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**HOATH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2016.**

Present: Councillors Sue Chapman (chair), Carol Foster, John Williams, Jill Baker, Adele Wright. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Alan March (KCC) and 5 members of the public.

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1. **Apologies**

Ann Taylor of CCC had sent apologies. Alan Marsh (KCC) had advised he would be late arriving.

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**

*[Note: this item was taken after “public time” due to Mr Marsh’s delayed arrival]*. Mr Marsh (KCC) reported that more money had been made available by central government to be spent on roads. In particular, he mentioned Marley Lane but he was urged to look at more deserving roads, notably Hoath Road where the surface is very bad in places. In the light of the points raised by members of the public, there was considerable discussion of problems on the Ford Hill/Maypole Road/Hoath Road route. Mr Marsh said that central white lines would not help and was not especially forthcoming with other suggestions, citing KCC’s lack of funds. He asked that the PC write to him on the subject.

1. **To review the traffic problems on the Ford Hill/Maypole Road/Hoath Road route.**

There was much discussion of the problems on this route, particularly with reference to the recent accident. It was agreed to write to Mr Marsh and Mrs Taylor (CCC) seeking help with a variety of measures to improve safety, such as a central white line, better signage and chicanes.

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

* There was further discussion of the recent accident at Hoath Road and it was suggested that white lines were needed down the middle of the road, as well as other traffic calming measures and better signage.
* There were reports of fly-tipping.
* The oil drum was still present at the school.
* There had been further problems with buses being blocked by parked cars at the Prince of Wales. It was suggested the landlord be asked to try to prevent this. The next step would be yellow lines.
* A notice in the parish magazine asking people to observe speed limits was suggested.
* The phone box looks a mess. The question of the parish council adopting it was raised. The chairman said that the problem was that no one had come forward with a viable plan for its use.
* There is a bent railing in front of the school. Mr Marsh will take a look. It is likely to be an issue either for the school or Kent Highways.

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1. **Planning**

Applications considered:

CA/16/02698/VAR: it was unanimously resolved to object. It was felt that the condition which the applicant was seeking to have removed was still relevant.

CA/16/02599/LUP: no objections.

CA/16/02278/FUL: no objections.

It was noted that the application at the Old Rectory had been approved.

1. **To consider the KCC voluntary warden scheme.**

This was discussed and all agreed it was a good idea. The idea of sharing a warden with Chislet was discussed but it was felt that this would stretch the resources of one warden too thinly. Consequently, the clerk was asked to write to KCC expressing Hoath’s interest in having its own warden.

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

The clerk reported that the end-November cashbook balance was £17,210.40. This had been reconciled to the bank balance of £17,796.69.

The following payments were approved:

1. Clerk: November (net) £286.82

**Precept for 2017/18**

In the light of the possible expense of a warden (see above) and the recent advice from CCC that the council tax support grant would be cut by 50% next year, this subject was revisited.

After discussion it was resolved to confirm the previous meeting’s resolution to maintain the total funding requirement for 2017/18 at the current level of £6,500.00. Given the council tax support grant of £182.61, this would imply a precept element of £6,317.39 which would be an increase of just under 3% on the current year.

**Correspondence**

The clerk drew the meeting’s attention to the following items:

1. Update on the Richborough Connection process: the inspector has completed his work but his recommendation to the minister will not be made until March.
2. There is a “call for sites” in respect of the KCC minerals and waste plan.
3. **Councillors’ reports**

There were no further reports at this juncture.

1. **Date of next meeting.**

This was confirmed as Monday January 9th at 8 p.m. It was agreed to keep to the current schedule of having meetings on the second Monday of the month with no meeting in August.

**Guy Foster**

*Clerk to Hoath Parish Council*

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