Minutes of Parish Council Meeting Tuesday October 16th 2018

In attendance for all or part of the meeting:

Cilr. M Kelly, Cilr. Mrs M Aberley, Cilr N Baxter, Cilr. P Hopcroft, Cilr. A Murdoch, Cilr. Mrs C Murdoch, Cilr, B McKeown, Cilr. Mrs S McKeown

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

Ref	Item	Action
001/18	Apologies received from members of the public: Cllr. John Francis	-
002/18	Declarations of interest: None	-
003/18	The minutes of the meeting on September 18th 2018 were accepted as accurate. (Cllr. B McKeown queried the wording of 037/18 item 2, this was discussed and agreed as being correctly worded, left as is).	Clerk
050/15	Community Involvement to improve Hixon - ideas on how to achieve this: sub-group - Cllrs. Mrs C Murdoch, Mrs M Aberley, Baxter and McKeowns. <i>Sept-18:</i> Cllr. Baxter summarised the main items from the group meeting held 30th August: Street name plates - see if they can be given a community identity. Ridgeway OS needs a tidy up. Request budget of £100 for bulbs - agreed unanimously. Get price for painted parking bays on car park. For next year, add a category of best pot or trough at road entrance to Best Gardens competition -advertise in next Newsletter. Suggest having a closed WhatsApp group for community volunteers - distributions and work around the village - would need to check with people re GDPR. Cllr C Murdoch offered to set-up/organise this group. Arrange an Autumn/Winter village tidy-up - litter, weeds etc. <i>Oct-18:</i> Snowdrops purchased, plan to buy daffodils and crocuses as well. Plant in November while ground is soft, combine with litter picking weekend. Plant trees on Church Road in January (Roseacre have suitable trees),	Cllr. Baxter
041/15 and 032/16, 067&081/09 & 056/11& part 041/15 plus 038/16, plus 065/17	Speed and Highway Safety in Hixon Parish plus Village Gateway Features (New Road and Church Lane): Raised (hump) crossing now in place outside the school. <i>March-18</i> : May not need to use Highways land, possible designs discussed - silhouette of parent and child and cat with cat's eyes. Need 6-8 trees in front of boatyard etc., landowner has given permission. Lime trees at £35.99 each. Gateway white "gates" by 30mph signs. Welcome sign to be set in brick or stone on "grassy knoll" with low bushes at the side and 2 trees behind. Similar design for welcome sign on New Road. Talk to Highways re Gateway Features. Agreed to order 8 lime trees from Ash Ridge at £35.99 each. <i>April-18</i> : Landowner of area where the lime trees were going has withdrawn consent for their planting. BriStor waiting for details of the silhouettes. Thought that the legacy trees were too small to plant outside JBMI entrance, need something bigger. <i>June-18</i> : Working Party to meet within next week to finalise details of silhouettes and pass to BriStor to take forward (life size parent and child). Chair to ring Landowner (re trees in front of boatyard etc.) when he returns from Canada. <i>July-18</i> : Lime trees - Chair will speak to landowner upon his return to the UK. Mini-island/speed plateaus - include these and other highway safety features plus Gateway Features in meeting with Highways Manager . Accidents on Church Road - no feedback received from Highways. <i>Sept-18</i> : Had a positive meeting with Richard Rayson, produce a document of what was discussed and send to Richard Rayson (Cllr. B McKeown offered to produce this document post meeting). <i>Oct-18</i> : Councillors met with Glasdon re Gateway Features, quote received. Need tenders for installation - Chair to enquire as to appropriate contractors. Need to have a services audit/safety audit carried out. Need to get a plan produced and approval from Highways. Safety improvements. Have received a definite No re planting of lime trees on Church Lane as feared they would harm the future development of t	Chair/ Cllr. Mrs C Murdoch
As above	Speedwatch Campaign: Would like to do 1 session per week. Need a minimum of 3 people. <i>Feb-18</i> : The temporary Speedwatch signs have got permission to be permanent, would be fastened to lampposts. Signs £20 each, installation by Highways at £120 each. Can apply for grant for the signs. <i>March-18</i> : Grant applied for. Area for Speedwatch extended down to new 30mph limit by Pasturefields Lane. One additional area can now be covered. <i>July-18</i> : 4 permanent Speedwatch signs are being erected at no cost to PC, mobile signs will then not be required to be put out. <i>Sept-18</i> : being successful, letters are definitely being sent out. Wednesday 19th is Project Edward day (National Speed Awareness). One Stowe by C resident wants to resurrect Speedwatch in Stowe and may attend this session. <i>Oct-18</i> : Police did not attend on main Speedwatch day, less people speeding than last year in Hixon. 60 hours put in on day across the borough. If someone gets 3 letters from Speedwatch it is followed up by a police visit - quite a lot of vehicles are then found not to be taxed. New permanent signage should be in place by the end of November, then no need for temporary signs to be used	Cllr. Hopcroft
021/09, 023/09, 074/09, 091/09	Playing Fields Report: <i>June-18</i> : No problems, mowing pretty good. Ca. 12 of the new trees have gone - 4 or 5 are dead and the rest are missing. Look at in Autumn to see if they need to be replaced. Kids have made a path through the playing field over to the Old Vicarage. <i>July-18</i> : A few more trees have been lost. Undergrowth on bank had been inspected - need to either clear the whole lot or leave as is - decided to leave as is, as no problem perceived. Reconsider if a problem occurs. <i>Sept-18</i> : No real problems. The concrete bin that had been tipped over was already fractured - this has been replaced by Streetscene with a lidded bin. Play equipment inspection report by Wicksteed shows low risk items. Bird faeces is a problem but this cannot be controlled. Get the top swing bar repainted properly with a hammerite type paint, Cllr. Mrs C Murdoch to organise. <i>Oct-18</i> : Price for swing bar painting is £50 - agreed to go ahead, Cllr Mrs C Murdoch to arrange. Will now a get a price for clearing the undergrowth on playing field bank. The Rider (fitness equipment) has metal fatigue - contact FAF to ask what to do about it e.g. mend, remove, onsite welding? Cllr. Hopcroft will follow up on this. Also need some more touch-up paint as previous supply did not go very far. Price for old-style see-saw received - leave until discussions on next year's budget. Send a "thank you" letter to Cllrs. McKeown's granddaughter for planting the trees on the playing field - Clerk	Cllr. Hopcroft/ Cllr. Mrs C Murdoch
		Clerk

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032/12 (Plan for Stafford)	Neighbourhood Plan: Background: The Neighbourhood Plan was considered by Cabinet on 3 November 2016 and adopted by Council on 22 November 2016. The Neighbourhood Plan is now part of the Borough's development plan for making planning decisions. It was agreed that the Neighbourhood Plan Scrutiny Committee (comprising the original Steering Group members) meet 6-monthly starting in June 2017, to review the plan and its effectiveness. July-18: NP meeting held, feedback provided by Cllr Baxter - it is important that the NP policies are adhered to. The NP group do not know what is happening re the 30 houses. SHLAA consultation ongoing, finalised by end of year. Babbage building questionnaire was discussed. Heritage sites - include the History Group in this - blue plaque scheme on buildings of interest. NP group may ask PC for a grant e.g. £600 to do this. Can also do something to highlight people of note associated with the village (?) Want to enhance the open spaces, wildlife areas, have a nature trail. Youth Forum proposed -Chair has contacted Colwich PC with a view to discussing what are currently doing with their Youth Forum. Proposed to use Blenheim Manor to do a re-run of the NP questionnaire to see if the generally younger age-base produces different results. Youth Forum Working Group proposed and agreed of Cllrs Mrs C Murdoch, Kelly, Baxter. Oct-18: Cllr. B McKeown has responded to the SHLAA consultation on behalf of the PC and commented on the justification of building houses near industrial sites as (in Hixon) there is no correlation between housing and working locally. Cllr. B McKeown will prepare a survey for Blenheim Manor residents along the same lines as that for the NP and has been asked (by SBC Forward Planning) to include a question as to where residents have come from. The price for the proposed plaques for Heritage Buildings is ca. £15 for a 12 inch diameter, this was agreed as acceptable There are about 10 buildings identified at present, he will circulate a list of them by	Cllr B McKeown
054/14, 034/16	Hixon drop-in surgery and Hazeldene House Surgery incl. Patient Participation Panel: <i>Feb-18</i> : Cllr. Mrs C Murdoch has spoken to the STP Communications Leader - the STP are hoping that Primary Care will take on more Acute care, to relieve the hospitals - this seems unlikely based on what is happening in Primary Care at the moment. The idea is still to have 23/24 hubs in Staffordshire. There are 2 local Feedback Ambassadors - can they come and talk to the PC? Can they put on a local event so that Parish Councils in the area know what is happening? The Comms. Leader will look into what is happening in our area - it was pointed out that patients need to be able to get to the care facilities and back home again. STP is Health and Community are coming together. <i>April 18:</i> New male doctor in place - seems keen to have a drop-in type surgery system. Cllr. Hopcroft will talk to him at next meeting. A FB page for comments to promote communications between different surgeries was proposed by an invited speaker. The Better Together (STP) group are now getting their act together re prevention and are promoting better use of pharmacists etc. Redesigning primary care via consultation. Hazeldene may use the Clinical Nurse to filter calls to doctors' surgery to see if they need to see a doctor or could see a nurse instead. <i>June-18:</i> PPG met in May - concerned where NHS is going and where they are going. They get a major income from prescriptions and don't want to lose this facility. <i>Sept-18:</i> July PPG meeting cancelled as room was too hot. Cllr. C Murdoch has not heard anything further re STP. <i>Oct-18</i> : no update, next meeting 18th October.	Cllrs. Mrs C Murdoch/ Hopcroft
055/15	IT and Using Cloud Storage on G-mail for PC documents: IT sub-committee of Cllrs. Mrs S McKeown, Baxter, A Murdoch and Clerk. Terms of reference to be drawn up. <i>Feb-18</i> : Memorial Hall now has WIFI. <i>March-18</i> : Laptop has arrived. <i>Apr-18</i> : Mouse has arrived. <i>May-18</i> : Decision on Microsoft package had changed to the Home version, has been purchased for 12 months and installed on laptop. Need to make progress with the website, Cllr. A Murdoch has a contact who will assist. <i>June-18</i> : Contact at BriStor has now left. Website needs progressing re maintenance and/or new website with maintenance. Filing on Cloud need progressing. Cllr. Mrs S McKeown to take both forward. Cllr. A Murdoch to look at way forward as well. Square Space a possibility for website. Clerk to ask Colwich PC about their website. <i>Sept-18</i> : Meeting arranged. Suggestion that website be a village website with businesses advertising. Get decision made. £500 budget inadequate. Get it done professionally. <i>Oct-18</i> : Group met 3rd Oct. Has drawn up document on functional for website. Advert for "Expressions of Interest" placed in Compass, contact local web developers for same, press release in local press. Ask Borough and county if they have IT web developers in-house that could help. Look at "Clerk and Councils Direct and local radio. Draft Timetable: Nov 18 - get in Expressions of Interest, Jan -019 - Interview interested parties, Feb-19: Tender Invitations, March/April 19 Award Contract. two part project - PC to start, may enlarge to a village website in the years to come. Get on with filing on the Cloud - Clerk will require additional hours to do this - £200 additional salary budget awarded initially for this.	IT Group
004/16	Consider request from resident for 40mph speed limit through Pasturefields: <i>May-18</i> : Cllr. B McKeown has met with Colwich PC and it shares the same concerns, Weston PC also on board. Want to get a safety audit conducted by Highways, take forward with John Francis and Highways Liaison Manager. <i>June-18</i> : Chair to take forward with John Francis and the other PCs. <i>July-18</i> : Discuss at meeting with Highway's Manager. <i>Sept-18</i> : It is believed that the latest proposal from Highways is to reduce the speed limit to 40mph from Farley Corner to Toldish Lane. <i>Oct-18</i> : No movement on this at the moment.	Chair
047/17	Planting poppies on PC land to commemorate 100 years since end of WW1: <i>May-18</i> : Flowers now coming through, plaques to be organised by Cllr. Mrs S McKeown. <i>June-18</i> : Plaques to be agreed an finalised. Various things going on in village on Nov 11th. Send invitations to known relatives of WWI survivors. Flower beds need some TLC - weed and water - by councillors/volunteers. There will be a commemorative tree on Millennium Green for the people who returned from the war. Top up the poppies and have a wreath for each flower bed for November. July-18: Cllrs. McKeown to get costs for plaques. Cllr. Baxter suggested a commemorative plaque on or by the Oak Tree at the end of Egg Lane - agreed as a good idea. He will contact SBS tree officer and Highways for permission. The Memorial Hall are organising the WWI event and will let the PC know if they require any assistance. The poppy/wildflower beds need watering and possibly some weeding. Cllrs. Murdoch will look after the bed on Sycamore Drive. <i>Sept-18</i> :Request to dig over the poppy beds to allow artificial poppies to be put in for the WWI event - advice received is to cut the flowers down to approx. 3 inches once flowering finished and seeds dropped, artificial flowers will be tall enough to still be seen with the stems in place. <i>Oct-18</i> :Flower beds cut down and kept watered/tidy by councillors. It all happens on Nov 11th, starting at 6am with piper on the Green. Flyer coming out with all the details. Poppies going in the front of the beds, plaques will be in place (price of £11 per plaque, 8 plaques agreed via email previously). Follow up in Spring with plaque for the Jubilee Oak Tree at end of Egg Lane.	Councillors
054/17	Babbage Building: Met at Babbage Building. June-18: Is it too expensive, too many overheads? Should we still pursue? Questionnaire ready, may as well get feedback from residents, can get grant for business plan. Agreed to get questionnaire printed and distributed. July-18: Chair considered that the questionnaire should be collected from Chop Shop by a PC member, analysis could start straightaway, rather than waiting for return of councillors from holiday - agreed by councillors present. Clirs. Baxter and Mrs M Aberley offered to start the analysis. Chair will make arrangements to collect the completed questionnaires and pass them on for analysis. Query on who Clir. B McKeown spoke to at SCC re the use of the Babbage Building as a community asset, as Chair would like to follow up on its availability - Clerk to check correspondence. Sept-18: Chair has been informed that the building is sold STC to Astral Fire & Security from Rugeley, they make fire alarms. They will sort out the issue with the electrics that also supply the school. Chair will make contact to introduce the PC once contracts exchanged. The survey results were looked at and figures provided to the members of the public present. Oct-18: Building Under Offer.	Chair
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074/17	Dog poo campaign: Oct-18: Meet to discuss the targeting for posters 11am Monday 22nd Oct in car park. Leave posters in new positions for a few months, remove and move to new area. Rolling campaign. Email posters to Cllr. A Murdoch, BriStor may be able to make some good posters. Should poos be marked and counted? - would need biodegradable paint.	Clerk
078/17	Consider request from resident for commemorative plaque (50th anniversary of train crash) to be installed in grass verge on New Road to be included in PC assets and insurance: More information is required before PC can make a decision on this. Cllr. B McKeown to sort out. <i>June-18</i> : What size? Where is it going? Check what the insurance company said - Clerk. <i>July-18</i> : Plaque can go on PC insurance (let them know the price of plaque and check there is no cost implication), need permission from Highways. Chair to chase up confirmation that Highways have given permission. <i>Sept-18</i> : Cost of plaque is £560, allow £750 with installation. Clerk to check with insurers re any cost implication. Highways are said to have given permission for it. <i>Oct-18</i> : Plaque in position, discharge from agenda.	Clerk
017/18	Community Competition: Oct-18: Garden judging presentation at Bank House October 24th. Establish number of attendees. St Peter's school poster Christmas competition - theme decided as "Christmas Wish"	Chair/Clerk
097/07	Allotments: <i>March-18</i> : Consideration of the revised tenancy agreement: Tenancy agreement as sent out to tenants in February has been reviewed by representatives of the Parish Council and the required changes, additions etc. were discussed and agreed at the meeting. Clerk to contact WFAA with the required changes. Asbestos bin on allotments - labelling etc.: the bin needs to be labelled clearly as to what it is for (some people putting rubbish in it) and should be included in the allotment rules, attached to the tenancy agreement. Contact the WFAA Chair to say that the invoices should have included the split of costs, as previously agreed with the PC - Clerk. <i>April-18</i> : Tenancy agreement currently in use has not been agreed with Hixon PC, invoices sent out in Feb 2018 are not in the agreed format. Letting a plot to a Fradswell resident was not discussed. It was suggested that the tenancy agreement should be in an agreed format before considering any further changes to the current situation. <i>May-18</i> : The original fencing contractor has not yet been able to be contacted. It was agreed to: 1) send the WFAA/plot-holder agreement currently in use to the PC solicitor for comments and advice, 2) that the invoice should show the actual rent and water charge for the plot, with the WFAA charge and any other charge shown separately - a (non-PC councillor) plot. holder recently complained to a councillor that he couldn't tell what his money was being spent on and would like the invoice itemised. Once the solicitor has responded re the tenancy agreement. A mill put in supporting uprights on his side of the fence, to straighten it up Waiting for PC solicitor to look at the tenancy agreement. Chair to arrange to present the 2019-2020 PC allotment plot rent and water figures at the Wellington Fields AGM. <i>Sept-18</i> : Still waiting for solicitor to look at the tenancy agreement. Chair to arrange to present the 2019-2020 PC allotment plot rent and water figures at the Wellington Fields AGM. <i>Sept-18</i> : Still waiting for solici	
063/17	Adoption of telephone kiosks: response from BT: BT will not repair the door as claim that a supporting structure has been attached to it, for the books. The books are an "unauthorised use" and they want them removed. Clerk to ask for books to be removed on temporary basis, ask again for BT to repair the door and arrange adoption of the 2 telephone kiosks. <i>July-18</i> : BT will ask engineer to look at repairing door when phone disconnected, need to pay and complete "adoption" paperwork first. Payment being made in July, paperwork also completed. Reconsider placing a defibrillator in one or both kiosks if it becomes feasible cost-wise. <i>Sept-18</i> : Waiting for BT to find a suitable replacement door for kiosk on corner of Bath Lane. <i>Oct-18</i> : Door now replaced and kiosk available to be used as book library again. Discharge from agenda.	
035/18	Consider changing from contractor to In-House grass cutting arrangements: Chair had talked to Colwich PC about their own arrangements. Colwich employ 2 lengthsmen and may be able to take on the grass-cutting in Hixon. Ask Weston with Gayton PC what they do as well. Same working group for this item as for the Youth Forum on the NP item. <i>Sept-18</i> : Chair to meet and discuss with Colwich PC re using their employees. Clerk to send Cllr. Hopcroft the current schedule and contract to be revised/updated/re-worded as required. Get quotes from TGM, Greenfingers plus one other. Plus Colwich PC if interested. <i>Oct-18</i> : Colwich Chair unwell, so delay in discussing grass cutting. Chair to attend Colwich PC meeting. Go out to tender on a 3-year contract with break clause after 1 year in November give 3-month's notice. 2 options: remove cuttings or cut more regularly and leave cuttings. Schedule and contract to be finalised.	Cllrs Mrs C Murdoch, Kelly, Baxter. Cllr. Hopcroft
038/18	Christmas Tree lights: Road Closure Notice (5pm to 7pm) agreed at £108 incl. VAT. Switch-on event on 1st December, Cllr. B McKeown to organise as previously. Ask about using the cherry picker as required. Light strings will need some re-arranging.	Cllr B McKeown
039/18	Emptying of gullies, quote received: There are about 100 gullies on the main routes through Hixon that need emptying, leave for now.	-
040/18	Quote for work on two trees (Oak at entrance to Egg Lane and tree overhanging White House, corner of Bath Lane). Quote of £150 + VAT agreed for work.	Clerk
