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**HOATH PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2018.**

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

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1. **Apologies**

None.

1. **Declaration of members’ interests**

None.

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

The minutes were agreed as tabled as a true record.

1. **CCC and KCC reports**

For KCC Alan Marsh reported that he was to meet with Kent Highways personnel on Friday so would appreciate advice as to the major pot-hole problems.

He was unable to help with an extension of the speed limit.

He passed over a large number of new 30 m.p.h. posters for onward distribution.

For CCC, Ann Taylor reported that the Local Governance review had nearly reached its conclusion. It seemed there would be no implications for Hoath.

She had been involved with a number of meetings in connection with the planned development at Hillborough.

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

* Part of a hedgerow in School Lane was obstructing the road. Cllr Wright said she had a slight acquaintance with the relevant property owners and would try and speak to them.
* The overhanging hedgerow at the Old Oast: the PC was sure the owners had received planning permission to build a wall so the expectation was that the hedgerow would go in due course.

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1. **Accounts and Annual Return for 2017/18**

The accounts and return were tabled by the clerk and reviewed by the meeting. This included a review of the governance statement and analysis of the figures. The clerk noted a deficit for the year of £2,520 compared to a surplus the previous year of £3,807. The main reason for this was the cost of the village “gates” with the relevant grant from KCC being received in the previous year. Maintenance expenditure on the play area, together with lower funding from CCC, was also a significant factor. After discussion it was unanimously resolved to (i) confirm the governance statement and (ii) accept the accounts and both these were duly signed by the Chairman and clerk/RFO.

1. **Insurance**

The clerk tabled the renewal quotation from Came & Co. He confirmed that the village gates were now covered and no increase in premium had resulted. It was unanimously resolved to accept the quotation.

1. **Planning**

There were no new applications. The grant of CA//18/00439/FUL was noted.

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

The clerk reported that the end-April bank and cash book balance was £20,936.84. This high figure reflected the receipt of the annual precept.

The clerk tabled the renewal subscription invoice from KALC. After discussion it was unanimously agreed to renew membership of KLAC.

The following payments were approved:

1. Clerk: April (net) £317.37
2. PCC (allotments rent) £250.00
3. Eric Fewkes (internal auditor) £140.00
4. KALC sub £231.38
5. Came & Co (insurance) £469.88

The clerk reported that he and the Chairman met with a Kent Highways officer on April 27th . This was a helpful meeting and included a tour of all local roads. No substantive response has yet been received from KCC.

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**GDPR:** the clerk had circulated notes on the new regulations which come into force on May 25th. He reported that he and the Chairman had conducted an “impact assessment” and that he had drafted a privacy notice which was on the web-site. The clerk noted that although the PC does not generally deal with personal data it was important that it was kept secure and this applied to all PC members who may come into possession of personal data.

The clerk believed the PC should probably register with the ICO. The Chairman thought an exemption may apply and the clerk undertook to check.

A letter had been received from Sir Roger Gale with a letter from the gas suppliers saying that it would cost around £30k per property to have gas installed in the village.

1. **Councillors’ reports**

There was discussion of plans to put planters at various locations. Following a resolution at the previous meeting, Cllr Williams had costed the materials needed for the construction of these planters at c. £600. It was unanimously resolved to accept this estimate and Cllr Williams was asked to proceed.

Cllr Foster reported that she had done a safety check of the play area. No major problems were found although the grass clearly needed cutting. Cllr Chapman said that the gates don’t close properly. The clerk said this has happened before and contractors had been needed to reset the gate post. He would investigate and chase the grass cutter if necessary.

Cllr Williams referred to the dangers of Ford Hill. The Chairman agreed but said all such issues had been pointed out to the Kent Highways officer. The Chairman also noted a slipped sign near Black Barn Court which might not have been apparent previously. The clerk would investigate.

1. **Date of next meeting.**

As decided at the previous meeting, the next meeting was confirmed as **Monday June 4th 2018 at 5 p.m.** It was noted that this represents a change from the original schedule.

**Guy Foster**

*Clerk to Hoath Parish Council*

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