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**HOATH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2016.**

Present: Councillors Sue Chapman (chair), Adele Wright, John Williams. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk and CCC), Alan Marsh (KCC) and 20 members of the public.

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1. **Apologies**

Cllr Moore was unwell.

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**

Alan Marsh (KCC) said he was present mainly to listen to views expressed on the housing/village green proposal and would do all he could to help. Mr Marsh also referred to the recent news that Sainsbury would not be opening their new store at Hillborough.

For CCC, Mr Foster also referred to the Sainsbury issue. He felt the key point was whether any of the s.106 money due to be paid by Sainsbury to fund improvements in local infrastructure was threatened by this. Mr Foster felt this was unlikely but the position was currently unclear.

Mr Foster reported on the CCC budget approval and subsequent rise in council tax. He was due to attend a meeting of the Herne Bay Area Members’ Panel tomorrow and the following day a meeting with CCC officers to discuss the various local road improvements in the draft local plan.

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

* Hoath should do more to combat the menace of litter. The example of Chislet, who have a paid litter picker, was mentioned. The Chairman agreed we should think about this although various worthy individuals already do a great deal voluntarily.
* The question of speeding traffic was raised once again. Mr Marsh explained how hard it was to get speed limits imposed and/or extended.

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* The village green/housing proposal was raised. An extended deadline for comments was requested. The PC felt that the consultation had already been quite thorough and residents were in any case free to provide comments to the PC or direct to the developer at any time. But so far, very few comments had been received.
* Stile opposite the church: could this be replaced by a kissing gate or otherwise altered so as to make the footpath more accessible? The footpath warden undertook to have a look and to speak to KCC as necessary.
* Thanks were given to those who helped to relocate church activities to the village hall last weekend, when the church was out of action.
* It was noted that footpaths were being used by horses. All agreed that this shouldn’t happen but of course there was an acute shortage of bridleways.

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1. **Planning**

Hoath school plans: there were no objections.

National Grid: it was resolved to object to the plans currently lodged with the Secretary of State. The overwhelming preference of the public was to place the power lines underground or to bring them ashore at the Isle of Grain and link into the grid at that point.

The village green/housing proposal: clearly opinion was split, although only 4 objections had been received and the mood of the public meeting in February had been generally supportive. But the chairman agreed to talk to the landowner, relay the views received by the PC and suggest that the publication of more detailed plans would be helpful.

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

The clerk reported that the end-February cashbook and bank balance was £14,245.72.

The following were approved for payment:

1. Clerk: February £341.42 (salary £315.19, expenses £26.23)
2. Action with communities in rural Kent subscription: £50.00
3. Campaign to protect rural England subscription: £36.00.
4. Hoath village hall – rent: £70.00

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Correspondence:

* A letter had been received from a resident complaining about SERCO lorries using the Maypole Road route and kerb visibility issues at Ford Hill. The clerk undertook to contact SERCO on the first issue and reported that he had already notified Alan Marsh of KCC on the second point.

1. **Councillors’ reports**

Cllr Wright was pleased to report that the fly-tipped rubbish near her home had been removed.

1. **Date of next meeting.**

This was confirmed as **Monday April 4th** at 8 p.m. It should be noted that this is a change from the originally scheduled date.

**Guy Foster**

*Clerk to Hoath Parish Council*

March 9th 2016.

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