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**HOATH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2018.**

Present: Councillors Sue Chapman, Carol Foster, John Williams. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Alan Marsh (KCC) and eleven members of the public.

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1. **Apologies**

Cllrs Baker and Wright had sent apologies as had Ann Taylor of CCC.

1. **Declaration of members’ interests**

None.

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

The minutes were agreed as tabled and signed as a true record.

1. **CCC and KCC reports**

For KCC, Alan Marsh reported on recent damage to road signs as a result of a local lorry accident.

He said the KCC budget would be finalised next week with a likely council tax increase of around 5.5%.

He recommended the PC write to the new KCC cabinet member for highways to put the Hoath case for traffic calming measures.

Cllr Williams enquired about the waste voucher scheme that Mr Marsh had proposed some time ago. Mr Marsh was unable to offer any reassurance that this scheme would be introduced in the foreseeable future.

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

* The blocked drain in Church Road was cleared by a resident. Clearly, this should have been done by KCC.
* Similarly, a pot-hole in Barn Close was being repaired by a resident.
* Litter: this was a problem. Perhaps we should have a village tidy up day soon? Perhaps we could pay someone to litter pick on a continuing basis?

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* Warnings were raised as to suspicious individuals knocking on doors, purportedly to ask for directions and telephone scams, notably those mentioning the DWP.
* The fallen tree was still blocking a path in Blean woods. It was thought this had been reported some time ago. The clerk will check.

The chairman took great pleasure in presenting flowers to Betty Todd to celebrate her 90th birthday.

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1. **To consider bus issues**

There was a rumour that the local bus service was to be ended. But the PC and Alan Marsh of KCC were quite sure this was untrue.

1. **To consider the new data protection regulations**

The key implication of GDPR was the need to appoint a Data Protection Officer and the wording of the law meant the clerk was unable to fulfil this role. Having volunteered, the chairman was unanimously elected to the position.

1. **Planning**

Application CA//18/00031/FUL: no objections

The grant of CA//17/02549/FUL was noted.

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

The clerk reported that the end-January cash book balance was £15,721.80 which was been reconciled to the bank balance of £18,150.93.

The following payments were approved:

1. Clerk: January (net) £285.95
2. CPRE £36.00
3. Action with communities in rural Kent £50.00

Voluntary warden scheme: we are still looking for a volunteer. All were encouraged to publicise this. KCC are to re-launch the scheme soon.

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There was as yet no news from KCC of a date to install the village “gates”.

1. **Councillors’ reports**

There was nothing further to report.

1. **Date of next meeting.**

The next meeting was confirmed as Monday March 12th 2018 at 8 p.m.

The clerk gave apologies that he would be unable to attend the meeting scheduled for June 11th. After discussion **it was agreed to move the June meeting to June 4th at 5 p.m.**

**Guy Foster**

*Clerk to Hoath Parish Council*

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