

Minutes of the meeting of Hoath Parish Council held on Monday 11th March 2024 at 5.45pm in Hoath Village Hall.

Present: Councillors: Imogen Morizet (Chair), Karen Johncock, William Hawkins, Sandy Sinclair and Adele Wright. Caroline Read (Parish Clerk & RFO), plus KCC Cllr Alan Marsh and CCC Rachel Carnac were also present, plus 26 Members of the Public (MoP).

1. **Apologies.** All members present, no apologies required.
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 12th February 2024, were a true record and they were signed by Cllr Morizet (Chair).
4. **Matters arising from previous minutes:** None.
5. **CCC Report:** Garden Waste collections were to recommence and residents who were previously signed up to the scheme will shortly be receiving information on how to renew their subscription online as the direct debit scheme has now ended. Any resident who is having difficulty subscribing to the scheme can call the helpline on: 01227 947860.

The Local Plan (now to 2040) is available online for residents to make comment. This revised plan also focuses on the Transport strategy, Open Space strategy and an Air Quality plan. Cllr Carnac emphasised that there is no requirement to resubmit previous comments, only new observations and remarks were required. Cllr Carnac also noted that the plan's wording with regards to green energy has changed and this may be relevant to their consideration of solar or wind farm proposals.

6. **KCC Report:** Cllr Marsh further reported on increases to Council Tax that he revealed at previous meetings were to take effect in the new financial year.

He offered his support to Hoath Parish Highways Improvement Plan and requested to be included in correspondence.

7. **Community Warden Report:** Roger Lithgow reported that he was still supporting the wider Thanet area and he continues to attend several multi-agency meetings, he uses these opportunities to help signpost residents to additional support.
8. **Representations from the public included:** A MoP enquired if lowering the speed limit on Marley Lane could be reduced to 30mph. **Action:** Cllr Johncock to discuss with KCC.

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A MoP has requested a dog or litter bin be installed in the vicinity of the public footpath that runs between Maypole Lane and Maypole Road. **Action:** Clerk to engage with CCC.

A MoP asked about the Parish Council's intentions relating to the lease of The Paddock since the surgery held the previous week. The Chair confirmed that she would be calling an Extraordinary Meeting at 5.30pm on Tuesday 19th March 2024. **Action:** Chair to issue Agenda. The Parish Council also stated that they would like to arrange a meeting with the Play Group Manager. **Action:** Clerk to arrange.

9. **Planning.** There were no new planning applications received, and no further updates available on undecided applications. CCC Planning Portal continues to contain limited information to a recent cyber incident.

10. Report of the Clerk and RFO:

Members RESOLVED to note current cashbook/bank balance: £24,772.93.

Members NOTED the General and Earmarked Reserves £ 19,901.00

Members RESOLVED to agree the following payments:

1. Clerks March 2024 Salary/Expenses.
2. HMRC: £68.54
3. SECAMB: £100.00

Correspondence, to note and review:

- a) Members RESOLVED to arrange Direct Debit payments for future payments for HMRC.
- b) Members NOTED that Easy PC account system continues to develop as a useful tool. As time progresses and more financial data is input, it will assist with future budgeting and tracking of expenditure.
- c) A refund of VAT has been submitted for £854.21. The Clerk advised that this claim dates back to 1st April 2019. Members NOTED that as this period exceeds the permissible 3-year period, the sum refunded may be significantly reduced by HMRC.
- d) Members NOTED that the Insurance Policy was due for renewal and that the Asset Register would play a crucial part in ensuring appropriate cover. **Action:** Clerk and & Cllr Johncock to review all assets.
- e) Kent Police have confirmed that they will deliver a Cyber Protection & Fraud Prevention presentation at 6pm on Monday 8th April 2024, this is open to all residents. The Parish Council Meeting will follow on completion. **Action:** Clerk to advertise.
- f) Members NOTED that the Clerks bid on behalf of the Parish Council for monies from the KCC Winter Support Scheme was successful. Hoath Parish Council would shortly receive £1000 to assist its residents with Rural Isolation and the Cost-of-Living Crisis. The Parish Council will provide more information to its residents in due course.
- g) Members NOTED the Marley Lane Road closure.
- h) Members NOTED the recommendation from SECAMbs to have AED Responder Kits with the village Defibrillators. Members RESOLVED to ensure these are purchased and added to the cabinets timely. **Action:** Clerk

