

HOATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2022

Present: Councillors Imogen Morizet (Chair), Sandy Sinclair, John Millward and Adele Wright. In attendance: Caroline Read (Clerk & RFO), and 25 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Cllr's Tina Keeble, Alan Marsh (KCC) and Rachel Carnac (CCC) all sent apologies.

2. Declaration of members' interests

None.

3. Minutes of the last meeting and any matters arising

The minutes of the October 2022 meeting were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman, matters arising included:

- Request for Parish Council to post more on Facebook – Clerk now admin and regularly posts local updates.
- Engagement requested with CCC regarding parking and garages at Barn Close remains ongoing.
- Engagement with Kent Police regarding speeding; residents are requested to report any incidents of speeding directly to the Police. PCSO Rains is unable to act on or record third party sightings.
- Road Markings have been repainted at School Lane and a number of potholes have been filled. The Parish Council note there is still much to do with regard to the disrepair of this road.
- Awaiting Cllr Alan Marsh to return to comment on 30k Highways expenditure.

The meeting was adjourned for 30 minutes to hear public comments. The following matters were raised:

- Residents requested that the Hoath website be updated, the Clerk advised that she had started to make appropriate changes as she contacts the various representatives involved. Residents were invited to forward to the Clerk any information they wish to be posted the website. Residents were also informed that the Facebook page had been renamed to: Hoath Parish; this was to encourage more local information to be published and not just restricted to Council activity.

- Residents who use the Village Car park were concerned about the lack of lighting in this vicinity. Residents are also aware that Hoath does not have any street lighting in order to protect the dark skies and it was normal practice for the community to carry torches when walking at night. The Clerk will research options and take advice from KCC highways and UKDSP (UK Dark Skies Partnership) to look at possibilities, ensuring that any illuminance options comply with British Standards, such as will it have an impact on sensitive habitats, ensure any illuminance does not create a nuisance to neighbours or the general sky quality. Reflectors were suggested as a possibility, to be placed on the wooden pillars to aide pedestrians and road users. An update will be provided at the next meeting.
- Residents asked when the Play area/Adult Fitness equipment will be installed on the Village Green, especially as the Council had received a Grant from CCC and a donation from the former Youth Club. The Council stated that no work had progressed since this was first agreed by the Council at the planning application stage. The Council stated that much had changed since the first proposal and more investigation work was required to assess the needs of the village. Discussions included what would be more appropriate, adult fitness equipment and/or a Children's play area, or an area set aside for wildlife, with benches, litter bins and a viewing point. Council assured residents that no formal decision had been made and this matter would be an agenda item at the next meeting. Clerk will reengage with Sovereign Play Equipment who first provided a quote in 2019. The Council will also engage with CCC regarding expenditure and the possibility of an uplift to the Grant received.
- Residents highlighted more missing road signs including 30mph sign missing from Maypole Lane. Clerk will report these including the missing Horse crossing sign on Maypole Road. Clerk requested that any other missing signage or problems with Highways is brought to her attention so it can be reported.
- Residents raised their concerns about speeding in the Village. Cllr Millward advised that despite requests for Kent Police to undertake another Speedwatch (last undertaken in January 2022), as no individual had reported any incidents directly, Hoath was deemed not a priority. Residents were asked to report any incidents directly to the Police themselves, as unfortunately the Police will not accept third party reports. Speeding in the Village can be reported by calling 101, or file an online report at [Report a road traffic incident | Kent Police](#). In an emergency and/or if someone is in immediate danger then 999 is to be called. Residents were advised that the more complaints residents submit, the more likely action will be undertaken by Kent Police. The Council asked for residents to volunteer to run a Community Speedwatch, a volunteer came forward on completion of the meeting.
- HGV traffic was also a concern for residents. Two residents came forward to set up and run Lorry Watch. Residents are aware that this initiative will not stop HGV transiting through the village, but it is a positive step in being able to record details of lorries that are suspected of not sticking to the limits and restrictions.

4. To receive reports from representatives of KCC and CCC.

On behalf of CCC, the Chair reminded residents that the Draft 2045 Local Plan is available to view online. Residents were encouraged to comment if they wished to object to any areas within the plan. The Chair again highlighted the Church Farm Proposal (R27) and urged all residents to make comment on this development and the wider Local Plan that could have an impact on our surrounding area. The Chair also requested that residents copy their comments to the Clerk.

5. Planning:

New Applications:

- CA/22/01911 – Old Tree View (Erection of Hay Barn) (HPC note property is in a Conservation Area), After engagement with the applicants by HPC to define use and design, HPC anticipates to support these changes favourably.
- CA/22/02246 - Black Barn Court, Hoath Road (Single-storey rear extension) (HPC note property is in a Conservation Area) – No objection by HPC

Applications - Awaiting Decision by CCC:

- CA/21/02265 - Land South of Marley Lane (Installation of Digestate storage Eco bag) (HPC Objection submitted) (CCC to conduct a site visit, date tbd).
- CA/22/01659 - Oak Lodge (Single storey side extensions and single storey side link extension together with erection of tree house) (HPC Objection submitted in September 2022). Applicant has submitted revised drawings, including the removal of the Tree House. (HPC will comment further prior to deadline of 25 Nov 22).

