

**HIXON PARISH MEETING HELD ON
Tuesday 21st May 2013**

Present: Cllr B McKeown (Chair), Cllr J Carmichael , Cllr D Sephton, Cllr P Hopcroft,
Cllr Mrs S McKeown, Cllr Mrs C Hassall, Cllr G Tummey

Apologies: Cllr R Tonge (dispensation). Members of the Public: Cllr L Bloomer.

Meeting commenced at 7pm.

1. Minutes of the last Parish Meeting were agreed by the Council and signed by the Chairman (previously reviewed in June 2012).

Matters Arising

2. Three representatives from the Environment Agency (Mark Smith, Steve Mearns and Richard Hossack) gave answers to pre-set questions and then took questions from the public. The questions and answers are attached as an addendum to the minutes.

3. Cllr. Tummey gave a talk about Speedwatch in Hixon.

4. Chair gave a presentation on HS2 and how it affected in Hixon for the preferred route and the two alternative routes. He warned that Hixon residents should not be complacent and assume that the preferred route will be the one chosen but should make their views known(no to HS2/which route etc.) by contacting the MP, Jeremy Lefroy.

5. Highway proposals: The possible highway safety measures that have been put forward by the Parish Council were discussed. The Parish Council has not had time to study the recent response from Highways (Hixon Traffic Management Feasibility Report) but a public exhibition of proposals is planned for September.

6. The Parish Council intend to produce a Neighbourhood Plan with the help of residents and are looking for people to join the working group. The Neighbourhood Plan, once adopted, will become part of the Local Plan for Stafford Borough and will be used to determine future development.

7. Update on Judicial Review and Ombudsman Complaint: The Ombudsman complaint is proceeding, with further information having been requested. The Judicial Review has been refused and the Parish Council does not have sufficient funds to take the matter to an open court hearing, that may have overturned the refusal. Written representations will be made against the awards of costs.

8. (The Financial Officer had prepared a report on the receipts and expenditure for 2012 - 2013, reviewing the main sources of income and of expenditure. There had not been any major projects in the year and both receipts and expenditure were relatively low. The Parish Council had slightly more money in the bank at the end of the year than at the beginning, meaning that money is available for some projects in 2013-2014).

The Chairman's report on the previous 12 months Parish Council Initiatives is covered by the above.

Meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Signed as a true account: Date: