

Hixon Parish Council
Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Tuesday July 17th 2012

In attendance for all or part of the meeting:

Cllr J Carmichael (Chair), Cllr P Hopcroft, Cllr Mrs C Hassall, Cllr D Sephton.

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

Ref	Item	Action
001/12	Apologies received from: Cllr R Tonge, Cllr G Tummey, Cllr B McKeown, Cllr Mrs S McKeown and from members of the Public: Cllr Mrs J Tabernor.	-
002/12	No declarations of interest were made.	-
003/12	Minutes of meeting June 19th 2012 were accepted as accurate.	-
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. No further update available. Main contact within Highways is likely to be Harfan.	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 sent letter of complaint to Fresh Air Fitness, awaiting reply. Clerk to chase. Rust has already re-appeared in some places, Cllr. Hopcroft will take photos. Wicksteed inspection did not highlight any new problems, old softpour surfaces still need attention. Clerk to tabulate prices received for repairs from the 2 contractors that have quoted.	Chair/Clerk
097/07	Allotments: Sponsor board now in place. Awaiting official opening ceremony.	Chair
063/08 & 043/09	Walk leaflets: Leaflets have been updated with details provided - Leaflets finished with the exception of Hixon Heights Walk, which is awaiting information on presence/absence of fingerpost indication where footpath goes through gate in to garden of residence: Cllrs. McKeown to confirm. Agreed that revised walks will go on website, interested parties can print them from there.	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 - copy has been provided to householder for forwarding to Land Registry with paperwork and fee.	-
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. A third quote for installation work has now been received and was accepted - £880 + VAT. Get an up to date quote for bollard light and circulate for approval.	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. Letter has been sent to JBM. Level of problems and complaints re smell and noise has increased again recently. Ask St Peter's school if they have had a consultation meeting with JBM and what the outcome was.	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, needs to be finalised and sent to Compass.	Cllr Mrs S McKeown
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, certain items have been removed.	-
032/11	Consider 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.	Chair

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
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. SBC code of conduct will be published on July 24th, Clerk has requested a copy from Alistair Welch. Main difference from previous code is that the pecuniary interests of spouses/partners now have to be disclosed.	Await code of conduct from SBC.
032/12	Local Development Framework: response to most recent consultation: Response has been sent in to SBC planning.	-
036/12	Consider Street Lighting Energy Conservation Initiative: Cllr Tummey 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. Cllrs. Tabernor and Perkins have been asked for their support against the planning application, as Hixon residents have demonstrated that they do not want this building. Case Officer has not made a decision on this yet, no site visit or committee dates set.	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. Quote had been accepted by Clls. and work completed. Query made re ownership of hedge on left hand side of open space, viewed from the front.	Clerk/Chair
040/12	Banks opposite Memorial Hall: shrubs causing visibility problems. Chris Mitchell ha advised formally notifying Highways of he visility problem so that investigations can be made by Highways officers. Cllr Hopcroft sgested that Highways also be formally informed of the visibility problem when turning out of New Road on to Martins Way - this was agreed by Cllrs.	Clerk to notify Highways of the two problem areas
062/11	Sunken path - Hammonds Croft to Church Lane link: discuss quote for repair to tarmac of £280 + VAT. The quote was agreed as acceptable (price is for when the contractor is in the area with spare tarmac) but decided to wait until later in the year in case the recent wet weather causes further subsidence (a drainage stream runs underneath the path). Clerk to notify contractor and include on September's agenda.	Clerk
017/12	Chairman's announcements:	None
018/12	Councillor Questions:	None
	There has been an unmarked white van and a pick-up truck with some young men, in the area, going around asking if people want trees cut down etc.	-
	There is a planning application in for a wind farm at Drointon.	
019/12	Date of next meeting: September 18th 2012.	Clerk to book Memorial Hall

020/12	Public Participation	
	Cllr. Stafford-Northcote reported that Streetscene have achieved a Green Flag award for the crematorium.	-
021/12	Planning Applications:	
	12/17180OUT The Bungalow, Pasturefields Lane: Demolition of existing bungalow and construction of five 4-bedroomed houses.	Object
	12/17236/HOU Pasturefields Farm, Pasturefields: Proposed first floor extension	No objection
022/12	Planning Reports	None
023/12	Bank Reconciliation.	Performed
024/12	Schedule of agreed payments	Paid as per below:
	C Gill salary - July (gross). Local Gov act 1972 s111.	£622.26
	C Gill expenses - July. Local Gov act 1972 s111	£48.50
	Reimbursement C Gill mileage (26 miles @ £0.45p/mile). Local Gov act 1972 s111	£11.70
	Reimbursement of C Gill for stamps - (£1.38 for 2x large envelopes plus £14.40 for 24 second class stamps). Local Gov act 1972 s111 . (Price for second class stamps should be £12, will be corrected in September.)	£15.78
	C Gill salary - August (gross). Local Gov act 1972 s111.	£622.26
	C Gill expenses - August. Local Gov act 1972 s111	£48.50
	SBC for amenity skip in May	£70.00
	Acer Garden Landscapes for June's mowing (less retention)	£1,077.92
	Memorial Hall: hire between 1st April and 30th June (4 x £16)	£64.00
	Charles Raby Timber for work on Hammonds Croft Open Space.	£138.00
	SLCC membership 2012	£110.00
	Annual donation to Compass magazine	£100.00
	Tixall Accountancy services for internal audit 2011-2012	£75.00
025/12	Correspondence received: None.	

Meeting finished at 9.20 pm.