**Minutes of**

**Hoath Annual Parish Meeting, 9th May 2016**

The annual meeting of the parish of Hoath was held in the village hall at 8.00 p.m. on 9th May 2016. In attendance were the chair and clerk of Hoath Parish Council (respectively Cllr Sue Chapman and Guy Foster, minutes) and around twelve parishioners. Thanks are due to Sue and Guy for the wine and nibbles, which went down very well. Cllr Chapman took the chair.

Apologies were received from Adele Wright, John Williams and Jonathan Moore of Hoath PC; Val Wilson (singers and gardening); Andrea Noake (school).

Reports were received from a variety of local organisations as well as from our KCC councillor and the main points from these are summarised below. It was noted that we have a new CCC member, Ann Taylor, who was elected last week.

1. **Hoath Parish Council:** Sue Chapman thanked her fellow parish councillors, the clerk and the footpath warden for their efforts over the year. She noted significant events during the year including the potential housing/village green development. She said that there would be a further public meeting about this at 7 p.m. on June 13th, prior to the PC meeting. She also noted that the PC meeting scheduled for this evening had been deferred to May 23rd due to the unavoidable absences of parish councillors. Alan Marsh enquired about the new finger post and Mrs Chapman said it was all done.
2. **KCC:** Alan Marsh encouraged everyone to vote in the referendum on June 23rd.
3. **Holy Cross church and the youth club** Jenny Hadlow spoke about the Rev Sue Martin who is in charge of the united Benefice. The church now benefits from two “Authorised Lay Ministers.” The PCC continues to organise a full range of regular services and special occasional services. This year there had been several funerals, baptisms and weddings. Many thanks are due to all the volunteers who help the church in various ways. Many other events are organised, such as lunches in the village hall and “messy” church. The “SAACK” group of secondary school age children now meets at St Bartholomew’s. The youth club has re-opened and meets fortnightly on Monday evenings. The church continues to give 10% of its income to charities and funds continue to be helped by fund-raising events like the fête.
4. **Play group:** Kay Fulker reported on a busy year. A large number (28) of the current children go on to primary school in September but there is a sizeable waiting list from which to fill the resultant vacancies. Kay showed various wall displays done by the children and reported on their activities which this year included a celebration of St George’s Day, an open day in June and a forthcoming street party to celebrate the queen’s 90th birthday.
5. **Monday Club:** Pat New reported that this club started in 2012 but could now do with some new members. Activities included convivial chats, food tasting, quizzes and outings. Pat stressed that the club was not only for old people! It meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month.
6. **Hoath Singers:** Sue Chapman read a report from Val Wilson, in which she said: “We are going from strength to strength. We now have 43 people on our books. We are taking on more songs to sing, some of which are quite challenging to start with, but with Tim's guidance we conquer it in the end. The charity we are supporting this year is MS. We are looking at singing at the Bandstand again this year. We meet at the village hall on a Wednesday at 7.30pm except for the first Wednesday in the month. The subs are £2 and we remain a very friendly club because we all enjoy singing.”
7. **Allotments:** Kevin Scroggins reported that the Allotments Association continued to be a great success with 15 members and a waiting list. The Association was now in its 4th year.
8. **Gardening society:** Sue Chapman read another report from Val Wilson in which she said: “We meet on the first Wednesday in every month at 7.30. We have a speaker most evenings but not always about gardening. We had a talk about the life of a hare which was very interesting and another about insects. Sadly our numbers are down to about 30 at the moment. We have lost some of our older members who we miss a lot.”

The meeting was closed at 8.32 p.m.

**Guy Foster**

22nd May 2016.