

Minutes of the meeting of Hoath Parish Council held on Monday 8th April 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, and 8 Members of the Public (MoP).

1. **Apologies.** All members present, no apologies required.
2. **Declarations of Interest & Dispensation requests.** Cllr Morizet declared an interest at item 8.1 on the agenda (Planning Application CA/24/10006 – 1 Old Tree, Hoath (single-storey rear extension)). Cllr Hawkins declared that his spouse is a Cllr at Chislet Parish Council.
3. **Minutes of the Last Meeting.** RESOLVED to agree that the minutes of the meetings held on Monday 11th March and 19th March 2024, were a true record and they were signed by Cllr Morizet (Chair).
4. **Matters arising from previous minutes:** None.
5. **CCC Report:** Cllr Carnac reported that Garden Waste collections had restarted. Any resident who is having difficulty subscribing to the scheme can call the helpline on: 01227 947860 or contact Cllr Carnac for assistance.

The Local Plan (now to 2040) is available online for residents to make comments, the deadline is 3rd June 2024. Cllr Carnac also highlighted that the Local Government Boundary Commission Consultation, which is proposing new boundaries for Council Wards in CCC would run until 6th May 2024, and the Community Governance Review Consultation for the Westbere and Hersden Boundary was running until 20th May 2024; she encouraged residents to make comment.

Cllr Carnac also reported the Cyber Attack at CCC continues to affect the Planning Portal, it is envisaged that this will be fully back online shortly. Any resident who requires assistance with accessing planning portal information, should engage with either the Clerk or Cllr Carnac.

KCC Report: Cllr Marsh reported that the continued rise in costs for Unaccompanied Asylum Children, Adult Social Care and Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND) continues to put an enormous and unsustainable strain on the KCC budget. The Highways budget is also under pressure, but he assured residents that work continues across the county to try and alleviate the problems on the roads.

6. **Community Warden Report:** Roger Lithgow reported that he continues to support residents in Canterbury and Thanet areas. He has attended local resident's homes to conduct welfare checks along with other similar agency organisations. He has been conducting visible presence rounds in his Community Warden van. He had also responded to a report in Hoath of youths firing a catapult; he urged residents to report any incidents like this to the Police as soon as they occur.

Chair Initials:

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7. Representations from the public included:

There were no representations from the Public.

8. Planning:

Cllr Morizet left the meeting whilst point 8.1 was discussed by Members and then returned to the meeting for point 8.2.

Members considered the following planning applications:

1. NEW: CA/24/10006 - 1 Old Tree Road, Hoath. Single-Storey Rear Extension.
No objection by Hoath Parish Council.
2. NEW: CA/24/00050 - Old Tree View, Old Tree, Hoath. Details submitted pursuant to condition 3ii (Archaeology safeguarding measures - partial approval) of planning permission CA/22/01911/FULL. There was no objection by Hoath Parish Council for the initial planning permission. The Chair permitted a MoP speak, as he was concerned about the limited archaeology evaluation that was carried out at the site. The MoP was disappointed that the evaluation only focused on small area around the footprint of the proposal, despite the landowner conducting significant excavations on the land, diagonally across the entrance to Old Tree Road towards to the point of the proposed barn and that no archaeology has been conducted on the areas excavated on these areas. The MoP further added that these evaluations would be more beneficial if they covered the total area of land that was being developed, including trench ways, etc., and not restricted to the erection site of the planning proposal. The MoP confirmed that he had not raised his concerns with CCC and was subsequently advised to do so. **Action:** Clerk to upload supporting comments to the MoP's concerns to CCC Planning Portal. The MoP was also concerned with the number of bonfires that were occurring at this site, which the PC noted. The MoP was advised to send his concerns to the PC for the attention of Cllr Johncock.
3. UPDATE: EN/23/00180 - Removal of a tree in a conservation area. The Clerk reported that CCC had confirmed that a replacement tree had been planted in the vicinity of the of the original.

9. Report of the Clerk and RFO:

Members RESOLVED to note current cashbook/bank balance: £23,968.99.

Members NOTED the General and Earmarked Reserves had increased to £20,651 after identifying a £750 Grant that was received from CCC in 2020 but had not been previously ringfenced.

