

Minutes of the meeting of Hoath Parish Council held on Monday 11th December 2023 at 5.45pm in Hoath Village Hall.

Present: Councillors Imogen Morizet (Chair), Karen Johncock, William Hawkins, Sandy Sinclair and Adele Wright, plus KCC Cllr Alan Marsh and CCC Cllr Rachel Carnac. 9 Members of the Public (MoP) present.

1. **Apologies.** Apologies were received and ACCEPTED from Caroline Read, Parish Clerk (Ill Health).
2. **Declarations of Interest & Dispensation requests.** Cllr Hawkins declared that his spouse is a Cllr at Chislet Parish Council. He also declared an OSI (Other Significant Interest) relating to the Planning Application CA/21/02265 below, whereby his property is on the curtilage. Cllr Hawkins requested it be noted that this declaration does not affect him supporting HPCs comments which relate to the traffic, pollution and odours relating to this application and the subsequent appeal process. There were no other declarations of interest.
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting.** RESOLVED to agree that the minutes on the meetings held on Monday 13th November 2023, were a true record and they were signed by Cllr Morizet (Chair).
4. **Matters arising from previous minutes:**

Cllrs asked that the following outstanding actions be minuted:

- a. Despite several requests from the Clerk, the Allotment Trustees are yet to forward a copy of their Allotment Register, latest risk assessment and provide a key for the allotments gate. It was also noted that the rent was also overdue. **Action:** Clerk to hasten late payment and associated documentation.
 - b. Hoath Parish Council thanked KCC Cllr Marsh for providing 36 tickets to the residents to attend the Panto at Broadstairs. It was RESOLVED that the transport costs were to be met by Hoath Parish Council (unanimous).
5. **CCC Report:** Cllr Carnac provided an update on the green bin/garden waste collections; there is to be two additional green bin collections in early 2024, to make up for the missing bin collections in August 2023. The garden waste service payment will no longer be by direct debit but will move to either credit or debit card payments, residents will need to register online in March 2024. Bin stickers will not be issued, but crews will use an advanced in-cab system and will know if you have signed for up this service or not.

Cllr Carnac thanked a member of the public for her efforts in the Monthly Saturday Coffee Mornings, and also other members of the community for running the Wednesday Club events.

6. **KCC Report:** Cllr Marsh repeated his concerns of the financial situation at KCC and the impact this will have on communities across the County.

Cllr Marsh was pleased to be able to offer the free Pantomime Tickets for the residents of Hoath again and advised that the production in 2024 would be 'Aladdin', and sadly his last.

Chair Initials:

7. Representations from the public included:

A MoP raised concerns relating to the highway inside and outside of Hoath Parish. The MoP was advised to report his all of his concerns directly to KCC using the online reporting tool.

A MoP highlighted that the Hoath Players production of 'Peter Pain' would be taking place in the Village Hall on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th January 2024.

A Trustee of the Village Hall asked the Parish Council if they could consider taking over the financial maintenance costs of the defibrillator that was purchased by the Village Hall. **Action:** Clerk to investigate costs.

A MoP stated that there hoped to be a defibrillator and CPR training session at the next Saturday coffee morning on 3rd February 2024.

8. Planning.

Members were advised of the following Decided Applications:

- CA/23/01906 – Knaves Ash - Retrospective two-story rear extension. CCC Decision: GRANTED

Update on Undecided Applications:

- CA/21/02265 - Land south of Marley Lane, Hoath - Installation of digestate storage Eco bag with construction of bund. Update: HPC await Planning Inspectorates decision.

