

Hixon Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Tuesday May 15th 2012

In attendance for all or part of the meeting:

Cllr B McKeown (Chair), Cllr G Tummey, Cllr P Hopcroft, Cllr Mrs C Hassall, Cllr Mrs S McKeown, Cllr R Tonge, Cllr. D Sephton.

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

Ref	Item	Action
001/12	Apologies received from: Cllr J Carmichael and from members of the Public: Cllr Mrs J Tabernor, Cllr A Stafford-Northcote, Cllr. A Perkins, Cllr L Bloomer .	-
002/12	Declarations of interest were made by Cllrs Mrs S McKeown and Cllr B McKeown on item 008/12 .	-
003/12	Minutes of meeting April 17th 2012 were accepted as accurate.	-
026/12	Election of a Chair for 2012/2013: Cllr. B McKeown was proposed by Cllr. Mrs C Hassall and seconded by Cllr. R Tonge - vote to accept was unanimous. Cllr. B McKeown accepted the office of Chair.	
027/12	The Chair's declaration of office was received.	
028/12	Election of a Vice Chair for 2012/2013: Cllr. J Carmichael was proposed by Cllr. Mrs C Hassall and seconded by Cllr. D Sephton - vote to accept was unanimous. Cllr. Carmichael had previously indicated that he was willing to stand for nomination.	
029/12	The Vice Chair's declaration of office was received post meeting.	
067/09, 081/09	Speed and Highway Safety in Hixon Parish. Speedwatch campaign has started and Cllr. Tummey will present a short report on progress at PC meetings. Budget of £50 for Speedwatch stationery etc. expenditure agreed. Maps and details/proposals of highway safety measures have been sent to Chris Mitchell for comments and prices. Cllr. Tummey to find out details of Homezone requirements for next meeting.	Chair/Clerk and Cllr. Tummey
026/10	Survey on Rural Exception Housing from Housing Plus and Stafford & Rural Homes: Awaiting feedback from Stafford & Rural Homes and Housing Plus.	-
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. Fresh Air Fitness have had a team out to sort out the problem with the rust - Cllr. Hopcroft is concerned that the rust has just been painted over and not sorted out properly. The rust was around the welds or due to metal/metal friction - this should not have happened as there should be bushes in place to prevent friction. This would indicate that the equipment is defective. Clerk to draft letter of complaint to Fresh Air Fitness and circulate for comments.	Clerk
097/07	Allotments: Sponsor board now in place. It was agreed that the same percentage price increase from John Martin (in line with Retail Price Index, 3.6% in March 2012) would be passed on to the Allotment Society. John Martin was present and agreed the 3.6% increase in land rental plus the water charge for the year 2011 - 2012 of £153.60. This water charge will be paid to John Martin by the PC and then be passed on to the Allotment Society by invoice from Hixon PC.	Clerk
063/08 & 043/09	Walk leaflets: Leaflets have been updated with details provided - changes to walks now provided, Clerk to compare the wordings of the walks across the airfield estate .	Clerk
201/06	Disputed Land at Hammonds Croft: Householder has provided plans supplied by mortgage lender. Cllrs. Carmichael and Mrs C Hassall to take measurements and Cllr. Mrs. S McKeown produce map showing piece of land transferred.	Cllrs Carmichael, Mrs C Hassall & Mrs S McKeown.

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. Piece written for June's magazine re Speedwatch.	Chair/Cllr Tummey
094/09	Land Registry: Checking which bits of land are registered as owned by Hixon Parish Council. Clerk and Chair may need to visit William Salt library to find reference to playing field as it is unregistered. 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 to look through old files stored at back of Memorial Hall. Are the original Hammonds Croft estate plans there? Can throw away anything over 5 years old (tax etc. 7 years) and any brochures, trivia etc. that there is no need to keep at all.	Clerk/Cllr Sephton
101/09	Car Park light: Agreed to pursue low level (bollard type) light. Quote for work now received, Cllrs. thought it was too high. Clerk to try and obtain a further quote, having difficulties finding people to quote. Two people identified to quote, Chair to meet up with them.	Clerk/Chair
051/10	JBM - use of outside storage area, pylons, lighting - planning application. Planning permission was given, objection being made by resident. Minutes of meeting with Environment Agency and 2 residents have been circulated. 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.	Clerk
061/10	HR Working Group: Cllrs Tummey, Sephton (and Hopcroft if available) will meet with Chair to finalise. Set a date for the meeting	Cllrs. Tummey, Sephton, Hopcroft, B McKeown
064/10	Bus service changes - 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/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. A report will go to SBC planning on 28/3/12 to get formal approval for enforcement action. Enforcement action is going ahead.	-
050/11	Joint Section 53 application for airfield estate, with Stowe-by-Chartley Parish Council: Chair will be liaison person with John Lameris and Stowe by C PC for section 53 matters. John is trying to get statements from walkers/users of the airfield footpaths for the past 20 years. Once application submitted, if it is granted (say in several years time), then land would have to be put back to how it was at the time application submitted. Council agreed to support a joint section 53 application with Stowe by Chartley Parish Council. Application is with County Council, awaiting approval. Letter from Roly Tonge re usage of airfield for walking etc. has been received. Application has been approved by SCC and has been put in as formal application.	Dismiss pending new information.

