

Minutes of the meeting of Hoath Parish Council held on Monday 15th January 2024 at 5.45pm in Hoath Village Hall.

Present: Councillors: Karen Johncock (as Chair), William Hawkins, Sandy Sinclair and Adele Wright, plus KCC Cllr Alan Marsh and Community Warden. 11 Members of the Public (MoP) present.

1. **Apologies.** Apologies were received and ACCEPTED from Cllr Imogen Morizet (Attendance at a Funeral) and CCC Cllr. Rachel Carnac (Meeting).
2. **Declarations of Interest & Dispensation requests.** Cllr Hawkins declared that his spouse is a Cllr at Chislet Parish Council. 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 11th December 2023, were a true record and they were signed by Cllr Johncock (Chair).

4. **Matters arising from previous minutes:**

All outstanding actions have added to the January 2024 agenda for members consideration.

5. **CCC Report:** There was no report this month, apologies received.
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 highlighted that although the Consultation for Community Wardens had ended, he recommended that a letter still be sent to KCC expressing HPCs concerns. **Action:** Cllr Hawkins & Clerk.

7. **Community Warden Report:** Roger Lithgow reported that he had been trying to find the owner of the abandoned vehicle in the village car park.

8. **Representations from the public included:**

MoP raised concerns relating to the lease at of The Paddock, requesting the Parish Council to review the lease with the Chislet and District Pre-school Playgroup and requested that this matter be revisited.

A MoP raised concerns that the Village Green had yet to be developed.

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. See noticeboards for details.

A MoP highlighted that she was concerned about the safety of children who may use The Paddock if it become open to public use.

Chair Initials:

A MoP was concerned about the future of the Allotments and the rent increase. It was established that there are currently three vacant plots. HPC offered assistance to the AA to help with their administrative responsibilities and advertisement of vacant plots.

9. Planning.

There we no updates available relating to Undecided Applications.

10. Report of the Clerk and RFO:

Members RESOLVED to note current cashbook/bank balance: £25,952.54

Members NOTED the following receipts:

1. £580 from Hoath Gardening Club, to be held in Reserve to go towards the purchase of benches for the Village green.
2. £200 Allotment rent.

Members RESOLVED to agree the following payments:

1. Clerks January 2024 Salary.
2. Christmas Tree Lights £36.99
3. Training for the Chair £44.40
4. Feria Urbanism £138.62
5. Domain & McAfee renewal £94.46
6. CPRE Membership £60.00
7. Training for the Chair £128.40
8. HMRC £67.80

Correspondence, to note and review:

- a) Members were advised that a response remained outstanding to a MoP relating to the lease of The Paddock to the Chislet & Hoath Pre-school Playgroup. MoP was assured that a response would be provided prior to the next meeting. **Action:** HPC
- b) KCC Resilience & Emergency Planning request had been approved by the Village Hall Trustees, meaning the Village Hall could be used by KCC as an information point for residents, to gain information during a national extended power outage.
- c) 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 2nd March 2024. Further information will be provided nearer the time.
- d) Wooden footbridge along public right of way CB100A remains badly damaged, CC PRoW have been informed.
- e) The Landlords of The Prince of Wales had advised that they intend to submit a planning application to extend their licensing hours and additional garden use. MoP were advised to engage directly with the pub with their initial concerns, prior to a formal planning application being submitted.
- f) Kent Police are offering free Cyber Protection & Fraud Prevention presentations. Action: Clerk to arrange.
- g) Kent Wildlife Trust have confirmed they will be guest speakers at the Annual Parish Meeting on 13th May 2024, delivering a presentation on The Wilder Blean Project.
- h) MoP were advised that the CCC Parking Consultation and the KCC Windmill Consultation were still open for comments by residents.

Chair Initials:

- i) Members were advised that the CCC investigation into the felling of the Sycamore Tree in the vicinity of The Gate Inn had not yet concluded.
- j) Clerk has requested assistance from the Digital-Cabinet Office to create .gov domain accounts for the website and emails.

11. Councillors' reports:

- Cllr Johncock advised that dates were still being identified for the next Joint Parish Group which is due to take place in March 2024. **Action:** Clerk to arrange.
- Cllr Johncock advised that further and replacement signage will be added to Maypole Road to highlight the current 30mph limit. KCC will not be extending the current speed limit to Hoath Road. Residents who wish to object to KCC's decision were requested to engage with KCC directly. The Speed Indicator Machine's lifespan is being investigated, but this will be the Parish Council's responsibility to maintain/replace. Potholes are still causing residents and motorist problems, residents were urged to report all highway problems online using the KCC Highways Portal, ideally with photographs.
- Cllr Johncock provided an update on Speed watch and confirmed that Kent Police were likely to be able to provide the necessary equipment to the group, but more volunteers were still needed to make this initiative a success.
- Cllr Johncock advised the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group would meet on 5th February in the Village Hall.
- Cllr Johncock led the discussion on the new litter bin and it was RESOLVED to purchase the litter bin as detailed in the November and December 2024 minutes. A unanimous decision proposed by: Cllr Sinclair Seconded: Cllr Hawkins.
- Cllr Hawkins discussed with the Clerk the requirements from the insurance company and auditor for the Allotments. It was confirmed that HPC would be able to provide an audit trail to the insurance company and auditor detailing HPC requests for information, together with the AAs reluctance to provide. Cllr Hawkins noted that ongoing engagement with the AA should continue and again highlighted that the PC would be able to provide assistance to the AA to enable them to provide the necessary documentation.
- Cllr Hawkins discussed supporting the financial maintenance costs of the current Village Hall defibrillator, noting this is not a Parish Council asset. He highlighted that a defibrillator should be considered as a community asset for all, and despite this not being a responsibility of the PC he proposed that Hoath Parish Council RESOLVE to take on this financial responsibility for this defibrillator, this was seconded by Cllr Johncock. The general maintenance including maintaining registration would still fall to the Trustees of the Village Hall. It was also emphasised that any future replacement of this asset would need to be discussed at a public meeting.

12. Date of the next meeting: The next Parish Council meeting is 5.45pm on Monday 12th February 2024, (Parish Councillors will be available to the public from 5.15pm). Parish Council meetings continue to take place on the second Monday of the month (except August).

Chair Initials:

13. Date of the Annual Parish Meeting: The date of the Annual Parish Meeting will be Monday 13th May 2024; this will also be the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council.

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

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

Chair Initials: