

Addendum to minutes of meeting 13th April 2017.

The Chairman raised the allegations against Hixon PC contained in an Email (dated 13th March 2017) from the Chair of WFAA. The Email was sent to members of the WFAA committee and to Hixon Parish Councillors: S. McKeown; B. McKeown; P. Hopcroft; N. Baxter; M. Kelly; A. Murdoch; C. Murdoch (not received old Email address). Cllr Aberley's Email address was not included. The Chairman pointed to paragraph 3 and the allegation that Hixon PC had repeatedly compromised the health and safety of plot holders, with particular reference to the entrance to the allotments and the former MOD building. The Chairman said he had had surveyed and designed a new hard surface crossing from Egg Lane and that Cllr Mrs McKeown had drawn up two alternative specifications. The plan and specifications were discussed in early 2014 with Mrs Karen Appleton (Secretary & Treasurer) and the then Chairman, Colin Hutchinson. The Chair of Hixon PC said the likely cost of works would be circa £2,500 but there were insufficient funds in the ring-fenced account. The WFAA reps indicated they would make up the shortfall. On this basis a contract was put out to tender. Tenders received were checked and a contractor selected. Hixon PC notified WFAA but received no reply to action the works and pay for the shortfall. The work was eventually jointly-financed by Hixon PC and the land owners. Cllr N. Baxter confirmed this was a correct version of events. The former MOD building was not in an unsafe condition in June 2014 when the Hixon PC Chair and John Martin met with independent surveyors to discuss the best way forward. When the roof members were removed (without PC approval or advance warning) the building became less stable. It was eventually agreed (by all parties) to reduce the height of the walls to 1m above ground level. The walls were completely demolished without Hixon PC approval or advance warning. The Email of the 13th March also claims that WFAA *have repeatedly asked Hixon to allow us (WFAA) to advertise outside the village*. This statement is untrue, as Hixon PC records show. There are no communications from WFAA to Hixon PC. The Email also claims *too many plots were constructed in the first place*. This statement is at odds with the sell-out of the plots in 2011 and a waiting list. A further allegation claims Cllr Mrs. McKeown has been part of the process for stopping vacant plots being available outside Hixon Parish. Hixon PC records do not support this allegation.