Ipstones Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26th July 2023 at 7.30pm held in the Foxt Village Hall

Present: Councillors Peter Hallam, Linda Malyon (Chair), Andrew Stevenson, Patrick Stimpson, Heather Morris, Leslie Jackson, and Mike Hemsley. The Clerk.

Apologies: Councillors Mike Birch and Mick Irwin

A minute of silence was held in remembrance of Richard Warren, Ex-Councillor Brian Snow and Kingsley Parish Councillor David Fowler.

131/23	**Dispensations:** It was proposed by Councillor Malyon and seconded by Councillor Jackson to agree to a request from Councillor Birch for a dispensation to not attend meetings due to personal reasons for a period of six months. This was agreed unanimously. There were no other dispensations.
132/23	**Declaration of Interests:** To be taken if/when arise.
133/23	**Minutes:** The amended minutes of the meeting held on 24th May 2023, the minutes of the meeting held on 21st June 2023 and the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 12th July 2023 were proposed as correct by Councillor Stevenson, Councillor Hemsley seconded this and carried unanimously.
134/23	**Clerks Report:** The clerks report was noted and the following comments and follow up requested. 1. **Defib awareness for Foxt** – Councillor Hallam to confirm at next meeting if an awareness session was required, also a second session to be arranged for Ipstones with also the possibility for a first aid course. Clerk to feedback at the next meeting. 2. **Replacement Planter –** Councillor Hallam undertook to position and fill the planter, as necessary. 3. **WMAS –** Issues now have been bought up at District and County level. 4. **Tree Stump –** Councillor Stevenson suggested writing back to Fletcher homes if nothing could be found on the land registry for the area of land where the Tree Stump is located off Church Lane. 5. **Highways –** Little Lane was becoming dangerous due to the condition of the path, issue to be reported to Highways again.
135/23	**Public Participation: -** No Public present

136/23 **Plans:**

- **DET/2023/0016**
  LOCATION Ipstones Edge Radio Transmitting Station Mast Dog Lane Ipstones Edge
  PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT *Installation of prefabricated equipment building, emergency 'black start' generator, electricity meter cabinet and ancillary development.*
  Following a discussion and reviewing the proposals Councillor Stevenson proposed supporting the application this was seconded by Councillor Hallam and carried unanimously.

- **SMDC/2023/0336**
  LOCATION New House Farm, Cotton Lane, Cotton, Staffordshire, ST10 3DT
  PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT *Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Opinion Requested in relation to a proposed development of a 35MW PV Solar PV development.*
  Following a detailed discussion and reviewing the proposals Councillor Hallam proposed objecting to the development of the solar installation for the reasons stated below, whilst also requesting a full environmental impact be undertaken. This was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously.
  - The detrimental visual impact on Churnet Valley area
  - The detrimental impact on the landscape and the ecology of the area
  - The proximity to areas of Special Scientific Interest at Black Heath and
  - The detrimental impact to the habitat for ground nesting birds such as Curlew and Lapwing
  - The negative impact to tourism in the area by affecting the landscape and views.
  - The detrimental impact on wildflowers and reduction of biodiversity of the area
  - The potential for damage and destruction of historic tramways which are part of the local industrial heritage.
  - The impact on numerous local footpaths and the reduction of access to areas served by the footpaths, again negatively impacting tourism in the area.

Clerk to include relevant details on SSSI, etc. as necessary.

137/23 **Correspondence:**

1. **Thank you from Youth Club –** Thank you card signed by all members of Ipstones Youth Club for donation made towards running costs had been received.
2. **Canal and River Trust Information –** Communication advising of reduction to the funding to the Canal and River Trust was noted and the impact this could potentially have on local canals. A request for information on dredging of local canals was to be made. Councillor M Swindlehurst was to be invited to the next meeting who would also be able to provide information on the impact.
3. **Request for donation of £30 to fund sign at Stocks Green –** Communication was noted, Councillor Jackson proposed granting the

donation and this was seconded by Councillor Morris and carried unanimously. Clerk to contact relevant person to organise ordering.

4. **Footpath 82 Mellow Lane –** Communication on adoption by County to maintain as a right of way was noted.
5. **Department of Health and Social Care –** Communication relating to delays to ambulance support in rural areas was noted. Following a detailed discussion regarding the lack of Social Care beds, it was agreed to write ask when community beds would be returning to Leek and Cheadle. Also request a more detailed breakdown in the West Midlands area, highlighting the admission from the CEO of WMAS

   Further it was noted that the Fire Service had confirmed that they would be willing to explore the possibility of the vehicles carrying defibrillators and responding to cardiac situations when called upon in an attempt to provide quicker care to patients.

   All Councillors were to receive copies of the responses received from WMAS and Department of Health and Social Care by email.

   It was also agreed to email Karen Bradley the details of the email and letters.

   Councillor Hensley queried how WMAS could receive an outstanding rating when response times were not being met. It was agreed that CQC would be emailed with copies of the complaints and responses from WMAS to raise the query, input being also obtained from AEDdonate.

   An update from AEDdonate would also be requested regarding their recent meetings following the issues encountered.

   It was also questioned whether the position of the CEO in WMAS was tenable if targets could not be met.

   The numerous situations of patients being left in pain for many hours or being transported inappropriately to avoid waiting was noted.

   It was agreed to send details of the concerns raised to the local Integrated Care Board, recently taking over the commissioning of services.

