

**Minutes of Hart Parish Council Monthly Meeting
held at 6.45pm on Monday 9th March 2026 in Hart Village Hall**

Present: Councillors John Littlefair, Tom Britcliffe, Stuart Brookes, Frank Lancaster, Joanne Quarmby

In Attendance: Clerk - Fiona Ford, PCSO Mark Say, Ward Councillors Rob Darby, Aaron Roy, Mike Young. One member of the public.

1. Police Report

PCSO Mark Say was welcomed to the meeting and presented a report for February. It was noted the post will work in conjunction with PC Martin Ashley.

There were 12 reports of ASB incidents, which is down 4 from January 2026 and 1 more than February 2025. There is a spread of incidents centring around the playground at Hartfields (6 incidents) with the other incidents spread through the rest of the ward. There were 22 incidents of Crime, a reduction of 11 from January and 9 less year on year. It is the lowest recorded crime per month during the past year and 56% reduction on the yearly average of 50 offences. Crimes are spread through the residential areas of the ward with only an odd few in the more rural areas. Other theft including shop theft accounting for 56% of all offences over the past year however since November these reports have dropped significantly. Violence against the person, which includes assault, harassment domestic incidents is the second largest crime category accounting for 23% of all incidents, followed by Criminal damage, 7% and vehicle crime and burglary both at 4%. 2026 so far is showing a general reduction in all crime however this reduction is at least in part expected for the season. The ward priorities are Off Road Bikes, Rural Crime and ASB.

PCSO Say reminded everyone that in an emergency contact 999 or 101 and sign up to Cleveland Connected to be kept up to date with what is going on in your area.

It was noted numerous gas canisters had been found through the village through litter picks. It was further noted that Operation Checkpoint is taking place over the next week which will concentrate on rural crime.

2. Public Forum

A discussion took place regarding the proposed Nine Acres development. There were concerns that only 3 houses had been allocated as affordable housing. Councillor Britcliffe advised the number will be based on an affordability assessment. Whilst the affordable homes are welcome, the Parish Council have requested that whoever the provider of the homes, prioritises those with a housing need who are a resident in the village or have long existing connections, as housing affordably is an issue, especially for young people.

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor John Wilson.

4. Declarations of Interest

None.

5. Minutes of the Meetings held on 9th February 2026

The minutes were accepted as a true record.

6. Matters Arising

- a) **South View Car Parking** – Still awaiting budget estimate from HBC. Councillor Britcliffe to chase.
- b) **CCTV** – Still awaiting a response. Councillor Darby advised he is still looking at options.
- c) **Car Park Gate** – Still awaiting the decision, however Historic England have conditioned the approval advising we will need to appoint an archaeologist to produce a Written Scheme of Investigation
- d) **A179** – Councillor Britcliffe to chase up progress from HBC.

7. Chairman's Report

Councillor Littlefair provided an update on the following:

- Bus Stop at Fens, needs a new surface and flag adding to the pole. Councillor Darby to raise with HBC.
- Benches – Millview next to old Police House, near the Raby Arms, Triangle at Butts Lane, Church Car Park – need to be repaired/repainted. Clerk to obtain quotes.
- Tees Valley Crime Prevention Forum – The speed of traffic on A179 was raised as a concern.
- Naisberry Lane has been closed.
- Rural Plan Group – looking for additional members

8. Ward Councillor's Report

Councillors Darby and Roy provided an update on the following:

- A resident has raised a query with the boundary Fence between the Raby Arms car park and grassed area as it is falling down. Speak to the Raby Arms in the first instance.
- A meeting is being organised with Peter Frost to run through the outstanding issues.

9. Maintenance Committee Report

Councillor Brookes to complete the user agreement and undertake the training to enable reporting via the Portal.

10. Financial Report

The following cheques were signed:

100986	F Ford wages (February 2026)	£253.16
100987	HMRC (February 2026)	£63.40
100988	F Ford (expenses)	92.36
		£408.92

11. Correspondence

A request had been via the Hartlepool Rural Plan Group to ensure the requests for 106 monies are allocated against suitable potential projects. Councillor Britcliffe advised that it had previously been agreed planning contributions should be used towards the Heart of Hart Project, (the wall and marking out the heritage of the Great House). It was agreed the following should also be included:

- Alleviating issues on the A179, including improving access onto the A179 via traffic lights at the top of the village.
- Affordable housing should be prioritised to those with a housing need who are either resident in the village or have long term connections to the village through families.

12. Planning Applications

No planning applications to comment on.

13. Matters of Concern to Councillors

The following items were noted:

- The light at Nine Acres has still not been repaired, despite numerous reports into HBC.
- The fencing at the Glebe layby has come down. Clerk to contact Tim Win at HBC Estates Department and ask if the Council still own the land and are they any plans for it. Is it possible to have the layby reinstated.
- Concerns around a Gentoo van parking on Front Street opposite South blocking the footpath
- A planning application South of Elwick Road, High Tunstall School had been submitted, however it was noted it was dependant on the Elwick Bypass being complete.

14. Date of next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday 20th April 2026 (third week due to holidays) at 6.45 pm.

Signature _____