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**HOATH PARISH COUNCIL**

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

Present: Councillors Sue Chapman, Carol Foster, John Williams, Jilly Baker. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk) and five 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**

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**

No KCC or CCC representatives were present.

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

* Litter: this is a major problem. It was suggested that under the 1983 Litter Act, the local council can be compelled to act. The clerk said he would look into this.

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1. **To consider the problem of litter in the parish.**

The chairman reported that she had undertaken a fair amount of research on this topic. Her conclusion was that it was too problematic and/or costly to pay a litter-picker or organise a public clean-up. So we should put pressure on CCC and also individuals were of course very welcome to do their own public-spirited litter picking.

1. **Planning**

There were no planning matters to be considered.

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

The clerk reported that the end-February cash book balance was £15,649.85 which had been reconciled to the bank balance of £15,735.85.

The following payments were approved:

1. Clerk: February (net) £286.06
2. Grassmow Services £448.00

The clerk reported that he had spoken to Grassmow Services who were happy to continue for the next year at an unchanged price.

The village “gates” are in place on Ford Hill and Hoath Road and look good.

The clerk had contacted Kent Wildlife Trust about the fallen tree in East Blean Woods but had so far had only an acknowledgement. There was discussion on the topic of perhaps having extra signs put by the gates.

1. **Councillors’ reports**

The chairman spoke about the recent vandalism of the dog waste bin and noted that a call to the Street Team at CCC had led to a rapid replacement of the bin by SERCO.

She suggested a village “spruce up” might be a good idea, to include such items as flower troughs. All agreed this would be well worth considering. Costs to be looked into.

1. **Date of next meeting.**

The next meeting was confirmed as Monday April 9th 2018 at 8 p.m.

**Guy Foster**

*Clerk to Hoath Parish Council*

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