

Hixon Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Tuesday December 18th 2012

**In attendance for all or part of the meeting:**

Cllr B McKeown (Chair), Cllr J Carmichael, Cllr D Sephton, Cllr G Tummey, Cllr P Hopcroft, Cllr Mrs S McKeown.

Members of the public: See list of people signing as In Attendance.

Ref	Item	Action
001/12	Apologies received from: Cllr R Tonge and Cllr Mrs C Hassall and from members of the Public: Cllr Mrs J Tabernor, Cllr L Bloomer, Cllr A Stafford-Northcote, Cllr A Perkins.	-
002/12	No declarations of interest were made.	-
003/12	Minutes of meeting November 18th 2012 were accepted as accurate.	-
Addition to agenda	Resolved to give all Hixon Parish Councillors dispensation to discuss and set Hixon Parish budget and precept at all future meetings and for all future budgets and precepts. Proposed by Cllr Tummey and seconded by Cllr Carmichael, unanimous vote in favour.	-
026/10	Survey on Rural Exception Housing from Housing Plus and Stafford & Rural Homes: Planners have approved all 3 sites put forward, Highways have approved 2 of the sites. Agreed to give permission for land owner of preferred site (number 11) to be approached. Some technical issues are being discussed with the landowner.	Clerk
067&081/09 & 056/11	Speed and Highway Safety in Hixon Parish. Cllr. Tummey to find out details of Homezone requirements. Maps and details/proposals of highway safety measures have been sent to Chris Mitchell for comments and prices. No further update available. Main contact within Highways is likely to be Harfan. Clerk has contacted Chris Mitchell asking for movement forward as precept needs to be set for 2013-2014. shortly. Response received, will forward feedback as soon as he can. Some feedback received from Chris Mitchell - this was read out by the Clerk. The feedback seems to be confused with regards to the requirements in some areas. Invite Chris Mitchell for discussions prior to start of main meeting (budget setting) on 8th January.	Clerk
As above	Speedwatch Campaign: There won't be any further Speedwatch sessions until February due to the cold and gloomy weather conditions. There is an anomaly with speed limit in Church Lane: it is different depending upon which end you enter it, outside the 30mph section. Clerk to raise with Highways.	Clerk
021/09, 023/09, 074/09, 091/09	Playing Fields Report: No problems. Sponsor board now in place. Invite Staffs Environmental Fund representative along to unveil the board. Chair to contact Stone Canoeist to official ceremony. Fresh Air Fitness have had a team out to sort out the problem with the rust again. If problems re-appear, take Fresh Air Fitness up on replacement offer. Clerk has tabulated prices received for repairs from the 3 contractors that are quoting. Review the prices and possible addition of a roundabout at budget time and during asset inspection. Familiarise with rust problems on fitness equipment during asset inspection. Cllr Hopcroft to provide information on problem with seat backs on Pull-Down Challenger. Cllr Hopcroft and Clerk to write letter to Fresh Air Fitness re rust (coming back again) and seat backs (they are defective and should be covered under warranty). Grass cuttings have been removed from the bank and placed in corners - satisfactory, except banks left in poor condition wrt to grass.	Cllr Hopcroft/Clerk
097/07	Allotments: Sponsor board now in place. Awaiting official opening ceremony. Need planning permission and an idea of costs plus sources of funding. Allotment paths are to be kept weed free by allotment holders. Clerk has established that Parish Councils pay half the normal fee for a planning application, fee would be £75. Chair to speak to Allotment Committee about them paying half of this. Fee money (from PC) would come out of ring-fenced allotment money. See if planning permission is granted then look for external funding for works. Plans for derelict building need to be finalised.	Chair

201/06	Disputed Land at Hammonds Croft: Plan showing piece of land transferred has been prepared and agreed with householder - copy has been provided to householder for forwarding to Land Registry with paperwork and fee. Some problems reorted with map - not signed and blown up scale. Householder's solicitor is trying to sort this out. Plans produced by CC are digital and not blown up- let householder know.	Clerk
046/09	Publicity for Compass magazine - Chair to provide monthly articles by 2nd Monday in the month. Chair to write article re Sycamore Drive Play Area for Compass. Cllr. Tummey has offered to help e.g. by preparing information on Speedwatch and preparing a resume of the PC meeting for Compass.	Chair/Cllr Tummey
094/09	Land Registry: Checking which bits of land are registered as owned by Hixon Parish Council. Hammonds Croft and Sycamore Drive land title registers purchased - OK. Ridgeway OS is registered, Lauder Grove is unregistered, Church Road is unregistered, Meadow Glade is unregistered. Car Park is registered, Greenfields and Featherbed Lane are unregistered. Need to change some title registers from Stowe PC to Hixon PC. Clerk and Cllr Sephton have looked through old files stored at back of Memorial Hall. The original Playing Fields gifting document has been found, together with other paperwork on land. Most files from the cabinets have now have been discarded. Clerk to look through files and liaise with Land Registry.	Clerk
101/09	Car Park light: Bollard light has arrived and is with contractor. Installed but not connected to electricity supply as yet.	Clerk to chase
051/10	JBMI Liaison Committee - EA sent on a "letter" from JBM re increasing the height of the chimney stack and consulting residents - it was decided to go back to the County Council asking about the proposed liaison committee: County Council are organising a liaison group to include Hixon PC. The letter sent on by the EA was apparently an invitation top consult, a "paper" letter has now been received. Decided to reply saying that PC will discuss the proposed new chimney stack once a formal planning application has been received. Letter has been sent to JBM. Level of problems and complaints re smell and noise has increased again recently. St Peter's school have had a consultation meeting with JBM , they felt the proposed new chimney would have several advantages over the current situation. County Council liaison group should be close to being set up as the local agreement is close to being finalised.	Clerk
064/10	Community Transport - Cllr Mrs S McKeown and Cllr B McKeown attended a meeting discussing a combined bid for funds for Community Transport from County Council (awarded by the Lottery Fund) on January 25th. It is a Ring and Ride scheme with volunteer drivers. Person requesting the ride pays the volunteer, volunteer passes money to the organisation and the organisation pays the volunteer's mileage plus a little bit over. Tixall with Ingestre, Hixon and Colwich present. Stowe by C may be interested. Could operate as different schemes with one (paid) co-ordinator. Questionnaires are being produced to establish the interest in the village. Questionnaire will not be provided by Colwich PC but they have provided information. Put article in Compass and Newsletter to establish interest. Cllr Mrs S McKeown has prepared a piece for Compass magazine, this was sent to Compass in June. Sent again for November Compass as did not appear over the summer. Article in November Compass, 2 replies received so far: one wanting transport, one offering transport.	Clerk to contact the two sets of people to update them.
046/11	Encampment at side of canal in Pasturefields: Canal boats set up a camp on the canal at Pasturefields, a Romany caravan is also there. SBC Planning are looking in to this and also static caravans parked at the side of the canal. SBC have asked for help from residents to record movements etc. at the encampments over a 28 day period. Two possible volunteers to do this. Chair will ask one person to keep a log. Planning Enforcement are following procedures with a view to enforce planning permission application - boat owners say that boats are not in the water as the bank has eroded and the boats are on land. British Waterways have not given permission for boats to be moored. Enforcement action is going ahead, ceratin items have been removed. The legal department of SBC have written giving intent of a summons. The time ran out Monday Sept 24th. It is believed that a summons has been served.	-
032/11	Consider Website update/revamp: We are nearly at the stage where we can do things ourselves with the new website. News page has been set up. Link sent to all Councillors so that everyone can have a look at what has been set up. Try uploading articles etc. to the website. Awaiting lesson on how to populate website.	Clerk/Chair
015/12	Revised Code of Conduct: Code of Conduct from the Borough Council has been published - can use this draft version for Parish Council. Main difference from previous code is that the pecuniary interests of spouses/partners now have to be disclosed. Draft model 2012 and current Hixon Code of Conduct circulated to all councillors. List of changes as such not available from SBC, appendix 1 to reort that states the main changes has been circulated. Sub-cmmittee agreed to look at the paperwork and report back in February as to what needs to be done - Cllrs: Mrs S McKeown, Mrs C Hassall, D Sephton. Meeting Wednesday 16th January.	Sub-committee

