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**HOATH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2015.**

Present: Councillors Sue Chapman (chair), John Williams, Adele Wright, Jonathan Moore. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk and CCC), Alan Marsh (KCC) and 8 members of the public.

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1. **Apologies**

None.

1. **Declaration of members’ interests**

None.

1. **Minutes of the last meeting and any matters arising**

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

1. **CCC and KCC reports**

Guy Foster (CCC) reported as follows:

* He has distributed seven of the mayor’s Christmas hampers to Hoath residents.
* A new litter bin had been installed by the school entrance.
* The latest draft of the local plan was now out to consultation. The major change had been to include land at Thanington as development land but not the former colliery land at Hersden.

Alan Marsh (KCC) reported that he was working on resolving the problem of blocked drains in the village. He also referred to the CCC plan and the issues around infrastructure.

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At this point the meeting was adjourned to allow comments from members of the public. The following matters were raised:

* A defibrillator was shortly to be installed at the village hall.
* The ditch at Rushbourne needed clearing. A local landowner is apparently dealing with this.
* The bramble bush by the Church Road/Hoath Road junction was still obstructing the view of oncoming traffic. The general consensus was that this was a candidate for a “self-help” solution.

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1. **Planning**

There were no matters to be considered.

1. **Report of the clerk/RFO**

The clerk reported that the end-November cashbook and bank balance was £15,443.98.

The following were approved for payment:

1. Clerk: November £341.42 (salary £315.19, expenses £26.23)
2. Grassmow Services £120.00.

Precept 2016/17

The clerk had tabled some figures and had recommended that the total funding requirement for 2016/17 be kept unchanged from that for the current year at £6,500.00. After discussion, it was unanimously resolved to accept this recommendation. The PC is informed by CCC that of this funding, £365.22 will come via Council Tax Support Grant, leaving £6,134.78 to be funded via the precept.

Correspondence:

* Email from CCC asking about Queen’s birthday celebrations. Current thinking was to hold a village dinner on June 11th.
* Updates re CCC local plan consultation
* Email from KALC re appointment of auditors under the new rules (effective in a couple of years time). It seems that, unless we opt out of this arrangement, an external auditor will be appointed by KALC although we can elect to be exempt from an external audit. However, we will still need to have an external auditor who can give independent answers to any queries on the figures.
* Briefing from KALC re the new workplace pensions rules. Although the PC will not have to provide a pension for the clerk (because of the *de minimis* provisions), it appears it will still have to register under the new regime.
1. **Councillors’ reports**

Cllr Wright congratulated all those responsible for the excellent Hoath pantomime. Cllr Wright also expressed her concerns about road safety.

Cllr Williams said he would erect the new finger-post over the Christmas period.

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1. **To consider a donation to Holy Cross church.**

The church was trying to raise money for electrical upgrades. After discussion, it was resolved to donate £200.

1. **Date of next meeting.**

This was confirmed as Monday January 11th at 8 p.m. It was agreed to keep meetings in 2016 to the second Monday of the month at 8 p.m., excluding August when there would be no meeting.

**Guy Foster**

*Clerk to Hoath Parish Council*

December 21st 2015.

Signed as a true record \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_