

Hixon Parish Council		
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Tuesday June 16th 2009		
In attendance for all or part of the meeting:		
Cllr B McKeown (Chair), Cllr J Carmichael (Vice Chair), Cllr D Sephton, Cllr Mrs S McKeown, Cllr P Hopcroft.		
Members of the public: See list of people signing as In Attendance.		
Ref	Item	Action
018/09	Apologies received from Cllr. A Hutchins, Cllr C Hassall, Cllr R Tonge and from Members of the Public: Cllr. Mr A Perkins, Cllr Mrs J Tabernor, Cllr Mr A Stafford-Northcote.	
019/09	Cllrs B and Mrs S McKeown declared an interest in item 076/09	
020/09	Minutes of meeting Tuesday 19th May 2009 were accepted as accurate.	
	Standing Orders were suspended to allow public discussion on the proposed waste composting plant.	
	The Chairman gave an address on the current position with regards the planning application and read out an e-mail from Andrew Pymm, the agent. There were a large number of objections raised by members of the public, everyone who spoke being opposed to the waste composting plant being sited in Hixon. Opinions given included: concerns about the vehicle movements, noise, smells, health hazards (pathogens are given off), vermin, the visual impact, use of green belt land, impact on wildlife, proximity to public footpath and houses, smell from compost once spread on land around Hixon, impact on village as a whole - Hixon seems to be the dumping ground for undesirable developments in the area. Why site this compost plant in a village at all? - plenty of industrial only sites that could be used. Watch out for the planning application being re-submitted.	Clerk to put new planning application details on website once known.
	Main meeting was resumed.	
021/09	Cllr Hopcroft reported that there had an incident when a lot of litter had been left in the playing field - it had then been tidied up, not known by whom.	
230/99	Art Stone Structure - Welcome to Hixon. Meeting with Highways at 3pm on June 26th. Move the planter as well?	Chair.
040/09	Police Report - Paul Ryan has taken over from Orson Blewitt. Paul lives in Salt and has had 23 years of service in the police, in a variety of roles. Suggestions made by Paul after discussion of some problems seen in the village included: ask for traffic wardens to patrol the affected areas, consider setting up a Speedwatch campaign.	

307/07	Wimpey have been invoiced for grass cutting, no response. Still waiting for a reply from Wimpey to the Parish Council's letter of January 23rd.	Clerk
097/07	Allotments: Send letter to all Land Owners in the area and to Stafford Borough Council.	Clerk
133/08	Scout Troop request for land: Send a letter to the Scout Group naming Land owners in the area.	Clerk
063/08	Walk leaflets update and new design. It was agreed to do work during 2009 as and when Clerk's time permits Bring copy of walk to next meeting to allow update of details.	Councillors to provide details of any changes to the walk they have undertaken or confirm no changes required.
134/08	Information panel on High Street car park.	Chair to arrange new map etc.
201/06	Disputed Land at Hammonds Croft.	With the Solicitors.
124/08	Back Lane Bus Shelter damage. Names and addresses of witnesses have been sent to Bus Company's insurer. Await further action.	-
023/09	Playing field equipment - quote from Abbey Landscapes for £175 to carry out the work recommended on the swings (2 sets) and also to fence in the gap by the gate - quote accepted.	Clerk to arrange repairs.
024/09	Swale on Vicarage Way.	Discussed In Public Participation.
025/09	Freedom of Information Act: Proposed new forms agreed by the Council, to be put on Website when Clerk has access.	(Clerk)
026/09	Environment Agency correspondence. The Chairman to analyse the results for the next meeting.	Chairman to inspect the results received.
027/09	Best Kept Village competition.	-
	Planters are complete. Child posters are being displayed. Prizes have been purchased. Community gang tasks - need more highway-based task suggestions from Councillors.	Councillors.
041/09	Back Lane Bus Shelter: A quote for £125 for the required work from Woodward Construction was accepted.	Clerk to arrange the work
043/09	Community Paths Initiative - a bid for leaflets of £400 has been submitted. Awaiting response.	-
046/09	Publicity for Compass magazine - Clerk has been in contact with Compass regarding contributions and a possible grant - reply received. Chair to send article for inclusion (deadline 2nd Monday of the month) and Clerk to arrange donation of £100 on an annual basis.	Chair/Clerk.

