

Hixon Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Tuesday February 12th 2013

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 A Stafford-Northcote, Cllr A Perkins, (Cllr L Bloomer for being late).	-
002/12	No declarations of interest were made.	-
003/12	Minutes of meeting January 8th and 15th were accepted as accurate.	-
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. Offer has been made by S&RH to attend next meeting - accepted.	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. Some feedback received. Priorities as far as PC in concerned are: High Street, then all 3 entrances to the village (New Road, Lea Road and Church Lane - County Council should pay for safety measures on Church Lane outside school). Chris Mitchell agreed with revised plan for High Street to build out on one side, to allow pedestrian footpath. Will discuss with his engineers and kick start the design of plans as discussed. Clerk to write to Chris Mitchell to thank him and ask for plans by end of April.	Clerk
As above	Speedwatch Campaign: There won't be any further Speedwatch sessions until February due to the cold and gloomy weather conditions. National Speed Limit (60mph) sign will be erected at Farley Corner end of Church Lane.	-
021/09, 023/09, 074/09, 091/09	Playing Fields Report: 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. 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). A horse had been ridden across the grass on playing field and hooves had caused a mess - earth has now been pushed down again as well as could be.	Cllr Hopcroft/Clerk
097/07	Allotments: Allotment paths are to be kept weed free by allotment holders. Derelict building: 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. Plans for derelict building have been finalised. See if planning permission is required by sending in plans with letter. If not required, or required and granted, then look for external funding for works. Cllr Mrs S McKeown to write to Allotment Committee re their request for works required - committee should organise the routine, day-to-day jobs themselves.	Chair
201/06	Disputed Land at Hammonds Croft: Land Registry transaction in householders' name completed - discharge.	Clerk
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
051/10	JBMI Liaison Committee - County Council liaison group should be close to being set up as the local agreement is close to being finalised - awaiting engrossments from the applicant's solicitors.	Clerk

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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. Article in November Compass, 2 replies received so far: one wanting transport, one offering transport. Newsletter article may invoke more responses.	Chair
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, certain 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	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, then will go live with new 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 (2007) circulated to all councillors. List of changes as such not available from SBC, appendix 1 to report that states the main changes has been circulated. Sub-committee 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. Now meeting Monday 25th February. New disclosable interest forms need to be completed by those Cllrs. that haven't already done so.	Sub-committee
032/12	Local Development Framework: response to most recent consultation: Response has been sent in to SBC planning. 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 - need to format a response. Hard copy of documents received, Paul to copy and distribute to Cllrs for comments.	Clerk
037/012 (&059/12)	(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 produced that residents 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. Pre-Action Protocol letter sent to SBC and response received - considered unsatisfactory by Cllrs. Next step would be application for judicial review - costs of up to £5000 total for this stage agreed unanimously, pre-action protocol letter charges have been waived by solicitors. Clerk to give go-ahead for application for judicial review, as long as solicitor confirms that the application has not run out-of-time. Prompt action is now crucial. Resident will take forward the complaint to the Ombudsman.	Clerk

