

HOATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2021.

Present: Councillors Jane Cusack (chair), John Williams, Adele Wright, Jo Millward. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Rachel Carnac (CCC), Alan Marsh (KCC) and ten members of the public.

This meeting was held on-line using Zoom.

The meeting commenced with a presentation on the proposed solar farm by Alpaca Communications.

The farm would be on some 100 hectares of land off Marley Lane/Hollow Street straddling the parishes of Hoath and Chislet. It would produce up to 49.9 MW of electricity. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session. The presenters stressed that this proposal was at a very early stage and it was therefore difficult to give precise answers to many questions.

1. Apologies

Cllr Keeble had sent apologies.

2. Declaration of members' interests

None.

3. Minutes of the last meeting and any matters arising

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

4. KCC and CCC reports

KCC and CCC representatives apologised for being unable to contribute due to pre-election "purdah" regulations.

5. To consider the lease agreement for the play area

This had been circulated by the clerk. It was based on the allotments association agreement and involved letting the play area to the Chislet and Hoath Play Group at an annual fee of £400 with the play group being fully responsible for maintenance and insurance. It was unanimously approved with the clerk being given authority to sign on behalf of the PC.

6. To consider a request from Hoath PCC for a donation

The church required significant electrical works. After discussion it was unanimously agreed to make a donation of £450.

7. Planning

Application CA/21/00812: this related to the proposed solar farm . It was a screening request to determine the need for an Environmental Impact Assessment. It was unanimously agreed to ask for an EIA and to put the PC's name to the comments sent to CCC by Chislet PC.

8. Report of the clerk/RFO

The following payments were unanimously approved:

1. Clerk: March (net)	£347.04
2. HMRC (PAYE Jan/Feb/March)	£238.60
3. KAL:C subscription	£260.16
4. Holy Cross PCC donation	£450.00

At end-March, the cash book and bank balance was £24,335.24.

Bank mandate: the clerk reported that it should now be possible for him to initiate payments on-line with members logging in to authorise.

CFG agreement: this was due for renewal for the next two years. The agreement gave the only relevant facility as the play area but of course this was being let out. It was resolved to manually alter the agreement to substitute the new village green for the old play area and return to CCC.

Small authority exemption: it was unanimously resolved to make the declaration in line with the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

9. Councillors' reports

Cllr Millward enquired about increasing the size of the PC, given the amount of local interest. It was explained that this can only be done with the permission of CCC. One problem with this is that it would lead to an increase in the size of the quorum.

10. Date of the next meeting

From May 7th, meetings will need to be held in person as the law is changing. Given this and the fact that the next meeting will include the annual PC meeting and the annual parish meeting too, it was agreed to bring forward the next meeting to **Tuesday 4th May** at 5.30 p.m. Once again this will be via Zoom.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Hoath Parish Council

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____