032/11	Consider Website update/revamp: New website will hopefully be up and running by the next meeting.	Chair
004/12	Children's poster judging: Posters have been judged, arrange date for prize giving.	
005/12	Community competition 2012: Cllr. Mrs C Hassall will undertake all the garden, hanging basket, premises, street and unusual feature judging. She will take photos, when flowers are at their best.	Cllr. Mrs C Hassall
007/12	Walnut Crest - assistance for residents. Chair will contact Mrs Burt to find out what help she provides and what additional help the residents require.	Chair
008/12	Queens Jubilee celebration by Millennium Green and Memorial Hall - request for money. A request for the Parish Council to pay for the purchase of 2 banners for a total of £151.20 + VAT was agreed. Cllr Bloomer will also provide some funds from his County Councillor funds.	Clerk to arrange payment
009/12	Damage to Lea Heath notice board: George Meddings has mended the notice board free of charge - Clerk to send letter of thanks.	Clerk
011/12	Consider renewal of membership of CPRE for £29: It was agreed to renew membership for 1 year and to try and test out the CPRE planning website to find out if it useful.	Clerk
015/12	Revised Code of Conduct: it was agreed to ask the SPCA how the changes would effect the Council. Also, ask SPCA again about conflicts between being a Parish Councillor and being on the Millennium Green Trust, want answer on record. Responses reviewed - ask again for differences to be highlighted.	Clerk
030/12	Consider Stowe by Chartley consolidated charity accounts: The accounts were read out by the Chair.	
031/12	Review and agree insurance company & premium for 2012-2013. The renewal quote had been received, still waiting for alternative quote. It was agreed to go with the cheapest quote of the two, for 1 year.	Clerk
032/12	Local Development Framework: response to latest plans: The response has been given, there was little substance in the consultation documents.	-
033/12	Consider signing petition: Childrens play spaces. As Cllr. Carmichael was not present (he had suggested this was included on the agenda), this will be held over to the next meeting.	Clerk
017/12	Chairman's announcements:	
	Hixon village will be putting on an event to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee on Monday 4th June at 2pm to 11pm, on the Millennium Green. Entry is free, profits made from stalls etc. will go towards the re-vamp of the children's play area, estimated at £4-5K.	-
018/12	Councillor Questions:	None
019/12	Date of next meeting: June 19th 2012.	Clerk to book Memorial Hall

020/12	Public Participation	
	There were various questions and comments made about the planning application on 021/12 below: the type and amount of waste produced was queried, the presence of both a high pressure gas main and a storm water outlet close to the application site were mentioned, access to the site is very poor plus the application says that the building needs its own access road but this is not shown on the drawing, a section 53 application is in force on the site so anything built may have to be pulled down in the future, the available land at the Beacon Business park would be much more suitable. Reference is made to the size/length of the ALE vehicles but those going on/off the New Road site are in their short version as they are not carrying large loads at the depot. General concensus was that the building was far too big to have in a village such as Hixon and must not be built on agricultural land.	
	What is the JBMI liaison group? A group being set up by the County Council following the ARM planning application (there is a model for the Poplars waste treatment plant in Cannock).	
021/12	Planning Applications:	
	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 Stafford	Object
022/12	Planning Reports	
	12/16847/OUT Erection of 3 dwellings, Mount Farm, Stowe Lane, Hixon.	Refused
023/12	Bank Reconciliation.	Performed
024/12	Schedule of agreed payments	Paid as per below:
	C Gill salary - May (gross). Local Gov act 1972 s111.	£622.26
	C Gill expenses - May. Local Gov act 1972 s111	£48.50
	Reimbursement C Gill mileage (30 miles @ £0.45p/mile). Local Gov act 1972 s111	£13.50
	Reimbursement of C Gill for stamps and ink cartridge (24x2nd class (£8.64) and £2.20 for map postage). Local Gov act 1972 s111	£20.81
	Fenns - ink, paper, wallets	£70.73
	James Peach for website revamp (ref: 032/11, April's minutes)	£50.00
	Acer Garden Landscapes for April's mowing (less retention)	£1,141.87
	Autocare (Alan Pove) for 3 signs (car park, playing field, allotments)	£762.00
	Renewal of subscription to LCR magazine	£15.50
025/12	Correspondence received: Mayoral invitations to a civil service to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee on 3rd June and the Gala Performance of Romeo and Juliet on 29th June.	

Meeting finished at 9.20 pm.