032/12	Local Development Framework: response to most recent consultation: Response has been sent in to SBC planning. Leave on agenda for updates etc. It has been proposed that some villages are removed as Key Service Villages due to lack of facilities, Hixon has less facilities than some of these. Further correspondence has been circulated, can comment on whether plans are legal and safe - January.	All
037/012	Public meeting for 12/16714/OUT Building for Use Class B1 (Business) and/or Use Class B2 (General Industry) and/or Use Class B8 (Storage and Distribution) (outline) - access, appearance, layout and scale to be determined - Air & Ground Aviation Land Off New Road, Hixon. Planning Committee gave permission for the outline planning application to go ahead. A large number of Hixon residents have indicated their disgust at this decision at the planning meeting, at the PC meeting and via e-mail etc. The decision was based on inaccurate and mis-leading information. A resident has agreed to lead the complaint on behalf of other residents against Stafford Borough Council's decision and take the case to the ombudsman if necessary. Signatures collected at the meeting and a door- to-door flyer will be produced, to be completed and returned, stating support for the complaint. It was suggested by a resident that advice from a planning consultant may be useful. Letter of complaint has gone in to SBC, together with >ca. 300 residents signatures supporting the complaint.	All
038/12	Correspondence received as a result of public meeting (037/12): discussed In Camera.	-
049/12	Draft budget 2013-2014: deferred until extra meeting on January 8th.	Clerk
053/12	Discuss play surface repairs/renewal and roundabout: Discuss with budget next meeting. Clerk to get prices for 4 pieces of play equipment (including a roundabout) in the £5-6K region for budget. Proposal made and agreed that St Peter's children should chose which piece they would prefer to have on the playing field. Prices and details obtained, discuss at budget meeting.	Clerk
050/12	Neighbourhood Plan: Agreed that Hixon should apply for a Neighbourhood Plan. Clerk has drafted letter based on Colwich letter, need a copy of the Parish map.	Clerk
051/12	Actions from asset inspection: Not all that many actions, Clerk has obtained prices for work, discuss at budget meeting.	-
052/12	Discuss separation of Hixon from the Haywoods/Colwich in local election. Residents at the meeting agreed that this should be taken forward - to be progressed in New Year.	-
055/12	Discuss putting social housing availability poster on noticeboard: It was agreed to place the poster on the notice board.	Clerk
056/12	Discuss two cherry trees on Hammonds Croft open space - very large and roots going in to neighbouring garden - cut back? It was decided to reply to householders advising them that they can cut through the tree roots within their boundary, which will stop spread of roots on their property. Cutting the actual tree back is likely to promote root growth.	Clerk
057/12	Discuss price for amenity skip next year: £72 for 1 hour (currently £70 for 1 hour), buy 2 get 1 free. Agreed to go ahead with 6 (buy 4, get 2 free) visits for 1 hour.	Clerk
058/12	Discuss the lack of representation for Hixon by Borough Councillors: Ask Alistair Welch for clarification re planning committee members? It was decided to ask Alistair Welch if there are any restrictions on Borough Councillor's listening to PC and/or members of the public discussing planning applications: can they listen, can they express views? Seek clarification.	Clerk
017/12	Chairman's announcements:	None
018/12	Councillor Questions:	None
	Can the amount of flood water on New Road be raised with Highways?	Clerk to action
	A resident has complained that the grain and farm machinery storage buildings on agricultural land are in fact being used to store parts.	Clerk to contact planning.
	Auctions of scrap vehicles: PC needs to start logging when the vehicles arrive on site and when they are removed, to check the total time on airfield site.	Cllrs.
019/12	Date of next meeting: January 8th (budget) and then January 15th 2013 (full).	Clerk to book Memorial Hall

020/12	Public Participation	
	Various members of the public spoke about their concern at the pollution coming from JBMI and the planning application for a replacement chimney there. A possible contract for recycling Spent Pot Liner (a material that is officially classified as hazardous) transported from Australia was also discussed. Residents are concerned that any new chimney will not get rid of the smell and smoke that come from the current JBM chimney and will not be suitable for taking on extra contracts.	-
	Residents want to try and get the Air & Ground outline planning application permission overturned as they are outraged that it was allowed. A formal letter of complaint has gone in to SBC and passed on to Ted Manders. SBC have 12 weeks from 22nd November to respond, the Planning Ombudsman can then be involved if necessary. SBC should be convinced not to grant full planning permission for this building.	-
	Can garages and extensions now be built without planning permission? - not that the Parish Council are aware of.	-
021/12	Planning Applications:	
	12/17847/FUL Erection of replacement chimney at JBMI Kingsilver Refinery, Hixon	Insufficient information to make an informed decision
	12/18005/REM Reserved matters - Landscaping - ref 12/16714/OUT condition 2, Air & Ground Aviation, land off New Road, Hixon	Object
	12/17610/FUL Building for general industrial purposes, office extensions, car parking, storage yard at Broadcrown Ltd. Hixon Airfield Industrial Estate.	Object
022/12	Planning Reports	None
023/12	Bank Reconciliation.	Done
024/12	Schedule of agreed payments	
	C Gill salary - December (gross). Local Gov act 1972 s111.	£622.26
	C Gill expenses - December. Local Gov act 1972 s111	£48.50
	Reimbursement C Gill mileage (10 miles @ £0.45p/mile). Local Gov act 1972 s111	£4.50
	Reimbursement of C Gill for stamps - (12 x 50p 2nd class). Local Gov act 1972 s111	£6.00
	Acer Garden Landscapes for hedge cutting (£180) plus retained sum (£326.74)	£506.74
	Eon - lighting energy and maintenance 6/4/12 to 5/4/13	£161.50
	Poppy Appeal wreath	£18.50
	G Bromley (Electrical) - floodlights on hall for Youth Club (grant)	£384.00
	Charles Raby Timber - willow tree (£180) and hedge (£120)	£300.00
	Re-imburement of B McKeown for travel expenses to Birmingham for meeting (train tickets £19.80, car parking £4, mileage from Newcastle UL to Stafford and back - 30 miles at 45p per mile)	£37.30
	Green Man pub for buffet at Best Garden etc. presentation evening	£40.00
025/12	Correspondence received: Ice Busters Initiative letter from SCC Highways.	

Meeting finished at 10.05 pm.