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**HOATH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2019.**

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

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1. **Apologies**

Cllr Wright had sent apologies as had Ann Taylor of CCC.

1. **Declaration of members’ interests**

Cllr Foster declared an interest in respect of agenda item 8 as the wife of the clerk.

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

The minutes were agreed as tabled as a true record.

1. **CCC and KCC reports**

For KCC, Alan Marsh reported:

* KCC is in the process of setting its budget for 2019/20. Although money is tight, Kent is in a much better financial position than some other counties.
* There will be more money in the budget for dealing with pot-holes. Mr Marsh encouraged people to let him know directly of any pot-holes which needed fixing.

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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 footpath opposite the church is suffering from dog fouling. Clearly, this is a common problem nationwide and is very hard to resolve but the PC will look into measures such as signs and a notice in the parish magazine.

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1. **Planning**

Application CA//19/00122/LUE (White Horse Cottage). This is a technical matter and no new construction is involved. The PC had no objections but did not fully understand the background, which involved agricultural usage. Ann Taylor may be able to help clarify.

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

The clerk reported that the end-January bank and cash book balance was £17,439.72.

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The following payments were approved:

1. Clerk January (net) £291.17
2. HMRC (PAYE Oct/Nov/Dec) £196.80
3. Village Hall (rent) £270.00
4. CPRE subscription £36.00

Correspondence, etc:

* The clerk has contacted CCC about the litter problem. No useful response as yet.
* KCC continues to chase for confirmation that the work at the church (in respect of which they paid a grant to the PC) has been completed. The clerk in turn is chasing the PCC.
* Airfield days for 2019 have been notified to the PC and posted on the web-site.
1. **To consider repair/replacement of the broken notice board**

After discussion it was agreed that it would not be a sensible use of funds to repair or replace this board (the one near the church) as it was little used, mainly due to its location.

1. **To review the terms and conditions of the clerk**

Having declared an interest, Cllr Foster withdrew from the meeting.

Following discussion and further to discussions at previous meetings, it was unanimously resolved to increase the clerk’s paid hours from 1st April 2019 to 7.5 from the current 6.5. It was noted that following a review of national pay scales, the clerk’s hourly rate will be increased to £11.91 from the same date.

1. **Councillors’ reports**

Cllr Foster had inspected the play area. There are no significant issues, other than those previously noted. Following such discussion of fencing issues at the play area, Cllr Baker had brought a metal spike to the meeting which she thought might help solve the problem. The clerk undertook to have a look at this. It was also suggested that scaffolding boards might be another solution and the clerk undertook to look into this too.

1. **Date of the next meetings**

The **March meeting** date was problematic owing to the clerk’s holiday arrangements. After discussion it was resolved to cancel the March meeting. If an urgent need arose, a meeting would be rearranged for late March.

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**April meeting**: this will go ahead as planned on April 8th. Cllr Baker gave advance apologies for having to miss this.

**May meeting:** this will be brought forward to May 6th due to the chair’s holiday arrangements. As usual it will also be the date of the annual parish meeting and the annual PC meeting. At the moment, there are no plans for any material agenda for the parish meeting.

**Guy Foster**

*Clerk to Hoath Parish Council*

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