Ipstones Parish Council

Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12 July 2023 at 7.00pm held in the Ipstones Methodist Sunday School Room

Present: Councillors Peter Hallam, Linda Malyon (Chair), Mick Irwin, Andrew Stevenson, Heather Morris, Mike Hemsley, Leslie Jackson, and Mike Birch. District Councillor L Swindlehurst. The Clerk. Representatives from Ipstones Memorial Hall, AEDdonate and a member of the public

Apologies: None received

128/23	**Dispensations:** None Received
129/23	**Declaration of Interests: District Councillor Swindlehurst declared that a relative worked for 111**.
130/23	**Incident with resident accessing publicly available defib at The Memorial Hall:** The Member of Public read out a statement of the events as they recalled them from the time of the incident on Saturday 8th July at approximately 05.45 hrs. This highlighted a potential delay of several minutes in the member of public being provided with the code to access the defibrillator. It was noted that there had been a previous incident with the same defibrillator. AEDdonate representative commented that there are approximately 5500 defibrillators on 'The Circuit'. Issues are encountered at times in communities. The representative also noted that they would be making a representation with WMAS. It was also noted that the same defib had been successfully deployed several years ago. It was also noted that there was a possibility that the distance of the defib from the address of the patient had been commented on by ambulance crew, the distance that could be used as a limiting factor to deployment of defibrillators was unclear. Councillor Hemsley noted that in 1993 Staffordshire Ambulance Service provided a service to Rural Moorlands, when WMAS took over the contract they had committed to continuing to deliver that level of service. The Service provided by Staffordshire Ambulance Service had been recognised as exemplary. It was acknowledged that CPR is paramount in such situations, the code for the defibrillator if a second person is present should be given on initial call and the second person goes for the defibrillator. If a second call is made, then the controller should be able to link to same initial call. It would appear that the controller had not picked up the initial call which resulted in the second call being over 4 minutes in length before the code was provided. It was agreed that all parties would submit a complaint regarding the incident. District Councillor Swindlehurst noted that if this led to any improvement it would be beneficial. It was noted that up to a point some years ago (8) WMAS had ambulances, Motorbikes, Cars but now relied on ambulances. District Councillor Swindlehurst commented that supporting statutory services with voluntary services could result in the chipping away of the statutory services. The member of public commented on the impact of the process of attempting to get the code and the discussions required to be had with the controller to obtain the code had caused distress.

AEDdonate confirmed that they had downloaded the data from the Defibrillator, which showed an efficient use once the defibrillator had reached the patient.
District Councillor Swindlehurst noted that the impact on a village community was often more impactful.
The Member of the public noted that people from the farms surrounding the village to access the defibrillator.
AEDdonate commented that they would raise a question with 'The Circuit' to feed in to WMAS at the next meeting they hold with WMAS.
The member of the public stated that people need to feel safe.
It was noted that SMDC have a meeting scheduled with WMAS on 26th July.
A discussion took place as to options such as leaving cabinets unlocked but it felt this would increase the likelihood of a defibrillator not being available in the case of an emergency should they be damaged, vandalised, or stolen.
It was agreed by all councillors that a letter of complaint be sent to WMAS and copied to Rt Hon Karen Bradley.
Councillor Jackson commented that it appeared that WMAS had to cover too large an area and had admitted they could not respond in line with national targets to rural areas.
Councillor Malyon commented that the Fire Service had shown interest in having Defibrillators on vehicles in the Moorlands and would be able to respond quicker.
Councillor Morris noted that the initial call and the response it received was a point to address.
The member of the public stated that they would be making a subject access request to obtain details and recording of the call.
The actions decided from the meeting were confirmed as follows: -

- Parish Council to write letter of complaint to A Marsh CEO WMAS, quoting the previous serious incident as well as the concerns from the latest incident, copying in Chair of SMDC, Chair of SMDC Health and Scrutiny Panel, Staffordshire District Councillors Heath, and Atkins.
- AEDdonate raise questions to the Circuit on the incidents.
- AEDdonate will support the member of public if recording is provided by WMAS of the emergency call.
- AEDdonate to attend Ipstones Agricultural Show to reinforce the benefit of having defibrillators locally available and build confidence of local residents.

It was noted that all local residents involved in the incident dealt with the situation admirably.

Meeting Closed 20.20 hrs

The date of the next meeting
Wednesday 26 July 2023 at 7.00 p.m. at Foxt Play Area for site visit followed by normal Parish Council meeting.
At Foxt Village Hall, Foxt