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**HOATH PARISH COUNCIL**

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

Present: Councillors John Williams Chair), Adele Wright, Tina Keeble, Jane Cusack, Jo Millward. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Rachel Carnac (CCC) and Ben Fitter-Harding (CCC).

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

1. **Apologies**

None.

1. **Declaration of members’ interests**

None.

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

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

1. **To consider the co-option of a new member**

Having previously expressed an interest in being co-opted, Jo Millward put her name forward. She was proposed by Cllr Williams and seconded by Cllr Wright and it was unanimously resolved that she be co-opted as a member of Hoath PC with immediate effect.

1. **To elect a chairman**

Following the resignation of Cllr Chapman, it was necessary to elect a new chair. Cllr Cusack expressed a willingness to serve. She was proposed by Cllr Keeble, seconded by Cllr Williams and it was unanimously resolved she become chair with effect from the next meeting.

1. **KCC and CCC reports**

Ben Fitter-Harding introduced himself as the leader of CCC. He gave a short presentation on the key issues on CCC’s agenda. These were the newly brought in-house waste and housing services, enforcement and supporting the local economy. He explained that CCC’s income had been badly hit by reduced parking revenue during the pandemic.

He also spoke of the local plan review, currently underway and expected to be concluded by summer this year, much quicker than last time. He invited questions. Cllr Williams asked about the infrastructure needed to support the enormous increase in housing that was envisaged. Mr Fitter-Harding explained that the houses were necessary to pay for the

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infrastructure. In response to other comments he also said that the issue of conservation areas need to be addressed as they were not always operating as originally envisaged.

Rachel Carnac added that she had made sure the effect of traffic through Hoath would be a consideration in the large Hillborough planning appeal. She also mentioned that CCC had obtained an injunction prohibiting development at Hollow Street in Chislet.

1. **To appoint solicitors in respect of the gift of land to the PC**

The clerk had obtained quotes from two local firms. Mr Stephen Parry of Parry Law was by far the cheaper at £250 (plus VAT). It was therefore unanimously resolved to appoint Parry Law to deal with this matter.

1. **Planning**

There were no specific matters to consider.

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

The following payment was unanimously approved:

1. Clerk: February (net) £347.24

The Air Ambulance service had written to request a donation. Having donated last year, it was unanimously resolved to donate £100 to this worthy cause.

At end-February, the cash book balance was £24,782.48, reconciled to the bank balance of £24,848.48.

**Bank mandate**: following the resolution at the last meeting, the clerk had obtained the necessary signatures, contacted the bank and had received various items of correspondence for Cllrs Keeble and Cusack which he would deliver. However, he had yet to receive the necessary authorisation to enable him to deal with matters on-line. He will chase the bank.

**Play area:** the clerk has been contacted by the new manager of the play group and has responded offering to meet but a reply is awaited.

1. **Councillors’ reports**

Cllrs Keeble and Wright both expressed concerns about farmers cutting down hedges and trees.

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Cllr Cusack though it might be a good idea if we set up a Facebook page and/or Whatsapp group. All agreed.

1. **Date of the next meeting**

The next meeting date was confirmed as **Monday 12th April** 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: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_