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11. Parish Council Website:

1. Website Domain Name: Members RESOLVED to change domain name to www.hoathparishcouncil.gov.uk and to include changes to the Parish Council email addresses, to also end in hoathparishcouncil.gov.uk
2. Members considered the quotes received from four of the Cabinet Offices Approved Registrars and RESOLVED to appoint 'Parish Council Websites' to register the new domain name and provide support.
3. Members also RESOLVED to change the current provision of the website, its hosting and email provision, along with full training and support for the Clerk to 'Parish Council Websites'. Members NOTED that by appointing a Government Approved Registrar, the PC can be confident that the new website design will be compliant to WCAG 2.1AA, GDPR and Transparency Compliance as standard.

Action: Clerk

12. Community Assets: Members NOTED that the current listing of The Prince of Wales Public House and The Gate Inn as Community Assets will expire in April 2024. The Members RESOLVED to engage with the owners of these assets to discuss continuing the listing with CCC and would welcome comments from the residents who are in support of this action. **Action:** Cllr Morizet.

13. Internal Audit: Members NOTED that the Clerk is in receipt of the Internal Auditors list of requirements that need to be submitted no later than 30th April 2024. Members also NOTED the timing in Standing Orders (para. 17e) that details that a completed draft annual governance and accountability return shall be presented to all councillors at least 14 days prior to anticipated approval by the Council. The annual governance and accountability return of the Council, which is subject to external audit, including the annual governance statement, shall be presented to the Council for consideration and formal approval before 30 June.

14. Joint Parish Group: Members NOTED that representatives from nine Parish Councils would be in attendance, along with three CCC Councillors, and 3 members from Kent Police. Clerk advised that refreshments had been organised. **Action:** Cllr Morizet to provide an agenda. **Clerk:** to forward agenda to confirmed guests.

15. Registration of Village Green: Members NOTED that the Clerk had been unable to apply for Village Green Status at KCC due to the delays at the Land Registry. Clerk is also investigating if a 'Deed of Gift' agreement was provided at the initial sale of land that may expediate the matter. The lack of either piece of evidence is also causing delays with the removal of the telegraph pole and registration of the remaining poles to the Parish Council.

16. Councillors Reports:

- **Cllr Morizet:** Reported that no update regarding Planning Application CA/21/02265 (Installation of digestate storage Ecobag with construction of bund) was available.
- **Cllr Johncock:** Reported that the works to update the road markings on Maypole Road will happen, but KCC are yet to provide a commencement date. She further reported on the incident of fly-tipping on Maypole Lane.
- **Cllr Hawkins:** Reported that the overall budget remains on track, despite the cost of the domain change and request for a further litter bin. He recommended that the PC start spending the allocated Reserve Funds, once the issue surrounding The Paddock had

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been resolved. He further stated that he is confident that the precept was set appropriately and that moving forward he accepted that budgeting is continuously evolving, and it is important to keep on top of all the unexpected expenditure.

- **Cllr Wright:** Reported that she wants to hold a community party on the Village Green. The Clerk advised all Councillors that as this expenditure was not included in the Budget for FY 24/25, and it should be important to recognise that the PC is already committed to holding an event to support Rural Isolation and the cost-of-living crisis. The Clerk also echoed the ongoing constraints of the budget and advised Cllr Wright to bring her proposal to the next meeting, whereby the Councillors can discuss.
- **Cllr Sinclair:** Reported that the many community events held across the village, organised by residents, continue to be a success and additional fundraising to purchase items for the Village Green is going well.

17. Date of next meeting: The next Parish Council meeting is at 5.45pm on Monday 8th April 2024, Kent Police would be delivering a short presentation on Cyber Protection and Fraud Prevention to the residents.

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

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

Chair Initials:

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