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**HOATH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 2021.**

Present: Councillors Sue Chapman (chair), John Williams, Adele Wright, Tina Keeble, Jane Cusack. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Alan Marsh (KCC), and one member of the public.

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

1. **Apologies**

Rachel Carnac (CCC) had sent apologies.

1. **Declaration of members’ interests**

None.

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

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

1. **CCC and KCC reports**

Alan Marsh (KCC) said it was likely that KCC would approve a council tax increase of 4.99% which included 3% specifically for social care.

A £10m emergency package had been launched know as “Helping Hands”. The person to contact to access this is Scarlett Elworthy on 03000 411873 or scarlett.elworthy@kent.gov.uki

1. **Planning**

There were no specific planning matters to consider. Cllr Chapman has had a recent update from Rachel Carnac in respect of the works at Heart in Hand and Hollow St.

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

The following payments were unanimously approved:

1. Clerk: January (net) £347.04
2. CPRE (subscription renewal) £36.00

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At end-January, the cash book balance was £25,165.52, reconciled to the bank balance of £25,195.52. These figures include a donation of £1,030 originally made to the youth club which has now been passed to the parish council.

**Bank mandate**: it was unanimously resolved to add Cllrs Keeble and Cusack to the mandate. It was also unanimously resolved to give the clerk the authority to progress on-line banking arrangements. The clerk said he would need to visit members to obtain their signatures on the relevant forms. Ex-members would be removed from the mandate.

**New village green:** it will be necessary to appoint solicitors to handle our side of this transaction. As no one had any firm recommendations, the clerk said he would contact some local firms.

**Play area:** Cllr Chapman is due to meet the new play group manager and will see if there is any interest in them taking over this site from the PC.

1. **Councillors’ reports**

Cllr Williams reported on a local campaign to improve internet speeds in Hoath.

Cllr Cusack reported on seeing people with guns in East Blean woods.

Cllr Chapman announced that she is resigning as a member of Hoath PC with effect from the date of signing cheques and minutes relating to this meeting. She had become tired of personal attacks on her from one or two locals.

The meeting thanked Cllr Chapman for her years of hard work; it was much to be lamented that some residents didn’t appreciate the hard work of unpaid PC members, particularly Cllr Chapman who Cllr Williams praised as the best chair of the PC he had known during his long tenure.

1. **Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting date was confirmed as **Monday 8th March** 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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_