegetation near the bridge, and noted that some of the potholes on Hart back Lane had been filled in.
12. **Financial Reports:** The Clerk presented the financial reports, which were **approved**.

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
Interest	<u>1.25</u>	Affordable Landscapes (grass cutting)	856.80
		Bank Charges	<u>12.00</u>
Total	1.25		868.80

The Clerk informed that the NJC agreed pay deal for 2022-23 had recently been announced. This was a flat rate across all pay scales plus, from April 2023, an extra day of holiday allowance; this would be pro rata for part-time employees such as herself. The effect of this would, if Councillors agreed, increase her pay to £13.45 per hour. It was **unanimously agreed** that the pay agreement be implemented, backdated to 1st April.

13. **Correspondence:** None
14. **Planning Applications:**
H/2022/0304 - Plot 8, Manor Park - **No Comment**

H/2022/0176 – Land at Nine Acres – **OBJECT** – Councillors noted this land had been allocated for 30 dwellings in the Local Plan, however the application was for 48 resulting in a much larger built environment, with the resultant loss of open space; ten fewer houses would help to mitigate this. The mix of 2, 3 4 and 5-bedroomed properties, with some allocated to social housing was welcomed, though there were concerns that none of the 4 bungalows was to be for sale – a considerable negative as bungalows were greatly needed locally. In fact, the design of the homes appeared to be very ‘run of the mill’ – not different to any other estate in the country, with no effort to make them visually integrate into the medieval village. It was also noted that the land allocated for leisure, which Hart village had requested, at the time of the Local Plan development, be a multi-use leisure facility with a fully equipped children’s play area, open space for ball games, dog exercise space and allotments, was considerably reduced and had no play area designated at all. Concern was expressed about the capacity of the school, already over-subscribed, to take the number of children anticipated from these extra family homes.

Councillors, whilst accepting that housing was allocated to this site in the Local Plan and Rural Plan, never-the-less expected the Borough Council to ensure that, as Hart lacks a village green, a fully equipped children’s play park and linked space for ball games is allocated in the final approved plan, as **an absolute minimum**. The land around the stream should also be planted to improve bio-diversity and wildlife, and also allow for people to walk their dogs, with the pumping station and sub-station disguised with appropriate planting. Section 106 contributions should be used to improve the road infrastructure around Hart village, with safe access into and out of the village onto the A179 a priority.

15. **Matters of Concern to Councillors:** Cllr Brown noted with concern the number of solar farms just over the border in Co. Durham, which all added to the cumulative effect on the Hart environment. The parish Council had not been consulted on some of these.

16. **Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council:** 6.45pm Monday 12th December 2022 at Hart Village Hall.

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.28 pm



Minutes of Meeting held at 6.45 pm on Monday 19th December 2022 at The Studio, Home Farm, Hart

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

In Attendance: M. Ireland, Clerk, Cllr Cassidy

The Chairman opened the meeting with an apology for the postponement from 12th December, due to the illness of both the Clerk and Cllr Britcliffe.

1. **Public Forum:** No members of the public present.
2. **Apologies:** Cllr Parker, Ward Cllrs Cook and Leedham.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None
4. **Police Report:** PCSO Hestor had submitted a written report giving statistics for incidents in the whole ward, none of these related to Hart village.
5. **Minutes of Meeting held on 14th November 2022:** Cllr Britcliffe proposed and Cllr Brown seconded the adoption of the minutes. All present being in agreement, it was **resolved** to accept the draft Minutes a true record.
6. **Matters Arising:** (a) **Car Park gate** - Cllr Park informed he would be making the planning application, and that he has received no further comments from residents. After a brief discussion, it was **agreed** to submit an application for a manual wooden gate, with an option to upgrade to an electronic gate later if it becomes feasible.

(b) **Defibrillator** - The Clerk reported receipt of a legal transfer agreement from HBC which would pass ownership of the defibrillator to Hart PC. Councillors, having read the agreement, noted this would also pass the costs of maintaining the machine to the Parish Council; Councillors unanimously **agreed to accept** the agreement and it was therefore **resolved** the Clerk should sign the transfer agreement and return it to HBC.
7. **Councillor vacancy:** Councillors noted that those they knew who might have been interested were often working away and could not therefore make a commitment at this time. It was therefore **agreed** to advertise the vacancy on the Notice Board, website, Village Life and Hart Hub. **Action:** Clerk to place notice of vacancy as agreed.
8. **Car Park:** Cllr Littlefair reported concern from residents about vehicles being parked overnight on the car park. After a brief discussion it was agreed that an A3 size notice be erected at the car park entrance, banning overnight parking. The Clerk was tasked with having the notice made by Ords as soon as possible.
9. **Chairman's Report:** Cllr Littlefair reported that:
 - He had been asked if the car park surface could be levelled; he and his men had done this, filling in a number of potholes;
 - He had donated Christmas trees to both the church and Village Hall;
 - He had attended the Civic Carol Service, held at Hart Church, at which the Lord Lieutenant of Durham and the Mayor of Hartlepool, had been present, though he noted that Hart Ward Councillors were not in attendance;

- Lighting on the A179 was becoming a major concern, with a number of streetlights not working;
- He had spoken with the school about cars parking everywhere without consideration for others;
- He planned to attend the next meeting of the Rural Crime Forum in January;
- He noted that Hartfields Surgery was making it extremely difficult for patients to make appointments.

