

HOATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2022.

Present: Councillors Imogen Morizet (chair), John Millward, Sandy Sinclair. In attendance: Guy Foster (clerk), Alan Marsh (KCC). Rachel Carnac (CCC) and 18 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllrs Keeble and Wright had sent apologies.

2. Declaration of members' interests

None.

3. Minutes of the last meeting and any matters arising

The minutes of the April meeting were agreed as tabled as a true record and signed by the chairman.

4. To receive reports from KCC and CCC representatives.

For CCC, Rachel Carnac spoke of the suspension of the Local Plan. This was due to CCC not meeting its housing targets which in turn was mainly the result of the pollution at Stodmarsh which has stopped many projects from proceeding. Until this situation is resolved, there will be a "presumption to grant" for new building projects, although this does not mean that all will be granted.

She also referred to the new governance arrangements at CCC which was moving back to a cabinet system.

For KCC, Alan Marsh clarified that despite recent press coverage to the contrary, he remains our KCC Conservative member. He spoke about the ending of the No 7 bus route and said he had been working with former KCC chair Paul Carter to find a solution. Unfortunately Mr Carter has been taken ill in the USA and this has inevitably delayed things. Mr Marsh also spoke of the Ukraine refugee position where Kent has more applicants for housing than anywhere else. In total, some 13,000 people have so far been helped.

The meeting was adjourned to hear public comments. The following matters were raised:

- The issue of the gate and hedge pruning in Maypole Lane was raised. There was dissatisfaction with CCC planning staff. Ms Carnac said more money was going into enforcement in the coming year.
- The issue of responsibility for a small section of roadway was raised. Mr Marsh suggested contacting the Land Registry to clarify ownership. If it was not owned by the resident then it would almost certainly be the responsibility of KCC.

- Litter has been spotted on the new village green. We will need to ask CCC for more bins.
- The matter of the speed camera was raised; Cllr Millward is dealing with this.
- Cllr Morizet spoke of the desire of St Nicholas Court Farms to build houses on a field behind the church. She has met with them and the matter is under close review.

5. To consider arrangements related to the jubilee celebrations.

It appears that since the last meeting, Cllr Wright has agreed arrangements for a power supply with the village hall and that cable covers are readily available at modest cost. It was not possible to go into more detail in Cllr Wright's absence and as well as awaiting information from Cllr Wright, the clerk is awaiting clarification from KCC before he can submit a detailed bid for the £800 grant promised by Alan Marsh.

6. To consider matters relating to the cancellation of the No. 7 bus route.

This had already been discussed. The clerk has written to everyone concerned, including our MPs but there had been no positive responses.

7. Accounts and Annual Return for 2021/22

The clerk had circulated the relevant pages from the annual return which had now come back from the internal auditor with a clean bill of health. A surplus of £1,390 had been recorded last year. After discussion it was unanimously resolved to approve the Governance Statement and the Accounting Statements and these were duly signed by the chairman.

8. Planning

The grant of application CA/21/03108 was noted.

9. Report of the clerk/RFO

The following payments were unanimously approved:

1. Clerk: April (net)	£352.46
2. KALC sub	£264.91
3. Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance	£462.46

[It was noted after the meeting that the clerk was underpaid by 20p and this should be adjusted next month.]

At end-April the cash book balance was £25,117.46. This has been reconciled to the bank balance of £33,236.46 which includes the precept and CFG for 2022/23.

10. Councillors' reports

Cllr Sinclair queried if locals' relatives who live outside the parish were allowed to come to the jubilee picnic: she was assured that they would be very welcome.

11. Date of the next meeting

It was agreed that this will be **June 6th at 5.30 pm** which it should be noted is a change to the scheduled date.

Guy Foster

Clerk to Hoath Parish Council

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____