Applications - To note the Decision of CCC:

- CA/22/01229 - 2 Ford Cottages, Ford Hill (Replacement outbuilding for use as a dog grooming business) - GRANTED

6. Report of the clerk/RFO

At end-Oct the Cash Book and bank balance is £27,544.07. This includes the precept and CFG for 2022/23.

The following payments were unanimously approved:

1. Ian Sargant (Grass Cutting 15 October & 1 November @£55)	£110.00
2. Clerk Salary & Expenses (dated 30 Nov 22)	£417.82
3. Chair attendance at Introduction to Planning for Local Councils	£60.00
4. HMRC	£162.00

Correspondence to note:

- The next Community Pop-up Cafe will be held at the Prince of Wales Public House, Maypole Road on Tuesday 22 November 2022 at 10:30am to 12:30pm.

- The Clerk will be attending a free online seminar to learn more about the Local Council Award Scheme, with a view to understanding how to celebrate our successes and how HPC can work to provide a mechanism for continuous improvement and development in the community.
- Clerk reported that she will be undertaking the CILCA qualification, to commence in Dec 22. KALC have provided initial training dates, more to follow in the New Year.
- Clerk provided an update on the ongoing Highways and Right of Ways reports, including the success of the School Lane road painting and the planned works for the unsafe wooden footbridge on footpath CB100A. It is acknowledged that there is still much to do and the reporting to KCC continues.
- Clerk advised that HPC await a response from UK Power Network via Forest Homes (Marley Fields Developer) in relation to the removal of three Telegraph Poles at the Village Car Park and Green.
- Clerk advised that the 3 Salt Bins and their levels were to be checked by KCC this month. Locations have been highlighted on Facebook.
- Clerk reported that as a result of attending the Highways seminar she had been able to order 120 free trees from The Woodland Trust. 90 hedgerow saplings and 30 tree saplings, all native to the area, will be delivered in March 2023. A Community Project Team will be set up closer to the time to assist with the planting and ongoing maintenance.

7. Councillors' reports

The Chair reported back the findings from the St Nicholas Court Farms Presentation held at Sturry Village Hall on 2 Nov 22. It is hoped that a similar event can be run at Hoath.

For Decision: It was proposed by the Chair to commence writing a Neighbourhood Plan, seconded by Cllr Millward. The last Parish Plan was undertaken in 2007 and needs replacing. The Chair reiterated that Neighbourhood planning provides a powerful set of tools for local people to plan for the types of development to meet their community's needs and where the ambition of the neighbourhood is aligned with the strategic needs and priorities of the wider local area. It will enable residents to have their say on what those new buildings should look like and what infrastructure should be provided, and grant planning permission for the new buildings they want to see go ahead. It is envisaged that this plan could take up to 2 years to produce and volunteers from the community were invited to come forward to expedite this process.

For Discussion: Cllr Morizet asked residents if they would wish HPC to hold an event on the Village Green to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, either on Saturday 6 May or Sunday 7 May 2023. The general consensus was yes and residents were advised that this will be placed on the next agenda for further discussion with a call for volunteers to assist in running the event.

For Discussion: Cllr Morizet reported that disappointingly nothing has been heard from the organisers of the proposed Classic Car Show event, therefore it will be removed from further agendas.

For Discussion: Cllr Millward raised the matter of putting a Village Sign on the Village Green, again the general consensus was yes, subject to design and cost. It was considered that an iron sign may require less maintenance than perhaps a wooden sign. Cllr Millward will obtain quotes and discuss possible design ideas with manufacturers and report back at the next meeting. The previous Village logo used on the Neighbourhood Plan of 2007 was also a consideration. Residents were assured it will be for them to decide what they wish the new/revised sign to look like.

For Discussion: Cllr Morizet highlighted to the residents that the trees on the Village Green that did not survive the summer drought (approx. 50%) will be replaced at no cost to HPC. Furthermore, there was an opportunity to install a lockable outside tap in the vicinity of the Village car park. This could then be used to ensure the replacement trees and new shrubs from the Woodland Trust can be watered with relative ease. Mrs Chapman advised that South East Water are visiting the Village Hall on 4 December. Therefore, this installation proposal will be added to the next Agenda for decision.

For Discussion: Cllr Adele Wright is organising a Christmas Event to be held on the Village Green on Sunday 18 December 2022 at 5pm to 6.30pm, festive carols and mulled wine will be available. A budget of £650 was agreed at the last meeting to cover cost of tree, decorations, mulled wine etc. All residents and friends of Hoath are welcome. Attendees are advised to wrap up warmly, to bring a mug for your mulled wine, and a torch to find your way onto the Village Green (not to mention a loud singing voice). More volunteers are needed to assist Cllr Wright and her small team in assembling a great event for all. Posters detailing the event will be placed on village notice boards, the website and face book.

8. Date of the next meeting

It was agreed that this will be at 5.30 pm on Monday 12 December 2022.

Caroline Read
Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Hoath Parish Council

Signed as a true record _____ Date: _____
(Chair)