Members RESOLVED to agree the following payments:

1. Clerks April 2024 Salary/Expenses.

Correspondence, to note and review:

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- a) Members noted that Direct Debit payments had been approved for future payments to HMRC.
- b) Members noted that CCF for FY 24/25 would be £745.00.
- c) A free one-day Community Resilience Planning Workshop is taking place on Tue 21st May 2024, at Ashford Borough Council's Committee Rooms. **Action:** Cllr Morizet to attend.
- d) Members noted that the Clerk had now lodged two complaints with the Customer Care team at UKPN, regarding the removal of the telegraph pole at the Village Green and awaits a response.
- e) Members NOTED the requirement for Voter's to have photo ID for the election on 2nd May 2024. Posters had been provided and will be placed on the Notice Boards.
- f) Members NOTED that two AED Responder Kits had been purchased, one was in the defibrillator cabinet at the Prince of Wales Public House, and the other passed to a Village Hall Trustee for the cabinet outside the Village Hall.
- g) Members NOTED the delivery of the King's portrait, this item has been added to the Asset register and passed to a Village Hall trustee, so it can be hung in the Village Hall.

10. Community Assets: Members CONSIDERED and RESOLVED that The Prince of Wales Public House and The Gate Inn should be listed as Community Assets. **Action:** Cllr Morizet to forward completed application forms to the Clerk for submission to CCC.

11. Winter Support Scheme Grant: Members CONSIDERED and RESOLVED to work with all the representatives attending the next Village Hall Trustees meeting on 22nd April 2024, where it will be discussed how the £1000 will be spent. Members NOTED that £200 was allocated to Village Hall hire, £300 for hygiene & cleaning products and £500 allocated for food and refreshments. The event(s) to be organised were to support the residents of Hoath with Rural Isolation and the cost-of-living crisis. Provisional dates discussed were 22nd June and/or 20th July 2024. Members NOTED the need for VAT receipt-based evidence, and that a statement would need to be produced for KCC, detailing where the Grant monies was spent.

12. Asset Register and Annual Insurance Policy: Members CONSIDERED and RESOLVED to approve the amendments to the Asset Register that has not had a formal review since 2018. **Action:** Clerk to publish Asset Register on website.

The Members NOTED that the Insurance Policy is due for renewal on 1st June 2024, and that the Asset Register plays a crucial part in ensuring appropriate cover. Members CONSIDERED the Clerks advice and RESOLVED to CONSIDER a minimum of three quotes at the next meeting.
Clerk: To obtain minimum of three quotes.

13. Councillors Reports:

- **Cllr Morizet:** Provided an update on the Neighbourhood Plan but unfortunately unavoidable delays had recently been incurred. Cllr Johncock added that the advice from Cllr Baldock at the recent Joint Parish Group Meeting was that the focus should be on Biodiversity, Planning and Highways to which the Members agreed. The first draft report should be published by the Parish Council before the end of April. **Action:** Cllr Morizet.

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- **Cllr Morizet:** Reported that the Hoath Meadow Group were going to be busy planting the new saplings from the Woodland Trust. The Chair ACCEPTED the need to ensure appropriate Risk Assessments were to be carried out prior to any works commencing.
- **Cllr Wright:** Reported that a working group had been set up (including 3 x Councillors and MoP), who are using the Calumma Ecological Services, Landscape and Ecological Management Plan obtained from the original Developer to work towards. Cllr Wright reported that she had canvassed some Hoath residents on what they want to see on the village green, it was established that benches were high on residents wish lists. Cllr Wright stated that the money from the Gardening Club would be used to purchase a tree for the Village Green.

The Members NOTED the Clerk's advice regarding transparency and reminded them of their previous assurances to MoPs that they would be included in the design process of the village green, in that they would provide adequate opportunities for the MoP to be engaged and also ensure that the Financial Regulations would be followed. The Clerk further advised that before any purchase, the installation costs would also need to be factored in.

Action: Cllr Wright to provide her Village Green proposal at the next meeting for consideration.

Action: Cllr Wright to provide written confirmation of the Gardening Clubs request to purchase a tree in addition to a bench. (January 2024, Minute 491 refers).

Action: Cllr Wright to place an article in the Parish Magazine calling for ideas for the Village Green.

Action: Clerk to publish the Calumma Plan on social media.

- 14. Date of next meeting:** The Annual Parish Meeting is at 6pm on Monday 13th May 2024, Kent Wildlife Trust would be delivering a short presentation on the Wilder Blean Project to the residents. This will be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Council, to elect a Chair. On completion the Monthly Council Meeting would convene.

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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