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**HOATH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2017.**

Present: Councillors Carol Foster, John Williams, Jilly Baker. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Alan Marsh (KCC) and 3 members of the public.

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In the absence of Cllr Chapman, Cllr Williams took the chair.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Chapman and Wright. Ann Taylor of CCC had also sent apologies.

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**

*[Mr Marsh (KCC) dealt with various matters notes of which have been excluded from these minutes in case their inclusion might be deemed to be in breach of the “purdah” rules surrounding the forthcoming KCC elections. There is in any case no obligation to include such notes in the minutes but a revised version of these minutes may be prepared following the election.]*

Mr Marsh reported that KCC had been awarded significant extra funding for social care by the government.

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

Cllr Williams noted that there had been a further accident on this route.

The letter from Cllr Balfour (KCC) was noted. It offered no financial support to address these traffic problems. However, it did offer to help if the PC was prepared to provide funding from its own resources. Given the absence of 40% of PC members at this meeting, it was resolved to defer further consideration of this to the net meeting.

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

* Works at the industrial estate (thought to be the one near the mushroom farm) were reported. The PC had no knowledge of these but in any case from the description it sounded like they were in Chislet parish.
* It was difficult to leave the parish hall car park safely, especially if cars were parked opposite: could a mirror be installed? The PC agreed this was a problem and that cars parked in that area forced traffic onto the wrong side of the road on a blind bend which was clearly very dangerous. The PC would give further consideration to this.

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1. **Planning**

CA//17/00228/LUP: as this was merely a request for a lawful planning certificate, the PC offered no comment.

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

The clerk reported that the end-February cashbook balance was £16,219.07. This had been reconciled to the bank balance of £16,351.36.

The following payments were approved:

1. Clerk: February (net) £283.57

**Concurrent Function Grant**

The clerk reported that the new-style contract for this, covering the 4 year term from 2017/18 had just been received from CCC. We already knew that the amount of money awarded to Hoath was woefully inadequate but our protestations had been to no avail. We now discovered that the contract was very heavy-handed and included clauses which were either onerous or inappropriate. In an ideal world, we would not sign it but this would be pointless as we would simply lose funding.

It was therefore unanimously resolved to sign the contract, albeit reluctantly and to make the PC’s views known to CCC.

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**Voluntary warden scheme**

The clerk had received booklets about this which he distributed: this scheme was now in the recruitment phase and all present were urged to “put the word out”.

**Correspondence**

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

* Cllr Ann Taylor (CCC) had responded positively to our email re anti-social behaviour by certain residents in Heath House.
1. **Councillors’ reports**

Cllr Foster noted further instances locally of fly-tipping, She felt that more local recycling facilities would help.

1. **Date of next meeting.**

This was confirmed as Monday April 10th at 8 p.m.

**Guy Foster**

*Clerk to Hoath Parish Council*

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