9. Report of the Clerk and RFO:

Members RESOLVED to note current cashbook/bank balance: £26,820.08

Members RESOLVED to agree the following payments:

1. Clerks December 2023 Salary and expenses, plus Defib purchase of £1821.00.
2. TCTA (Panto Transport) £190.00
3. HMRC £172.20
4. Printer ink and paper £29.98
5. Mr K Hawkes for Christmas Tree Lights £36.99

Correspondence, to note and review:

- a) The members RESOLVED to APPROVE HPC's new Biodiversity Policy.
- b) HPC had received a request from a MoP to provide CPR & Defibrillator training to all Hoath residents that wish to take part, at the Coffee Morning on Saturday 3rd February 2024. Confirmation of this event will be provided at January's meeting.
- c) KCC Resilience & Emergency Planning request had been received and forwarded to the Village Hall Trustees for review. If agreed the Village Hall could be used by KCC as an information point for residents, to gain information during a national extended power outage.
- d) Wooden footbridge along public right of way CB100A is currently badly damaged, and care is to be taken when using. KCC RoW have been informed.

Chair Initials:

- e) There are currently 10 CCC consultations for residents to comment on, plus one significant KCC Consultation relating to proposed changes to the ownership of eight historic windmills in Kent.
- f) HPC has contacted CCC again on 7th December, regarding the felling of the Sycamore Tree outside of The Gate Inn. CCC have advised that this remains an open case and investigations are still ongoing.
- g) Members RESOLVED to hold a donation of £600 from the Hoath Gardening Club, to be held in Reserve for the purchase of a bench at the Village Green.
- h) Litter Bin Update. CCC and CANENCO had conducted a site visit with the Clerk, and both had confirmed that installation and subsequent bin collections would be at zero cost to Hoath. Unfortunately, on receipt of the quote the supplier of the bin has added £75 delivery fee. Members unanimously RESOLVED to no longer proceed with this purchase, as they felt the additional delivery cost was too high. **Action:** Clerk to identify alternative supplier.

10. Councillors' reports:

- Cllr Johncock advised that dates were still being identified for the next Joint Parish Group which is due to take place in Spring 2024. Action:
- Cllr Johncock advised that she is due to meet with KCC Highways to start discussions regarding a review of the Hoath HIP and will take forward all the resident's suggestions. **Action:** Cllr Johncock to provide updated HIP at next meeting.
- Cllr Johncock provided an update on Speed watch and called for residents to volunteer to undertake the training required to run this initiative. Cllr Johncock also advised that she had been in contact with another Parish with a view to borrowing equipment.
- Cllr Morizet advised that at the recent Parish Hall AGM, it was confirmed that she and Cllr Johncock are trustees of the village hall, and that Cllr Sinclair would be Hoath Parish Councils Representative Member for the Hoath Village Hall committee.
- Cllr Morizet provided an update on the Neighbourhood Plan.
- Cllr Morizet advised that the Hoath Meadow Group which had recently formed had now removed all the dead trees and saplings from the village green. Further planting would take place in 2024.
- Cllr Hawkins provided a detailed brief on the current cash position and highlighted that although the current gross cash position appears healthy, once the earmarked Reserves are considered the free cash is considerably lower and still necessary to cover contingencies. There is an identified annual deficit, this is based on a combination of paying for amenities and assumed inflation. He advised that due to these continuing rising costs he recommended an increase to the precept to cover some of these costs. Members unanimously RESOLVED to agree that the Precept request to CCC would be £10,000 for FY 24/25.
- Cllr Hawkins also provided an overview of the budget for FY24/25 and explained that without the (resolved) increase of the Precept an expected deficit of £1.5 to £2k would occur. Cllr Hawkins also added that Reserve costs for continued maintenance costs should also be considered, using the car park and village green areas as an example. He added that the Parish Council should start to explore revenue generating ideas for the future, to help alleviate the continued rising costs. Cllr Hawkins indicated that the revised precept would still leave Hoath PC about 10% below the average for the district. Members unanimously RESOLVED to agree the budget for FY24/25.

Chair Initials:

11. Proposed date of the next meeting: The next Parish Council meeting is 5.45pm on Monday 15th January 2024, (Parish Councillors will be available to the public from 5.15pm).

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

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

Chair Initials: