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**HOATH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 8th May 2017.**

Present: Councillors Sue Chapman, Carol Foster, John Williams, Jilly Baker. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Alan Marsh (KCC), Ann Taylor (CCC) and 7 members of the public.

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1. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Wright.

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**

Mrs Taylor (CCC) congratulated Mr Marsh on his re-election to KCC. She apologised that she was rarely able to attend Hoath PC meetings but she had a long-standing commitment which clashed. Mrs Taylor reported that money was very tight at CCC. The well-publicised merger with neighbouring authorities which had been designed to save money would not now go ahead as Shepway council had rejected it. Other money-saving ideas would be needed.

Mr Marsh reported that the new KCC had 81 members, three fewer than previously, of which 67 were Conservatives. The official opposition party was now the liberal Democrats who had 6 seats.

Mr Marsh intends to obtain enough 30 mph stickers for everyone’s waste bins; hopefully this would help slow traffic.

KCC was developing a new proposal to allow vans to use tips at a reduced cost. If implemented, this ought to help the fight against fly-tipping.

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

* It was noted that the Rogation Walk would be on 21st May starting at 10.00 a.m. from the Blean woods car park. Lunch in the village hall at 1 pm.
* The overgrown hedge near the Old Oast in Maypole Lane has apparently been attended to.

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

Cllr Chapman reported that the PC had written to KCC saying we might well be prepared to spend some money on this issue (and of course a grant had been received, thanks to Alan Marsh.) Following this, we had a visit from a Kent Highways officer and drove up and down the route in question. Our aspirations were made clear to him and we await further news.

1. **Accounts and Annual Return for 2016/17**

These were tabled by the clerk. A significant surplus was reported, thanks partly to the grant referred to above which had not yet been spent. The accounts had been approved by the internal auditor. The clerk drew the meeting’s attention to the annual governance statement. This was considered along with the accounts and both were unanimously approved. The return was then duly signed by the chair and the clerk/RFO.

1. **Insurance**

The clerk tabled a renewal quotation from Came & Co. After discussion it was unanimously resolved to accept this.

1. **Planning**

CA/17/00228/LUP: CCC’s “would be lawful” decision was noted. There were no other matters to be considered.

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

The clerk reported that the end- April cashbook balance was £16,707.70. Bank statement not yet received.

Grass cutting: further to the resolution at the previous meeting it had been established by the clerk that the contractor was prepared to continue for 2017/18 at an unchanged cost.

The following payments were approved:

1. Clerk: April (net) £293.32
2. Grassmow Services £120.00
3. Eric Fewkes (internal auditor) £125.00
4. Came & Co (insurance) £460.67

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Voluntary warden scheme: we are still looking for a volunteer. The clerk had placed some text on this in the parish magazine and on the web-site. All were encouraged to publicise this.

1. **Councillors’ reports**

There was discussion on the subject of fly-tipping. It was hoped that the proposal mentioned by Alan Marsh would help.

1. **Date of next meeting.**

The next meeting is confirmed for June 12th at 8 p.m.

**Guy Foster**

*Clerk to Hoath Parish Council*

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