

Hixon Parish Council  
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Tuesday June 19th 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 J Carmichael.

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

Ref	Item	Action
001/12	Apologies received from: Cllr R Tonge, Cllr D Sephton and from members of the Public: Cllr Mrs J Tabernor, Cllr. A Perkins.	-
002/12	No declarations of interest were made.	-
003/12	Minutes of meeting May 15th 2012 and Parish Meeting of May 15th 2012 were accepted.	-
026/10	Survey on Rural Exception Housing from Housing Plus and Stafford & Rural Homes: Planners have agreed with all 3 sites put forward, awaiting further feedback from Stafford & Rural Homes and Housing Plus on Highways input.	-
067/09, 081/09	Speed and Highway Safety in Hixon Parish. 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. Only 1 Speedwatch session has been lost due to the weather. 900 vehicles have been checked of which 65 were speeding in excess of 34mph and made no attempt to slow down. In one session, 38 were speeding and of these 18 lived in Hixon Parish and 9 lived in neighbouring parishes. Highest speed recorded is 52mph and highest outside school was 51mph. There is a new volunteer, we now have 12 active volunteers.	Chair/Clerk and Cllr. Tummey
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 has drafted letter of complaint to Fresh Air Fitness and circulated for comments - make amendments provided by Cllr Hopcroft and send out.	Clerk
097/07	Allotments: Sponsor board now in place. The Annual Report was presented by the Chair of the Allotment Committee: some points on repairs were raised. The agreement states that the Parish Council are responsible for the structure of the paths, the allotment holders are responsible for keeping the paths free from weeds. It is believed that organic weedkillers can be used for this. Are there any particular areas that need attention? Cllrs B McKeown and Carmichael will mend the broken fence rail - it had a knot in it and it was just bad luck that it broke when used as a step by a horse rider. The entrance to the car park needs something to keep the gravel in place - a membrane was proposed as a solution. There have been proposals for the old building on the site and any work done on this will be funded from grants etc. Minor problems e.g. water being used by horse owners, dogs on allotments, to be sorted out by allotment Society/Allotment committee - PC should only be involved if Committee cannot resolve problem or for items that PC are responsible for.	Cllrs/Clerk
063/08 & 043/09	Walk leaflets: Leaflets have been updated with details provided - Leaflets finished with the exception of Hixon Heighs Walk, which is awaiting information on presence/absence of fingerpost indication footpath goes through gate in to garden of residence: Cllrs. McKeown to confirm.	Cllrs Mrs S and B McKeown
201/06	Disputed Land at Hammonds Croft: Plan showing piece of land transferred has been prepared and agreed with householder - copies to be made and provided to householders for them to complete the transaction with the Land Registry.	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: Agreed to pursue low level (bollard type) light. Quote for work now received, Cllrs. thought it was too high. One further quote received and a third one expected.	Clerk
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. The letter sent on by the EA was apparently an invitation to 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.	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 has prepared a draft piece for Compass magazine.	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. See point raised under Public Participation below.	Dismiss pending new information.
032/11	Consider Website update/revamp: We are nearly at the stage where we can do things ourselves with the new website.	Chair
004/12	Children's poster judging: Posters have been judged, prize giving for childrens posters is on June 25th, 9.15am.	
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. Mrs Burt volunteers to delivers prescriptions from the surgery to the residents of Walnut Crest. She used to be employed by Sociaol services but this service was stopped abd she continued to do it free of charge. Clerk to write a thank you letter from the Parish Council.	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. Wait for the Code of Conduct from the Borough Council to be published - can use this or the NALC template.	Clerk
032/12	Local Development Framework: response to most recent consultation: Cllr Hopcroft will provide a copy of the paper document to all Cllrs. - responses due in by July 11th at 12 noon. Chair to prepare response, comments to be provided to Chair or Clerk.	All
033/12	Consider signing petition: Childrens play spaces. It was decided not to take any action on this. Delete for next month.	Clerk
034/12	Sign off Annual Return for Audit Commission - agreed and signed off. Clerk to send to Audit Commission.	Clerk
035/12	Consider appointing a Councillor with particular interest in financial matters, for 2012-2013. Cllr Mrs S McKeown was appointed.	-
036/12	Consider Street Lighting Energy Conservation Initiative: Following some discussion in to the pros and cons, Cllr Tummey volunteered to look in the subject further and report back.	Cllr Tummey
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. The notes taken at the meeting were agreed as representative and will be included with the minutes from June's meeting. Concerns were raised at the meeting by a member of the public that someone was audio recording the meeting. The man was asked by the Chair if he was actually recording the meeting and replied "No". This was witnessed by Cllr Sephton. It was agreed that a flyer should be distributed to residents once the date of the committee meeting is known. A coach will be arranged to take residents to the meeting. Clerk to request date of site visit and committee meeting from Mark Alford. A dossier will be provided to Planning Committee members a few days before the meeting, prepared by the Chair. Ask Cllrs. Tabernor and Perkins for their support against the planning application, as Hixon residents have demonstrated that they do not want this building.	Chair/Clerk