023/18	Rubble left on Church Road open space: It was decided that this rubble should be removed and disposed of by councillors and item discharged from agenda.	Cllrs./Clerk

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041/18	Consider Officer's Report for Green Man planning application (18/28351/FUL): Chair has prepared what he will say at the planning meeting and is meeting CAMRA in the morning of the meeting.	Chair
042/18	Car park lines - quote received: It was considered that the quote was too expensive to proceed with it.	Clerk
043/18	Use of Millennium Green land on car park by PC: An agreement to pay rent of £1 per year had been agreed but no rent has been paid for many years. Agreed to re-instate annual payments.	Clerk
044/18	Litter on Church Lane, email received: Litter appears to be being dumped in lay-by near the A51 end - ask SBC about CCTV and let Colwich know about the problem as it is in Colwich Parish.	Clerk
045/18	Bollard Light: This has been damaged by being hit very hard - light no longer works. Check insurance excess and price for new bollard light. Price for replacement top already received, council happy to buy this if thought worth doing. Decide on best way forward.	Cllr. Hopcroft/Clerk
046/18	Asset inspection items: Look at in November.	Clerk
047/18	Water on Church Lane pavement: Update: Still not resolved - landowner has removed some soil but has not found the problem. Ask the Highways Liaison Mgr. to meet councillors on site to discuss, at his convenience.	Clerk
048/18	Consider Minor Highways work: Agreed to go ahead again this year with the normal contractor (same price as last year).	Clerk
004/18	Chairman's announcements:	
	November 11th is the WWI Memorial Day. The November edition of Compass contains the correct timings for the day.	
005/18	Councillor Questions:	None
	There is a silver Citroen permanently parked on the car park and has been there for several months - it is on a SORN. Ask the PCSO what can be done to get it moved. A St Dominic's minibus parks there every weekend. The path from the car park to the hall has a slight difference in levels and could be a trip hazard - add to asset inspection items.	-
	Has JBMI been thanked for hosting the recent visit? Chair had emailed thanks.	Clerk
	Colwich PC website is advertising the showing of the film "Plastic Ocean" and it is organising a Plastic Free Week.	-
006/18	Date of next meeting: November 20th 2018	Clerk to book
007/18	County and Borough Councillors Reports	Memorial Hall
	SBC has been looking at budgeting and finance over the summer and some consultations have come to an end. November could be a busy month.	-
008/18	Public Participation:	
	After the May 2018 PC election of Chair/Vice Chair, there were comments made on the Hixon and Stowe by C Facebook page expressing disappointment that Cllr. B McKeown was no longer Chair - how many comments or emails were there saying that they were pleased that he was no longer the Chair? - None known about.	-
009/18	AOB:	None
010/18	Planning Applications:	
	18/29323/FUL Alterations to Bank House pub change window to door and paint brickwork white to match building (also 18/29372/LBC - 3 signs)	No Objection
	18/29383/OUT Erection of 11 dwellings (outline) with access to be determined, Land Adjacent To Yew Tree House Egg Lane Hixon	No Objection
011/10		
011/18	Planning Reports	Demeit
	18/28971/FUL Variation of condition 3,4,5,8,9 and 10 on application 14/20548/FUL Land Adjacent To 24 The Croft Off (Site 2) Church Lane Hixon 18/28934/FUL Erection of industrial units Land Opposite Unit 17A Hixon Airfield Industrial Estate	Permit
		Permit
012/18	Bank Reconciliation:	Done
013/18	Schedule of agreed payments	0775.04
	C Gill salary (October-Net tax/NI). Local Gov act 1972 s111.	£775.64
	Reimbursement C Gill (costs: working from home) - October. Local Gov act 1972 s111	£59.50
	Reimbursement C Gill stamps (12x2nd class; 12@58p = £6.96)	£6.96 £9.90
	Reimbursement C Gill mileage (22 miles @ £0.45p/mile). Local Gov act 1972 s111	£9.90 £686.45
	Acer - September mowing Staffordshire Women's Aid (see item 065/17 from September's minutes)	£000.45 £100.00
	HMRC for income tax (\pounds 4.40) and NI payments (employer \pounds 12.24 and employee \pounds 10.64) September = \pounds 27.28	£100.00
	Memorial Hall room hire July - Sept. 2018 (this payment is additional to the agenda)	£48.60
014/18	Documents Received: Brochure from Wicksteed.	
	Masting finished at 10:55 nm	

Meeting finished at 10:55 pm.