

HOATH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2023

Present: Councillors Imogen Morizet (Chair), Sandy Sinclair, and Adele Wright. In attendance: Caroline Read (Clerk & RFO), and 22 members of the public.

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr John Millward. The Chair announced that Cllr Tina Keeble had resigned with immediate effect on 9th January 2023. The Notice of Vacancy is to be issued confirming that the Council may choose to fill the vacancy by co-option for the period until the election in May 2023.

2. Declaration of members' interests

None.

3. Minutes of the last meeting and any matters arising

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

- Discussion on proposals for the Village Green to be added to February 2023 agenda with a view to forming a sub-committee to explore the needs of the Village as part of launching the Neighbourhood Plan.

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

- Residents were frustrated at the increased level of traffic due to the two-week closure of Calcott Hill which saw traffic pushed through the Parish via Heart in Hand Road, Maypole Road and Hoath Road towards the A28 at Sturry. The issue was volume of private cars ferrying people around the district traffic and speed exacerbated by rain, wind and mud.
- Residents were also upset about the many agricultural vehicles, namely the large tractors trailing tanks and tankers, which have been transporting digestate from St. Nicholas Court Farm, Birchington to the digestate pit on Marley Lane, (travelling from the A299, Heart in Hand Road, Maypole Road, through the centre of Hoath Village, down Marley Lane and back to St. Nicholas Court Farm). Residents were unhappy at the number of these vehicles on the road and their large scale in relation to private cars also using the narrow lanes and roads. Residents also reported that they are often being overwhelmed by these vehicles and are having to drive on the muddy verges, especially on Ford Hill and Marley Lane in order to avoid a collision. HPC advised residents that they must submit their evidence directly to KCC Highways, this includes the additional wear and tear that the farm traffic had caused, especially on Church Road, Maypole Road and Maypole Lane.

- The weight limit at Ford Bridge was discussed again, with the Clerk assuring residents that KCC had confirmed in writing that this bridge had no weight limit set and is checked every two years.
- Residents were frustrated that road signage for repairs had remained in place long since the works had been carried out. Residents were advised to report this directly to KCC Highways for action.
- Residents enquired about Speedwatch in the Village. Unfortunately, Cllr Millward was absent at this meeting so no update could be provided. The PC understood that a volunteer had come forward to run this initiative but more volunteers would be required. Once volunteers are in place, it was suggested that the PC could engage with other local Parish Councils for advice and coordination of any assets available.
- Roger Lithgow, Community Warden, spoke about his work over the past 12 months and thanked the residents for their support, especially with regard to getting the Planning Application for the rifle range withdrawn. He also spoke about his work within the community to help with isolation and loneliness and that although the Rural Kent Pop-up Café has ceased to exist, it was reassuring that Hoath residents were working together to run more of these themselves.
- There was a brief discussion on the King's Coronation and dates for Village events to be determined at the next meeting.

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

CCC Cllr Rachel Carnac stated she is a supporter of the Community Pop-Up Café and had provided a resident a Grant of £200 to get this initiative up and running. The first event to be held at the Village Hall at 10:00am to 12:00pm on Saturday 4th February 2023. All profits to go towards the purchase of an industrial type dishwasher at the Village Hall, which will also support additional future events.

Cllr Carnac informed residents that CCC were looking at the much-needed review of heating of Council housing, and she hopes that the first upgrade of heating would take place in Hoath, where it is much needed.

Cllr Carnac advised residents that the free Christmas Tree collection (for real trees only) by CCC would commence on Monday 16th January. It could not be determined which day the collection would take place, but residents were to ensure their trees were placed in prominent view for the refuse collectors to see.

Cllr Carnac advised residents of the deadline for commenting on the Draft Local Plan was 5pm on Monday 16th January 2023. R27 was the area for development at Hoath and the Local Plan would determine the future strategy for the Canterbury district.

Cllr Marsh highlighted to residents that he was unable to disclose the KCC budget, but was aware of the shortfall in KCC Funding, as an example the savings that KCC need to make is in the region of £150 million. He stated that there would be change to services provided by KCC in the new financial year, but he could not state what these would be. Cllr Marsh gave an example of the constraints he would be facing; in 2008 his personal budget was approx.

