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**HOATH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2020.**

Present: Councillors Sue Chapman (chair), John Williams, Adele Wright, Jilly Baker, Carol Foster. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Rachel Carnac (CCC) and three members of the public.

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**This meeting was held on-line using Zoom.**

The meeting opened with a presentation by Keeley Atkinson of the Kent Wildlife Trust on the “wilder Blean project”. This involves introducing animals such as bison, pigs and Exmoor ponies to an area of Blean woods. The aim is to create a model for a more biodiverse ecosystem. An educational programme will be a key feature.

The chair thanked Keeley for a very interesting presentation. Keeley can be contacted at [blean@wilderkent.org.uk](mailto:blean@wilderkent.org.uk) or [keeley.atkinson@kentwildelife.org.uk](mailto:keeley.atkinson@kentwildelife.org.uk). There is a web-site with more information at <https://www.kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/wilderblean>.

1. **Apologies**

None received.

1. **Declaration of members’ interests**

None.

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

The minutes of the November meeting were agreed as tabled as a true record.

1. **CCC and KCC reports**

Rachel Carnac (CCC) spoke of the ground works being undertaken at Heart in Hand. The enforcement officer will be visiting. She also spoke of the legal action taken by CCC in respect of unauthorised works at Hollow Street, Chislet.

CFG should continue unchanged for the next two years at least.

1. **Planning**

Application CA/20/02579 (Rushbourne Manor): as this is just request for guidance, there are

no grounds for comment by the PC.

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

The following payments were unanimously approved:

1. Clerk: November (net) £347.04
2. KALC (donation re clerk overtime) £30.00

The cash book and bank balance at the end of November was £25,117.97.

**Correspondence, etc**

Letters of resignation from Cllrs Foster and Baker have been received, to be effective at the close of this meeting. Unless the necessary number of electors request an election, the intention is to co-opt new members at the next meeting.

1. **Councillors’ reports**

Cllr Chapman reported as follows:

* There will be no mayor’s hampers this year.
* The play group is short of staff. Attempts are being made to remedy this but its future is currently uncertain, which is a concern.
* The airfield is closing on January 11th. There are various rumours as to its development. This will need careful watching.

Cllr Wright said she has put a Christmas tree on the traffic island by her house. She reported that locals had raised concerns about the heavy use of “Round Up” weed killer by farmers; the removal of hedgerows; the disregard for footpath routes. The clerk was asked to write to the farm company concerned.

Cllr Chapman closed the meeting by thanking Cllrs Foster and Baker for their valued service and wishing everybody a merry Christmas.

1. **Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting date was confirmed as **Monday 11th January** at 5.30 p.m. It seems likely that once again this will be via Zoom.

**Guy Foster**

*Clerk to Hoath Parish Council*

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