6. **Correspondence re locating a defibrillator in Church Lane –** This was noted and the potential of Leek United Building Society donating such equipment. Leek Building Society to be approached regarding obtaining defibrillators for Ipstones and Foxt.
7. **Communication from Will Quince -** This was noted, and it was agreed to forward this to councillors.
8. **Communication from Audley Parish Council re traffic speed signs –** This was noted, Councillor Morris asked if any statistics exist into the effectiveness of such signs. Councillor Hallam queried if speed humps could be installed but this was deemed as not viable.
9. **Funding from Previous District/County Councillors –** It was noted that funding which had been previously promised had not materialised and could not now be honoured by recently elected council.
10. **Attendance at meeting by Councillor Swindlehurst re Tourism in Staffordshire Moorlands –** To be invited to the next meeting.
11. **Letter from Charity Commission –** Communication noted regarding the local Charity, it was agreed this would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

	12. **Communication from Grindon PC –** Email regarding joining them and sharing costs of training for councillors was noted, it was agreed to advise Grindon PC that at the current time this was not required. 13. **Survey of Public Wells –** Communication noted, wells noted at following locations: - • **Bottom of Noon Sun** • **Indefund at Whitehough** • **Ipstones Pump** • **Harston Wood Foxt** Contact given for additional information. 14. **BKVC Competition –** Clerk to book 2 tickets for presentation evening. 15. **County Councillors funding –** Councillor Heath had confirmed that £500 would be available for Ipstones Parish Council towards increasing wildlife areas and increasing the number of trees in the parish. Councillor Worthington was unable to provide any funds. It was agreed to contact Councillor Atkins to ask for a contribution. 16. **Boundary Post –** Fitting still scheduled for 4th August, Councillor Stevenson would visit on day of fitting if possible. 17. **Froghall Road Land –** Update received from solicitors noted. 18. **CPRE Hedging initiatives –** Communication noted and approach to be made as to possibility to provide hedging for Froghall Road 19. **Royal British Legion –** Communication noted and requirement to order wreaths for Remembrance Day direct from RBL online, rather than locally as in previous years. Clerk to liaise with local RBL to ascertain numbers previously ordered. 20. **Thank you received from Birthday gift recipient.**
138/23	**UKSPF and Mayfair Avenue:** Discussion on next steps undertaken and it was agreed to place an item on next Agenda with a view to form an organising committee for the wildlife initiative event, volunteers came forward including Councillors Malyon, Jackson, Hemsley and the clerk.
139/23	**Severn Trent Water Funding Application:** Communication had been received advising that the application had not been successful.
140/23	**Foxt Play Area:** Councillor Hallam had provided an update on the levelling of the play area, and it was noted that additional topsoil would be required to fill some sinking and areas where some stone to be removed. Councillor Hallam proposed purchasing this from DP Skip Hire who he was aware could provide suitable quality material, this was seconded by Councillor Stevenson and carried unanimously. Clerk to arrange for purchase. A Sign stating no dogs on play area was also required, clerk to arrange.

141/23	**Common Good Trust and Grant for Building:** Councillor Stevenson advised he was seeking alternative quotes; he would liaise with Councillor Jackson for alternatives.
142/23	**Community Speedwatch update:** Update provided on current position with training, paper sign up forms had been handed to additional volunteers.
143/23	**Severn Trent Leak:** A leak on Brookfields road was noted which had previously been repaired but had not been successful. Clerk to report.
144/23	**Lengthsman's Report:** Report of work undertaken by Lengthsman was noted and signed by Chair
145/23	**Highways:** • **Parking in Ipstones -** Councillor Morris noted there were some issues with parking throughout the village causing potential hazards. Councillor Malyon added that in some cases there were vehicles being parked on pavements. • **Picnic Area near Ipstones Station –** Overgrown and unable to see the pond due to the growth of shrubs. • **Dead Trees –** Previously reported and Councillors reminded to advise others to report any such concerns to expedite outcomes. • **Footpath Clerks Bank –** Overgrown and the roadside on Clerks Bank and Church Lane, clerk to ascertain if Lengthsman can strim and clear. • **Citroen parked on Trustees Car Park –** Trustees were aware and attempting to resolve. • **Garage on the Green –** Clerk to attempt to ascertain ownership.
146/23	**Any other business deemed urgent:** Discussion was held regarding adding Councillor Jackson as a signatory to the bank account, this was proposed by Councillor Hemsley, seconded by Councillor Morris, and carried unanimously.

147/23 **Accounts for payment: -**

The following accounts were agreed for payment Proposed by Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Stimpson, and carried unanimously-

Payee and Details	£	£
Lengthsman's Gross Pay for July 2023 Plus £90 for Post replacement on bridal path, accident damage	[redacted]	
Lengthsman's Expenses 38 miles @45p		
JW Clerk's Salary (Gross)		
JW Clerk's Expenses (See Expense sheet for Breakdown)		
M G Simister – Grass and flower seeds		£ 238.10
Shaw & Sons Grant of exclusive rights register		£ 388.80
Ipstones Memorial Hall – Drs Surgeries		£ 390.00
James Perry Grass Cutting June- 3 cuts		£ 1,035.00
Ipstones Methodist Church Sunday School Room extraordinary meeting		£ 25.00
A Stevenson – reimbursement for planter		£ 8.00

148/23 **Quarterly Accounts:**

The Clerk presented the quarterly accounts and bank reconciliation, all councillors accepted the details as presented.

The date of the next meeting was set for
Wednesday 16 August 2023 at 7.00 p.m. at Foxt Play Area for site visit followed by normal Parish Council meeting
At Foxt Village Hall, Foxt