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038/12	Correspondence received as a result of public meeting (037/12): no discussion required.	-
053/12	Discuss play surface repairs/renewal and roundabout/alternative equipment: Prices and details obtained, looking at grants.	Chair
050/12	Neighbourhood Plan: Planning application re designation of area for Neighbourhood Plan (i.e. Hixon Parish) is being consulted on. Request residents to support the application, via website and FB page. Accept Andy Holden's invitation to attend meeting, to discuss what help the Community Council can provide.	Clerk
051/12	Actions from asset inspection: Not all that many actions, Clerk has obtained prices for work, costs accepted; work to be given a specification by Cllr. Carmichael.	Cllr Carmichael
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. Clerk to write to Alistair Welch asking for the ward boundary to be re-drawn making Hixon a single member ward. Ask about shortest timeframe possible and what the PC can do to help. Public feedback and support is required, campaign locally. Boundaries are due for review every 10 years, last review was 2003. Reply received from Jane Peat - in hand, will contact Clerk when timetable agreed.	-
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. E-mail sent, no reply. Follow-up e-mail and letter sent, plus copy of letter to Ian Thompson (Chief Executive) - still no reply. Keep chasing.	Clerk
061/12	Discuss top re-surfacing of roads in Hixon - problems of loose stones etc. Chris Mitchell has advised that the weather has been too wet and too cold for the stones to stick properly and acknowledges the problem. Road sweepers will be coming round to sweep up loose stones and pavements will be swept as well.	-
062/12	A51 diversion, damage to lanes, speed limit on Stowe Lane - response from Chris Mitchell: The diversion couldn't be avoided as there was no other route to use. The water was dealt with as quickly as it could be, the problem is a broken/blocked land drain. There is now a water pump in the adjacent field that will be turned on when there is heavy rain. The speed limit on Stowe Lane was reviewed fairly recently and judged to be appropriate for the area.	-
063/12	Proposed Running Race on roads through Hixon and Stowe By C on 26th May 2013. Route needs to be clarified and also whether Lea Road residents will be able to get out.	Clerk
064/12	Consider renewal of membership of Staffs Playing Fields Association for 2012 -2013: £15. Clerk to circulate information provided last year.	Clerk
065/12	Community Paths Initiative: Bids for 2013/2014: Printing walk leaflets was suggested - Clerk to obtain price and apply.	Clerk
066/12	Consider HS2: Although Hixon is not directly affected by the proposed route of HS2, it was considered important that Hixon Parish Council and Hixon residents are kept up-to-date with what is going on and are invited to meetings etc., in case anything changes. Keep as an agenda item.	Clerk
017/12	Chairman's announcements:	
	Cllr. Roly Tonge has asked for a special dispensation of 12 months absence from Hixon Parish Council meetings due to the ill health of his wife and the subsequent impact on his own health. Agreed unanimously, Clerk to write to Cllr Tonge.	Clerk
	April's meeting will start at 7pm, due to the two lots of visitors.	Clerk

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018/12	Councillor Questions:	
	JBM: Replacement chimney case officer was meant to be investigating why JBM went ahead without planning permission - Clerk to chase up response.	Clerk
019/12	Date of next meeting: March 19th 2013.	Clerk to book Memorial Hall
020/12	Public Participation	
	A meeting has been held between Environment Agency and some concerned residents. The Council decided to ask the Environment Agency if JBM have all the required procedures in place and to invite EA to April meeting to answer a list questions provided to them beforehand.	Clerk
	Dog poo has become a problem in several areas of the village. The suggestion was made that the Millennium Green was made "No Dogs" or had a part of it fenced off and dogs allowed in that part only. As the Millennium Green is not owned by the Parish Council, the suggestion will be passed on the the Trust Committee for consideration.	-
	Cllr Len Bloomer raised HS2 and said that the County Council are hosting a meeting about this on 18th March. He provided plans of the proposed local route.	-
021/12	Planning Applications:	None
022/12	Planning Reports	
	12/17847/FUL Erection of replacement chimney at JBMI Kingsilver Refinery, Hixon	Permit
	12/17610/FUL Building for general industrial purposes, office extensions, car parking, storage yard at Broadcrown Ltd. Hixon Airfield Industrial Estate. Withdrawn for a Great Crested Newt survey to take place, then will be re-submitted	Withdrawn - see opposite.
023/12	Bank Reconciliation.	Done
024/12	Schedule of agreed payments	
	C Gill salary - February (gross). Local Gov act 1972 s111.	£660.00
	C Gill expenses - February. Local Gov act 1972 s111	£53.50
	C Gill back pay for January (gross)	£37.74
	C Gill back expenses for January	£5.00
	Reimbursement C Gill mileage (26 miles @ £0.45p/mile). Local Gov act 1972 s111	£11.70
	Reimbursement of C Gill for stamps - (12 1st class @60p = £7.20 plus 90p). Local Gov act 1972 s111	£8.10
	Reimbursement of C Gill for key for electric meter cupboard in Memorial Hall	£6.50
	Fenns stationery ink	£129.52
	Nigel Hart for bollard light installation	£1,056.00
	SBC for amenity skip	£140.00
025/12	Correspondence received: Invitation to a Mayor's Charity Race Night on March 8th, SLCC communication on Training Opportunities, Three C's Newsletter (SPCA, SLCC, Community Council of Staffordshire), Community Council of Staffs - request for info, on Village Festivals and Events for their diary.	

Meeting finished at 9:40 pm.