All present thanked him for his donation of the Christmas trees.

10. Ward Councillor's Report: Cllr Cassidy reported there appeared to be a fault in the line which provided electricity for both the streetlights and signage on the A179; HBC officers were investigating this as a matter of urgency. The Next meeting of the Neighbourhoods Committee would take place on 23rd January and he extended an invitation to all to attend; he noted that due to budget pressures there would probably be a proposal to reduce the level of garden waste collection. Cllr Britcliffe highlighted concerns about the number of leaves on pavements, which were not being cleared, thus making them dangerous - it was noted that the last visit of the road sweeper had been made when the roads were frozen and it could not therefore pick up leaves and rubbish, so a waste of time and money.

11. Maintenance Committee Report: Cllr Park spoke to his report previously circulated. Of greatest concern was the lack signage on the A179 indicating the crossroads (Hart Back Lane and School House Lane) which was a safety requirement. Other items included Clevecoat Walk, where overgrown vegetation was a problem at the bridge, and the steps were in need of repair; the defibrillator (covered earlier in the meeting); speeding on Butts Lane - vehicles of all sorts are speeding, vehicles parked on grass verges are causing access problems and HBC have agreed to undertake a traffic calming survey of the whole village; The Chare Wall; the car park and future developments.

The report as noted with thanks to Cllr Park. It was agreed to remove the Clevecoat Walk issues from future reports. Cllr Littlefair reported that the new 40mph limit on Worset Lane was not being enforced. Concerns were expressed about the amount of mud and waste being left on the roads by contractors of developments on the village boundaries, e.g. High Tunstall.

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

Receipts:	£	Payments:	£
Interest	<u>1.86</u>	Pear Technology (Digital Mapping)	120.00
		D. M. Ireland (Salary and back pay)	743.52
		HMRC (PAYE)	185.88
		Bank Charges	<u>5.80</u>
Total	1.86		1,055.20

The Clerk informed that she had asked for a quoted from Spanglefish for hosting the website, this had been received in the sum of £130, excluding the domain name. Councillors **agreed** to transfer to Spanglefish when the webhosting was next renewed.

13. Budget/Precept 2023-24: The Clerk presented calculations as to the likely financial position at 31st March 2023, explaining that it was extremely difficult to predict anything with any degree of accuracy given the economy was in a state of freefall at present, the current rate of inflation being 11.2%; she talked through her figures, requesting Councillors consider whether her rationale was sound. All concurred with her forecast. The Clerk then presented calculations for 2023-24, again giving her rationale for each; the forecast, without any increase to the precept would be a deficit budget, but this could be offset by using reserves. All agreed with the Clerk's rationale for the figures, however there was some concern that not increasing the precept would leave very little capacity to deal with any major issues that might arise in the next 15 months. After some discussion it was unanimously **resolved** to increase the precept required by 3%.

14. Correspondence: None

15. Planning Applications:
H/2022/0326 - 13, Burns Close - **No Comment**

H/2022/0376 - Glebe Farm, Palace Row, Hart - **No Objection**, but request developer gives consideration to pedestrians crossing the road and to all villagers by wheel washing to ensure no mud is deposited on village roads.

County Durham Mineral and Waste Policies and Allocations consultation - no comment

16. Matters of Concern to Councillors:

- Cllr Britcliffe raised concern that the proposer of the second BESS had not yet been in touch with the Parish Council regarding issues raised, nor had the proposers of the Electric Forecourt.
- Cllr Quarmby raised concern about the waste bin in the Car Park, she felt it would be better placed near the picnic tables. She also noted the sign at the Field had been knocked off several times, Cllr Park having replaced it each time.
- Cllr Littlefair raised concern that the PC had not yet heard back from Peter Frost regarding the A179 plans - Cllr Cassidy agreed to follow this up. Cllr Britcliffe noted that Mr. Frost had also yet to produce the design options for South View parking.

Actions: Cllr Cassidy to speak with Peter Frost regarding concerns raised; Clerk to contact the development proposers; Cllr Littlefair/Cllr Brown to move car park waste bin closer to picnic tables.

17. Date of next Meeting of the Parish Council: 6.45pm Monday 9th January 2023 at Hart Village Hall. Cllr Quarmby gave her apologies for that meeting as she would be out of the country.

Meeting closed at 8.02pm.