**Minutes of**

**Hoath Annual Parish Meeting, 12th May 2014**

The annual meeting of the parish of Hoath was held in the village hall at 8.00pm on 12th May 2014. In attendance were members of Hoath Parish Council (Cllrs John Williams, Sue Chapman, Jonathan Moore and Adele Wright); the Clerk to the parish council (Guy Foster, minutes); Cllr Alan March (KCC); Cllr Georgina Glover (CCC) and around twelve parishioners. Cllr Williams took the chair.

Reports were received from a variety of local organisations as well as from our CCC and KCC councillors and the main points from these are summarised below.

1. **CCC:** Georgina Glover said that from her perspective it had been a quiet year in Hoath; most of her problems came from other parts of her ward.
2. **KCC:** Alan Marsh asked for the village to let him know of its aspirations and he would do all he could to help achieve them. He was also happy to deal with individual problems. One major achievement this year had been the installation of a number of “unsuitable for HGVs” signs which it was felt had definitely helped reduce this category of vehicle in the parish.
3. **Hoath Parish Council:** John Williams thanked his fellow parish councillors and the clerk for their efforts over the year. In particular he welcomed Jonathan Moore and Adele Wright who had joined the PC during the year. He said it had been a relatively quiet year for the PC, despite the continued problems with buses and parking in Maypole Lane, although this issue had become lower profile recently.
4. **Village Hall** Arthur Campbell-Walter reported that the hall remains extremely well used with a new dance class having started recently. The Monday Club was now a year old and was a success, as were the whist and bowls sessions. The planned extension now has planning permission but more work remains to be done on raising the necessary funds. Various maintenance jobs have been carried out but the external painting remains outstanding; volunteers welcome!
5. **Play group:** (Arthur read a written report from Kay Fulker.) The group is now open every weekday morning and although numbers were low at the start of the year, they have increased, partly due to a good Ofsted report. A full range of indoor and outdoor activities is provided, including growing plants and vegetables, cooking, going for walks, painting, etc. Children’s work is displayed on the boards in the village hall – please have a look!
6. **WI:** Wendy Dance reported that the WI remains very well supported and will celebrate its 90th anniversary next year. A wide range of activities and speakers have featured over the year, notably the craft club where members have made a variety of items for charitable purposes. New members are always welcome, regrettably women only!
7. **Hoath School:** (Georgina read a report from the head). The school now has 60 pupils in 3 classes. The head has been in post 12 years. The school’s SATS results put it in the top 200 primary schools in the country, a remarkable achievement. The school undertakes a wide variety of activities which now include spells at “forest schools” and these are aided by the existence of the school minibus. There is currently a skip in the school playground for unwanted electrical items; please donate your old electricals as this will help raise money for the school.
8. **Hoath Singers:** Frank Gormley reported that the choir had now been established for 2 years. Its membership is growing and now numbers 30 but new members are always welcome; no audition required! The repertoire is mainly pop and musicals. The group holds regular social events and sings at a variety of places, such as the Pilgrims’ Hospice. Many thanks to musical director Tim Baker, the other pianists and the school, village hall and church for their support.
9. **Gardening society:** Val Wilson reported that they now have 50 members (more are always welcome). There are 3 shows a year which anyone is free to enter and meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month at which many interesting speakers appear, including the National Trust this coming July.
10. **Allotments:** Val continued her report by talking about the allotments which were now a year old. There are 21 half plots shared between 15 plot-holders with a waiting list. A hawthorn hedge has been planted which will act as a windbreak and the water supply has been extended the length of the site; thanks to those who helped make this possible, notably Kevin and Mick and Chris Stevens and his digger. Last year produced an excellent harvest and things are looking good for the coming year. Various fund-raising activities are being organised.
11. **Monday Club:** (Guy Foster read a written report from Pat Rowland.) The club is now into its third year with a membership of around 20 who meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. All appreciate the chance for a “cuppa and chat” and as well as this, there are Christmas and summer lunches as well as other entertainments and speakers.
12. **Holy Cross church and the youth club** Jenny Hadlow reported it had been a year of interregnum but now Hoath was part of a properly constituted benefice and a new vicar had been appointed. The interregnum had provided opportunities for various lay people, to whom many thanks and also to all those who help at the church in so many ways. The PCC continues to organise a full range of regular services and special occasional services. Many other events are organised, such as lunches in the village hall, summer afternoon teas at St Bartholomew’s, the Christian Aid service, the “love in a box” appeal and “messy” church. The church is part of the Queen Victoria Hospital chaplaincy. The “SAACK” group of secondary school age children continues to meets in Holy Cross. The youth club meets on Monday evenings during term time. Activities include cooking, table tennis, pool and craft with outdoor games in the summer. Several local teenagers act as activity leaders and members come from a wide area, not just Hoath. Thanks are due to the PC which has traditionally paid the Youth Club’s hall hire fees, thus enabling them to charge members only 50p a session.

**Guy Foster**

14th May 2014.