038/12	Correspondence received as a result of public meeting (037/12): discussed In Camera.	-
039/12	Trees at back of Hammonds Croft open space: A tree has split and there is a bit of tree debris lying on the ground - Clerk to get quote to tidy the area up.	Clerk
017/12	Chairman's announcements:	None
018/12	Councillor Questions:	None
	Are the tennis nets going up for Wimbledon? Yes, Cllr Hopcroft will put them up.	Cllr Hopcroft
019/12	Date of next meeting: July 17th 2012.	Clerk to book Memorial Hall
020/12	Public Participation	
	Rachel Greaves spoke about the land that her father owns on the airfield estate - she wanted to make sure that the PC is aware that he owns 150 acres at the Bridge Lane and Stowe by Chartley end, including about half of the main runway. Her father had been alarmed when he received notification of the section 53 application as he had not been consulted beforehand. The section 53 application paperwork had been completed by Stowe By C PC and details for the owners of the airfield estate had been taken from a planning application for the runway. Hixon Parish Council apologised for any upset caused and noted the information.	-
	John Martin asked whether there were any plans for building affordable houses in Hixon as there were a lot of children who would want to be able to continue to live in Hixon - there are plans for 7 homes to be built under the rural exception scheme, no other new houses planned at the present time, Hixon has already had several major developments in recent years.	
	Amyas Stafford-Northcote talked about the new Code of Conduct - SBC will be preparing a new one and hope that the parishes use it as well. Are we thinking about producing a neighbourhood plan? Amyas was asked whether he would be able to speak against the Air & Ground planning application when it goes to committee - he was not sure about this and see if he can find another borough councillor to speak against it. The Parish Council do not understand why there is such an uncertainty about whether Amyas can represent it at the planning committee meeting and feels very much under-represented at Borough Council level.	
021/12	Planning Applications:	
	12/17160/HOU Two storey rear and side extension together with replacement and additional dormer windows, and replacement front porch. Modifications to existing drive and hardstanding including forming of new vehicular entrance off Lea Road. Four Winds Lea Road Hixon Stafford ST18 0NR	No objection
022/12	Planning Reports	
	12/16993/FUL Retrospective planning permission for farmworkers storage and messing in a moveable container in connection with pig farming, Hixon Airfield Estate.	Permit
023/12	Bank Reconciliation.	Performed

024/12	Schedule of agreed payments	Paid as per below:
	Insurance (Aviva) (paid in May, cheque dated May 22nd).	£922.30
	Banners for Jubilee event (paid in May, cheque dated May 22nd).	£181.44
	C Gill salary - June (gross). Local Gov act 1972 s111.	£622.26
	C Gill expenses - June. Local Gov act 1972 s111	£48.50
	Reimbursement C Gill mileage ( 88 miles @ £0.45p/mile). Local Gov act 1972 s111	£39.60
	Reimbursement of C Gill for stamps - recorded delivery letter (£1.45). Local Gov act 1972 s111	£1.45
	Reimbursement of C Gill for children's poster competition prizes	£87.90
	Fenns - ink	£63.54
	Reimbursement of Cllr. G Tummey for Speedwatch expenditure (£3.97 plus £6.95).	£10.92
	Acer Garden Landscapes for May's mowing (less retention)	£1,141.87
	John Martin - water charge for allotments 2011 - 2012	£153.60
	John Martin 2nd annual allotment lease payment for 2012 - 2013 (as per contract) - increased by 3.6% (RPI annual inflation in March 2012)	£725.20
	Panda Press for Planning Application objection post cards	£146.40
	Renewal of CPRE membership (ref: 011/12 from May minutes).	£29.00
	TGM for flower bed maintenance and nettle spraying	£438.00
	TGM for weed spray in Hixon (£61 + VAT) and Millennium Green (£28 + VAT)	£106.80
025/12	Correspondence received: Stowe by Chartley Parish Council Newsletter Spring 2012, consultation information re appointment of Grant Thornton UK LLP as Hixon PC auditors for 5 years from 2012/13 - objections to be made by Friday 29th June.	

Meeting finished at 10.20 pm.