£50k, 50% of this was available to him, to provide support to the community. In the new FY his allowance is likely to be in the region of £3,600 for the year.

Cllr Marsh provided HPC with the contact details of the Chislet litter picker. Councillors will determine if this is a requirement in Hoath. It was noted that many Hoath residents litter pick voluntarily, so this may not be a necessity at this time.

KCC Cllr Marsh advised that the Community bus service continues to be a valuable asset to the village, he stressed to the residents that they must support this initiative by using it regularly, or risk losing it entirely. Residents needing more information on this service are invited to contact the clerk.

5. Planning:

New Applications:

- CA/22/02709 - Pear Tree Cottage, Maypole Road (Detached Garage together with access and driveway). Expiry Date: 3 Feb 23. Determination Deadline: 23 Feb 23. (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). Expiry Date: 24 Jun 22. Determination Deadline: 10 Nov 21.
- CA/22/02246 - Black Barn Court, Hoath Road (Single-storey rear extension) (HPC note property is in a Conservation Area). HPC noted that there is a requirement for an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken and approved by CCC before any development can take place. Expiry Date: 25 Nov 22. Determination Deadline: 16 Dec 22.
- CA/22/02593 – Pear Tree Cottage, Maypole Road (Listed Building Consent for external and internal alterations including installation of woodstove together with increased height of chimney) – Heritage Statement is available on Planning Portal. Expiry Date: 20 Jan 23. Determination deadline: 6 Feb 23. (No objection by HPC).
- CA/22/02642 - Barn Lodge, Church Road (Single-storey rear extension). Expiry Date: 3 Feb 23. Determination Deadline: 13 Feb 23. (No objection by HPC).

Applications - Decided by CCC:

- None determined.

6. Report of the clerk/RFO

At end-Dec the Cash Book and bank balance is £25,600.74. This includes the precept and CFG for 2022/23.

The following payments were unanimously approved:

1. Clerks Salary & Expenses (1 to 31 Jan 23)	£456.62
2. HMRC	£189.74

Correspondence noted:

- Subtle lighting at Car Park (i.e. reflectors on posts) is to be discussed once the Village Green sub-committee is set up.

- The Clerk announced that KCC Cllr Alan Marsh would be providing a grant of £700 to help purchase a second defibrillator for the village. Ideally located at, or in the vicinity of the Prince of Wales Public House. The clerk advised the residents that funding of at least £750 would still need to be raised. Clerk to report back at next meeting.
- The clerk advised that the Parish laptop no longer had any virus protection, this was to be purchased to ensure the security and safeguarding of information. Cost is £19.99, proposed by Cllr Morizet and seconded by Cllr Wright.
- The Clerk had again requested information from Kent Police on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. It is evident from the tired signage around the village that Hoath once had an active scheme in place. Clerk to meet with local resident to discuss and will report back once engagement regarding training and resources is established.

7. Councillors' reports

Cllr Morizet reminded residents that the Draft 2045 Local Plan is available to view online and that the closing date to comment was 5pm on 16th January 2023. The Chair also requested that residents copy their comments to the Clerk.

Cllr Morizet spoke about the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan and was delighted that residents had come forward to form a steering group. A meeting with Karen Britton, Community Planning and Enforcement Manager at CCC would be taking place at the Village Hall at 6pm on Monday 30th January 2023, all residents are welcome to attend and support this initiative for the good of the village. Cllr Morizet also emphasised to residents that by volunteering to be part of the Village Green Development Committee, they would see this area developed by the community, for the community.

Cllr Wright praised the Chair for all her hard work since joining the Council, it was evident that her efforts in all areas of Council work had not gone unnoticed and urged the residents to continue their support.

Cllr Morizet requested that the Clerk issue the Notice of Vacancy in Office of Councillor as soon as practical. Residents were advised that as it is less than six months to the election, the Council may choose to fill the vacancy by co-option. Clerk to inform CCC and advertise the vacancy on the village notice boards, website and social media. Further information about becoming a Councillor and the process of application can be requested from the Clerk.

8. Date of the next meeting

It was agreed that this will be at 5.30 pm on Monday 13th February 2023.

Caroline Read
Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
Hoath Parish Council
clerk@hoath.org

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