067/09	As there has been a change of personnel at the Highways Dept, the P.C. requested a meeting with the new person (Chris Mitchell), preferably at the July Parish Council meeting.	Clerk to invite Chris Mitchell to July meeting.
070/09	Request from Community Paths Initiative for summary of expenditure, with receipts (and photos) for work done on Footpath No. 1 with the £300 award in 2008/2009. - to be compiled.	Chair.
073/09	The Chair read out the statement from Stowe Consolidated Charities for the year ending 31st March.	Clerk to acknowledge receipt.
074/09	Revamp of play areas - carried forward to next meeting.	Cllr C Hassall
075/09	Public Footpath near Walnut Cottage - result of site visit. The owner of Walnut Cottage will cut back the hedge when he can and will move the electric fence away from the boundary, when he can. Clerk to write to Highways about the legalities of an electric fence being close to a public footpath with nothing in between them.	Clerk.
076/09	Request for information from the Standards Committee.	Considered in Camera.
077/09	Consider allowing/paying for extra grass cuts during growing season, if felt this is required.	Agreed to request extra cut end June/early July 2009 and more if required.
054/09	Chairman's announcements: No announcements.	-
046/09	Councillor Questions:	
	Cllr J Carmichael raised the point that many of the "Hixon - No Houses, No Factories" signs had been taken down/destroyed by person(s) unknown. Only one left up at present. It was decided to leave this one up and put others up in the Autumn when the next round of LDF consultations take place.	-
	Cllr S McKeown raised the matter of the e-mail with an abusive tone and language sent to the Clerk re the Compost Plant, from a Hixon resident. It was decided to wait and see if an apology ensued and then take further action if appropriate.	-
056/09	Date of next meeting: July 21st 2009.	Clerk to book Memorial Hall
057/09	Adjourn meeting for Public Participation:	

	Mr G. Tummey discussed what was happening with the Swale - some strimming had occurred but stopped when a bees nest was discovered. Mr Tummey has not been told when work will resume. He is concerned about the children who break through the fence and play by the Swale - there is a deep sump which is hazardous to small children. What is the purpose of the sump, it appears to be there as a result of unauthorised digging?	Clerk to raise these issues with P Gammon at Stafford Borough Council.
	Resume meeting	
058/09	Planning Applications: 09/12167/FUL UPVC double glazed conservatory, 27 Highfield Road, Hixon, Stafford.	Clerk Council had no objection.
059/09	Planning Reports 09/11790/FUL Detached storage building and associated external works. Improvement of the provision for disabled people to the approaches to the existing building. Staffordshire County Guide Headquarters, Church Lane, Hixon.	Permitted
060/09	Bank Reconciliation:	Not performed, statements not available.
061/09	Schedule of agreed payments	All Paid
	Clerk's June Salary: Mrs Catherine Gill £ 396.23 Local Gov act 1972 s111	£396.23
	Clerk's Office Expenses Monthly Allowance £ 41.17 Local Gov act 1972 s111	£41.17
	Mileage (27 miles at 58.7p/mile) for Catherine Gill £15.85 Local Gov act 1972 s111	£15.85
	Stamps (12 x 1st class = £4.68). Postage for 2 large Tax Office envelopes = £1.22. Total = £5.90. Local Gov act 1972 s111	£5.90
	Reimbursement of C Gill for BKV poster prizes. £69.67. Local Gov act 1972 s111	£69.67
	Acer landscapes May grass cutting incl.2 grass removal plus Wimpey cut £1898.79.	£1,898.79
	Alan Povey Signs for Playing Field sign plus fitting. £419.75	£419.75
	Severn Trent Water 1st April to 12th May for car park drainage. £44.28.	£44.28
	Fenns Stationery letterheads and compliment slips £242.93	£242.93
	Damian Ackroyd BKV map £70.	£70.00
	CPRE membership renewal £29.	£29.00
	Abbey Landscapes Bus Shelter and Phone Box Cleaning 12th March to 7th May. £90	£90.00

062/09	Correspondence Received: Details of concurrent functions, South Staffs PCT Quality and Excellence Awards, Bank of Ireland - changes to operations, remittance advice from Staffs County Council for Highways mowing for 2008/2009, SBC Green Initiatives Awards details. Invitation on behalf of Mayor to Gala Performance of 12th Night at £22 per ticket. Fitzpatrick-Woolmer signs leaflet.	
	Meeting finished at 22.10.	