Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Tuesday January 27th 2015

In attendance for all or part of the meeting:

Cllr. B McKeown (Chair), Cllr Mrs S McKeown, Cllr D Sephton, , Cllr J Carmichael.

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

Ref	ltem	
001/14	Apologies received from: Cllr R Tonge, Cllr Mrs C Hassall, Cllr P Hopcroft and from members of the public: Cllr A Perkins, Cllr L Bloomer, Cllr A Stafford-Northcote.	
002/14	Declarations of interest were made by Cllrs. B & Mrs S McKeown for planning applications 14/21504/OUT and 14/21512/HOU.	
003/14	Minutes of meeting December 16th 2014 were accepted as accurate.	
050/14	Talk from Emma of Streetscene: Emma will now attend the March meeting	
026/10	Rural Exception Housing from Housing Plus and Stafford & Rural Homes: Landowner is willing, local authority and Highways are in discussions, feasibility to be assessed. Once has the go ahead, go public on the site and engage the community - likely to be late April/early May to consult with the public. Housing proposed is 5 rented properties (2x 2-bed bungalows, 2x 3-bed house, 1x 2-bed house) and 2 shared ownership properties (1x 2-bed and 1x 3-bed houses). Names of people interested in the houses can be passed on to Charlie Riley at Housing Plus. Exhibition on June 24th, 3-7pm Memorial Hall. S&RH/Housing Plus requested permission from Hixon PC to apply for planning permission: vote take unanimous Yes. Planning application put in during December 2013. Any changes to layout will come back to PC before putting in planning application. Revised layout has been provided, PC has no problems with the small change, that pushes the houses slightly further up the hill. PC needs to determine the local connection criteria: Cllr B McKeown and met with Charlie Riley to decide criteria. Awaiting decision from Planning following finalisation of section 106 agreement.	
067&081/09 & 056/11		
As above	Speedwatch Campaign: Cllr Hopcroft is now running Speedwatch and needs need police training, waiting for Steve Bird to ring him back. Cllr. Hopcroft has contacted the volunteers to check they want to continue. The speed gun may need calibrating - contact Tom Lyons for advice on who to contact. Aim to start Speedwatch up again in the Spring. Cllr Hopcrof will try and get some more volunteers interested.	
021/09, 023/09, 074/09, 091/09	Playing Fields Report: Hedge at side of playing field is unruly, quoted £500 to sort it out, price agreed by PC hedge owned by PC (deeds). Clerk to contact Old Vicarage to check they don't mind the section of the hedge that borders their house cutting back to ca. 6 feet high. Contractor will do hedge any time. Cllr Hopcroft visited householder but no-one in. Will re-arrange visit.	
097/07	Allotments: Meeting yet to be arranged with Allotment Committee - decided that it may be preferable to take the financial running of the Allotments under PC control. Ask opinion of allotment holders, invite them to meeting with PC to get views/opinions from as many allotment stakeholders as possible. Letter received from Allotment Committee - response sent asking again for meeting, if no response then PC will consider its options as laid down in the agreement. Reply received saying PC should attend Allotment meeting and provide certain documents in advance, not as requested by PC. This is not a suitable arrangement. Chair has met with Dave Jones to discuss the contents of draft letter on proposed chanhes, Dave seemed broadly in agreement. Letter now sent to Dave on the changes, primarily concerned with PC taking over the financial control, which allows VAT to be reclaimed.	
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 - will be worked on as and when time permits. All Hixon PC registered pieces of land are now registered to correct name and address. Collating information on non-registered land. Need documents back from Hand, Morgan & Owen to copy for Land Registry, Clerk to request (charge of up to £50 accepted by Council). Deeds now received from HMO for Meadow Glade - Cllrs have confirmed that Church Road and Featherbed Lane are covered in these deeds. Can move forward with playing field and Meadow Glade etc.registration.	

	JBMI Liaison Committee - County Council led liaison group is now set up: Cllr Mrs C Hassall is the PC representative. Publicise Cllr Hassall's e-mail address on website and Hixon Parish Facebook page to allow people to put forward questions. Meeting with Gospel Hall Trust people threw up problems with litter and mess at entrance road to JBM (off New Road) by Gospel Hall Trust site entrance. Clerk has contacted JBM and they will talk to Gospel Hall Trust to discuss how best to sort the problem out. Site liaison meeting held 1st December 2014, mainly discussed the fire last June.
	Revised Code of Conduct: Code of Conduct from the Borough Council has been published - can use this draft version for Parish Council. Main difference from previous code is that the pecuniary interests of spouses/partners now have to be disclosed. Draft model 2012 and current Hixon Code of Conduct (2007) circulated to all councillors. List of changes as such not available from SBC, appendix 1 to report that states the main changes has been circulated. Sub-committee agreed to look at the paperwork and report back as to what needs to be done - Cllrs: Mrs S McKeown, Mrs C Hassall, D Sephton. New disclosable interest forms need to be completed by those Cllrs. that haven't already done so. Summary etc. of Localism Act has been circulated to Councillors for review. SBC website has information from the old disclosable interest forms on it (no Spouse details etc.), need to find out if this is changing. Point 8.2 - need to change the Standing Orders to say Councillors will leave the room when discussing an item they have an interest in. Clerk to revise the Standing Orders and finalise and circulate revised Code of Conduct. Code of Conduct has been circulated. Standing Orders will need to be typed up again (no electronic copy available) so this will take longer to finalise. Hixon PC current version has many changes from Model, Cllrs. need to decide what thay want in revised version. Sub-group of Cllr. Mrs S McKeown and Cllr Sephton to consider. Nearly resolved, one task each to complete. Will be finalised for March.
046/13	Plan for Stafford Borough (incorporating planning application for 76 houses off New Road): response to most recent consultation: Response has been sent in to SBC planning. It has been proposed that some villages are removed as Key Service Villages due to lack of facilities, Hixon has less facilities than some of these. Further correspondence has been circulated, can comment on whether plans are legal and safe - Letter sent in re-iterating previous responses - No additional employment land is required in Hixon and housing to be allocated proportionately across all the key service villages. Plan for Stafford Borough adopted at meeting on 19th June, copy of the adoption statement receivedAny housing approved since April 2011 and started within 2 years of approval will count towards the allocation. SBC want to engage with KSVs re apportionment, settlement boundaries etc, Clerk responded to Alex Yendole asking for dates for a meeting, Alex Yendole not ready to meet yet. Reply, copying John Holmes - Hixon PC can't move forward fully with Neighbourhood Plan until we have discussed apportionment, sites etc. Still waiting to meet with Alex Yendole, chase again. Meeting held July 14th, Alex Yendole not present, met with Raj Bains and Melissa Kurihara. Very disappointing, do not seem to be any better placed to resist development, "settlement boundary" needs to be set urgently based on Neighbourhood Plan findings. Notes made to summarise have been circulated to Clirs. Meeting with Alex Yendole, went well seemed to agree with PC's views and gave some advice on approach to take. The legal challenge to the Plan for Stafford Borough by Gladmans should be heard in December. Item now combined with Neighbourhood Plan below.
	Neighbourhood Plan: The Community Council can provide help with Community Engagement and sourcing funds. A lot of community engagement will be required. Up to £7K per community should be available from Locality. There is a local Locality person in Stoke - Andy Parsons. Planning Aid will give free time on planning issues. Community Council charge if they come out to give help, phone calls and e-mails are free. Neighbourhood Plan needs to go along with Local Plan, therefore need to work with SBC planning. Clerk attended meeting of local parish councils to discuss Neighnourhood Plans on Thursday March 28th. Need to include members of public (Hixon Parish residents) in group to draw up the Plan, ask for help on website, FB Community page and in Newsletter. Four residents and two Councillors have come forward at present. Chair and Clerk meeting with the Neighbourhood Plan person at SBC on June 24th, ask her to speak at next PC meeting. Need to get working group sorted and plan started. July 25th - Raj Bains from SBC gave a talk on the best way to get going with the Neighbourhood Plan and who can help. Need to produce a survey and include businesses and school children in it. Things to cover include: housing, shops, employment, schools, doctor/pharmacy, transport. Keep records of what is being done. Once survey results are known, hold a public event. Having a local NP website is a good idea. Meeting held for people interested in heing part of the NP working group. CPRE NP meeting attended on 17th Sept and a SBC NP meeting attended on 1st October. NP group started September 26th 2013. Questionnaires moving forward - residential and business. Logo being produced. The airfield is an un-designated heritage asset, English Heritage are interested in it, may be able to get some protection for it. Meetings currently being held on an at least monthly basis, four held so far. Group is enthusiastic and progress being made. Have a volunteer to help with website. Bank account set-up. Residents questionnaire ready, should be out M

Play surface repairs/renewal and roundabout/alternative equipment: Prices and details obtained, looking at grants. Proposal is to purchase a Solar Spinner, double zig-zag and a Buddy Board. Clerk has let scholo kinow. Clerk took schematic of play equipment to school for children to comment on. Need to include the new surfaces under exist equipment on the application, price for the whole lot obtained from Wicksteed. Chair has put in the grant application to Awards for All. £10K conditional offer received, paper returned, final offer received and confirmed. Wicksteed price has remained the same, firm order placed. Installation completed. Check with Wicksteed how much movemer Bubby Board should have, as it hardly moves. Should be end-to-end movement, as with a see-saw. Clir Hopcroft will complete the customer satisfaction survey and comme lack of movement in the buddy board as it is not what was expected. Discuss separation of Hixon from the Haywoods/Colwich in local election. Residents at the meeting agreed that this should be taken forward - to be progressed in New Year write to Alistair Welch asking for the ward boundary to be re-drawn making Hixon a single member ward. Ask about shortest timeframe possible and what the PC can do to Public feedback and support is required, campaign locally. Boundaries are due for review every 10 years, last review was 2003. Reply received from Jane Peat - in hand. F meeting on Thursday 23rd May 2013 to finalise revised number of Councillors - vote was for 40 councillors. Clerk to write again to Alistair Welch asking for Hixon to be sepa from Colwich/Haywoods to form a 1-member ward. Reply received referred to the consultation process on number of councillors by the Boundary Commission (BC). PC to asking for number to remain at 50 to avoid reduction in representation. If reduced such that 1-member wards are unlikely, ask to be with Stowe/Weston rather than with Colwich/Haywoods. Update from Boundary Commission on October 23rd, decision made to reduce numbers to 40. Hixon very u	
069/12	Bank House car park payments: Neither the new (since Dec12) tenants or the owners of the Bank House (Joules Brewery) want to pay the charge for use of the car park. Other suggestions such as a donation from the brewery as a marketing exercise have been suggested by the brewery, this was not considered a partcularly good idea by the Council. Cllr Sephton to meet with a representative from the brewery to discuss the best way forward, regular payments have been made for use of the car park by their customers by the Bank House owner or tenants since 1997. Copy of letter to Bank House from 1997 given to Cllr.Sephton and Chair. Cllr Sephton has met with Neale Chandler from Joules Brewery - copy of letter passed on and the situation with the planning application for an extension discussed - the consultation by the Planning Department re the continued use of the car park by ther Bank House for the planning application for an extension was considered of note by Neale Chandler. A copy of the original contract between Bass Brewery and the Bank House owners (March 1986) has been found, together with a letter from the PC's solicitor (March 2001) saying that the PC were entitled to increase the rent - if the Bank House owners didn't want to pay an increased rent, the PC should give them notice to quit the car park. Copy of contract passed on the Neale Chandler. Prepare a statement showing what is owed for Cllr Sephton to pass to Neale Chandler. Reply from Neale Chandler saying that he does not think there is a contract to pay between Bank House owners and Hixon PC but if there is, they would pay. Clerk to write to Joules saying PC is considering all the options. Contact solicitor with details to find out if contract with pub/brewery is still in force. Agreed to pay up to £500 for solicitor fees to sort out the situation re contract and precedent set. (Proposed by Cllr Hopcroft, seconded by Cllrs Mrs S McKeown and Cllr Tummey). Contact has been made with solicitor fees to sort out the situation re contract and precedent set l

039/13	Consider best way of producing walk leaflets, £175 provided by Community Footpath Initiative: Decided Chair would get price for 100 and 200 copies of each walk, Clerk has swalks to Chair. Prices: £240 for 100 leaflets, £420 for 200. Decided on 100 of each, Chair needs to redesign WORD document to get in "folding" format, could take 2-3 months to work on these over the winter. Send copies to Cllr. Carmichael again, he will walk them.	
004/14	St Peter's Children's poster competition and garden competition 2014: Decided not to have Unusual Garden Feature this year but to have a separate Judge's Prize for anything outstanding. Cllr. Mrs C Hassall has judged the gardens etc, winners list with Chair. Prizes as per previous years plus £5 second prize for hanging baskets agreed. As photos of the winning gardens etc. were not taken, it was decided that it isn't worth having a presentation evening this year, Cllr. Mrs C Hassall will deliver certificates and prizes to winners. Cllr Carmichael to provide the certificates. Now just delivering prizes, not certificates.	
032/14	Hall Farm Close Open Space: Right to Bid application etc.: the situation with regards the Right to Bid applications for the open space on Hall Farm Close was outlined. Chair to look in to what is involved with a view to having an informed discussion at the July meeting. HFC residents group would like PC to write in to SBC to support them in their efforts to stop the open space being sold to the developer. Right to Buy bid(s) will only be put in if SBC decide they will sell. Clerk to write to SBC. Meeting of SBC cabinet on August 7th to discuss the principle of selling the open space. Cabinet decided not to sell the OS and to maintain the recreational use covenant - cannot be used as access to development unless SBC overturn this decision in the future. equest received from esidents of Hall Farm Close for PC to take on the lease of the HFC OS and possibly Vicarage Way. SBC would prefer PC to lease (rather than residents) and will offer a longer lease to PC. No legal costs from SBC and peppercorn rent. SBC would like PC take on Vicarage Way OS as well, to avoid them coming out to mow just one OS. Agreed to take on HFC OS if costs not too onerous. Clerk has got mowing and legal costs, PC considered costs acceptable - if PC takes on Vicarage Way OS as well then ask SBC to cover both parties legal costs and LR fees. Contact with SBC will be via Alistair Welch. Waiting to hear from Alistair Welch. Adam Hill has also been contacted.	
037/15	Ownership of/registering the land at end of Greenfields: The PC does not own this land, the owner could not be traced previously and the PC has maintained the land for in excess of 12 years. Clerk to check where PC bit of land ends and ask solicitor for a quote for getting the land registered to the PC. Discussed whether it was worth spending the money for legal work to get ownership - Clerk to approach Land Registry to see if we can establish ownership without involving solicitor. Reply received, we can do it without solicitor, will need Statement of Truth and preferably confirmation from other parties. Two statements required plus another form. Two pieces of evidence found. Chair to go and see Mr. & Mrs. Collyer, Clerk to prepare paperwork for Chair.	
039/15	The benefits of Publicly Accessible Defibrillators: following talk by Paul Dadge on October 21st: Question on defibrillator added to NP Business questionnaire that went out late November. From responses, one at ALE and JBMI getting one. Discuss further in March.	
049/14	Consider items for budget 2015-2016: Cllr. Mrs C Hassall had mentioned that a resident suggested putting in a footpath along the side of the road past the car park, to avoid having walk through the car park at night/when busy. This was meant to have been put in by Highways, when car park was constructed. Budget figures as discussed at meeting on Janua 6th were formally agreed - added £100 for councillor training (E1) and decreased minor repairs to car park fence by £100 (E5). Agreed that PC would cover mowing and weed-killin costs for Millennium Green again for 2015-2016. Clerk's salary for 2015 agreed.	
051/14	Consider painting the PC's storage area in the portacabin: agreed that Cllr. Hopcroft would purchase 10 litre of good quality paint (hint of a colour rather than white), Clerk to ask for quote for painting. Mark Farrington has agreed to it being painted. Agreed quote of £75 for 1 coat of paint.	
054/14	Situation regarding Hixon drop-in surgery and Hazeldene House Surgery: no further update available.	
009/14	Chairman's announcements:	
	Five of the current councillors have indicated that they will not be standing for the Parish Council in the May election, for a variety of reasons. Clerk to put posters on notice board, to encourage people to come forward. Cllr Tonge has not been well enough to attend recent meetings and this situation has been accepted by the Parish Council.	
010/14	Councillor Questions:	
	A large number transporter lorries have been parked in Church Lane, one was parked blocking the bus stop near the mini roundabout (in the 7.5 ton exclusion zone). Clerk has already reported the problem to Highways. Chair suggested taking up the offer of a tour around Bristor, he will arrange a date in March.	
	A large number of fridges and freezers are being stored at the back of Ed Weetmans. Clerk to find out what regulations apply to storage prior to de-gassing etc. and whether any action needs to be taken.	
011/14	Date of next meeting: February 24th 2015 (put back a week due to councillor holidays).	
012/14	Public Participation:	

It was suggested that a tree preservation order be placed on the Yew tree at Yew Tree House. This was followed by suggestions of preservation orders on the Oak at the triangle on Egg Lane, 2 Oak trees near the old hospital buildings and the Oak tree on the Millennium Green. Clerk to follow up on these. It was slso suggested that more trees are planted as a gateway feature at the entrances to Hixon village. The preservation of the Scout Hut building and the Control Tower for the old runway was also mentioned.

053/14	AOB
013/14	Planning Applications:
	14/21522/FUL land adjacent to Swallow House, Broadmoor Lane, Hixon
	14/21504/OUT Demolition of existing outbuilding and construction of new detached dwelling within curtilage of Ancient House Ancient House Martins Way Hixon (Stowe Parish)
***************************************	14/21521/OUT Air & Ground Aviation, land off New Road, Hixon - deletion of green roof
	14/21314/OUT Bungalow on land at Sunnyside Cottage, High Street, Hixon
	14/21561/HOU Extension to form new garage and extended lounge at ground floor with bedroom and ensuite over Grange Barn The Mount Stowe Lane Hixon
	15/21616/FUL Alteration to the access approved under 13/19249/OUT and in association with planning application 14/21267/REM Land Adjacent New Road Hixon
	AMENDED PLANS 14/21267/REM reserved matters pursuant to planning permission 13/19249/OUT (appearance, layout, scale and landscape for approval) for the erection of 76 dwellings served via access from New Road (approved under planning permission 13/19249/OUT); landscaping; car parking; earth works to facilitate storm water drainage and all other ancillary and enabling works
	15/21652/HOU Two-storey extension to form larger lounge with additional bedroom above, separate single storey sun room extension Hope Cottage Stowe Lane Hixon
	15/21610/HOU First floor extension 2 Hammonds Croft Hixon
	14/21512/HOU Front lean-to extension to dwelling to form extended lounge with front entrance lobby 1 Highfield Road Hixon
014/14	Planning Reports
***************************************	14/20587/OUT B1,B2 and B8 use - extension to Hixon Airfield Industrial Estate, off New Road Hixon
	14/20548/FUL Thirty - 2, 3, and 4 bedroom homes, to include affordable housing Land Adjacent To 24 The Croft Off (site 2) Church Lane Hixon
	14/20570/OUT Proposed commercial building for Use Classes B1, B2 & B8 Land Adjacent Airfield Industrial Estate New Road Hixon
	14/21225/HOU : Single storey extension to side and rear of dwelling (resubmission of 14/20551/HOU) , 6 New Road Hixon - amended plan
015/14	Bank Reconciliation:
016/14	Schedule of agreed payments
	C Gill salary - January (gross). Local Gov act 1972 s111.
	C Gill allowance (costs: working from home) - January. Local Gov act 1972 s111
	Reimbursement C Gill stamps (1 x large letter 2nd class), Local Gov act 1972 s111
	Reimbursement C Gill mileage (58 miles @ £0.45p/mile). Local Gov act 1972 s111
	Reimbursement C Gill for keys to portacabin storage area. Local Gov act 1972 s111
	Fenns Stationery (ink, supplies)
	TGM Weed spraying in Hixon and Millennium Green, 2 occasions
	TGM Minor Highways work
	TGM Church Lane planter, Spring and Autumn maintenance and monthly water/maintenance
	TGM Flower beds (Remove weeds, tidy membrane, replace dead shrubs, weedkill, top up bark and prune shrubs at Lauder Grove, Hammonds Croft (x2), Green Man Island, Meadow Glade (x2)) and weed spray nettles at Hammonds Croft - 2 occasions.
	SBC amenity skip (November 2014, January 2015 (March free)
	Memorial Hall for hall hire (October to December 2014, 3 sessions)
017/14	Correspondence received: Invitation to Ceilidh (Mayor's) on 21st February, letter from Oil Buying Club www.oilbuyingclub.com, nomination form for St Peter's School Local Authority Governor.

Meeting finished at 10.00 pm.

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Clerk/Chair
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Cllr Hopcroft
Cllr. Hopcroft
All
Clerk

Clerk Cllrs. Mrs S McKeown & D Sephton Clerk/Chair/Cllr. Mrs S McKeown

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Cllr Hopcroft Clerk Clerk Chair/Clerk

Chair/Clerk/Cllr.
Carmichael
Chair/Cllr
Carmichael/Cllr
Mrs C Hassall
Clerk
Olen
Clerk/Chair
Chair
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Cllr. Hopcroft
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Chair
Clerk
Clerk to book Memorial Hall

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None
Object
Raise Concerns
Raise Concerns
No objection
No objection
No objection
Permit
Permit
Permit
Permit
Done
£703.80
£53.50
£0.73
£26.10
£10.00
£65.30
£213.60
£456.00
£110.40
£876.00
£146.00
£43.20