

Ipstones Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th August 2023 at 7.00pm held in the Foxt Village Hall

Present: Councillors Peter Hallam, Linda Malyon (Chair), Andrew Stevenson, Patrick Stimpson, Mick Irwin, Leslie Jackson, and Mike Hemsley. The Clerk. District Councillor M Swindlehurst
Three members of Public

Apologies: Councillors Mike Birch and Heather Morris

149/23	Dispensations: Councillor Birch has a dispensation to not attend meetings due to personal reasons for a period of six months. There were no other dispensations.
150/23	Declaration of Interests: To be taken if/when arise.
151/23	Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 26 th July 2023 were proposed as correct by Councillor Stevenson, Councillor Hemsley seconded this and carried unanimously.
152/23	Clerks Report: The clerks report was noted and the following comments and follow up requested. Defib awareness for Foxt – Councillor Hallam confirmed that there was interest for a defib awareness session and if possible, a first aid course. Clerk confirmed that a one day first aid course could be undertaken at a cost around £200 to cover the registration and certificates, this could be run on one day or two evenings. Suitable dates to be confirmed with liaison with Village Hall Chair. Tree Stump – No response had been forthcoming from Fletcher Homes, following a discussion it was agreed to write to Fletcher Homes to ask if they would be prepared to pass ownership to the parish council so we could follow up directly. Stocks Green Sign – Sign to be paid for and would be collected, to be positioned on wall in view from road. Speed Sign information – information forwarded to councillors. RBL ordering – Awaiting update from local representative. Banking Changes – Addition of signatory to be chased with NatWest.
153/23	Public Participation: - Member of Public representing Save Churnet Valley Landscape – Member of public explained the concerns of many in the local area to the proposed solar development and noted that a full environmental impact assessment had been decided as being necessary by the planning department. The proposed site is in close proximity to a number of SSSI's, Heritage Tramways, including Trubshaw's Tunnel and Groundwater was

	pumped from the site by Severn Trent to provide mains water. It was further noted that solar panels would be better positioned on factory, house and industrial rooves etc. Councillor Hemsley noted that it may be worth researching who the directors of the developers were and establish if there are any connections to other developers etc. The member of public noted that Cotton, Ipstones, Oakamoor, Kingsley and Checkly parish councils had submitted letters objecting to the development. A committee had been set up for campaigning against the Solar development. It was also noted that a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty application for the Churnet valley had been had previously been lodged with the Government. A survey and report of Railways and Tramways had been completed in 1999 which included the historic tramways in the area. Councillor Stimpson commented that it was Staffordshire County Council which undertook/commissioned the survey. The Churnet Valley Plan could also be a useful link. There was also a query as to whether an online petition would be beneficial, and councillor Hallam questioned if the Ramblers had been consulted due to the potential impact on footpaths, Councillor Hemsley asked if the site had any prehistoric sites etc due to the proximity of a number of other such features. Clerk to email Chair of committee to liaise. The level of ongoing mist cover in the area was also a point to note as it would reduce efficiency of panels significantly. Member of Public in support of Planning SMDC/2023/0301- Member of public highlighted the features of the development in making the property more self-sufficient, improving insulation and future proofing the building by providing bungalow level. Footprint would only be 2'-3' different to existing footprint.
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154/23	Plans: SMD/2023/0301 LOCATION Ferneylea Farm Foxt Road Foxt PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Erection of replacement dwelling along with conversion of agricultural shippon to additional living accommodation, and installation of ground mounted solar panel array. Following a discussion and reviewing the proposals Councillor Hallam proposed supporting the application this was seconded by Councillor Irwin and carried unanimously. SMD/2023/0374 LOCATION Wild Thorn Farm Ashbourne Road Bottomhouse Leek PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Proposed Side Extension. It was noted that this was outside the parish boundaries of Ipstones Parish Council so no further discussion took place, clerk to check if Bradnop Parish council had received the details.
155/23	Correspondence: WMAS letter received by Member of Public passed to parish Council – Details of the letter were discussed, and it was agreed to attach the letter to those in progress being sent to Department of Health and Social Care, Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Integrated Care Board and Care Quality Commission and copied to relevant district councillors. Councillor Hemsley queried whether a live field test could be undertaken by WMAS, to stress test their procedures and training. Councillor Jackson noted the comments already made. Councillor Malyon also noted that Leek Taxis had offered to carry defibrillators and following suitable training attend at cardiac incidents where a defibrillator could be useful. It was also commented that in some cases it was taking 4-5 hours for ambulances to arrive at patients. Letter from K Bradley – Letter received regarding WMAS discussed. Canal and River Trust – Communication in response to email noted, Councillor Stevenson commented on the high level of reserves showing in the published accounts of the organisation. Councillor Hemsley noted that there were problems on the Shropshire Union Canal as well as the local network. It was proposed by Councillor Hemsley, seconded by Councillor Stevenson, and carried unanimously to respond to the Canal and River Trust and query the level of reserves and reiterate the need for investment in the local area. It was noted that of particular concern was Cherry Eye Bridge which requires urgent attention, the cracks in the bridge had been marked some time ago and these were now showing the level of increasing damage. The response should also note that there were local contractors who would be able to complete the work at a competitive rate. Froghall Road Lease - Communication received with management plan to be updated and a date to be agreed for Chair and Vice Chair to attend solicitors and sign the lease.

	5. Communication relating to part of Colleyholes Wood – Email Noted. 6. Code of Conduct Webinar training – Email noted. 7. Draycott Nursery details – Communication noted and keep details on file. 8. CPRE – Communication noted and to be forwarded to all councillors. 9. Boundary Commission – Communication noted. 10. Staffordshire Wildlife information – Communication noted and to be forwarded to all councillors. 11. Letter from Agricultural Show Committee enquiring about sponsoring Show – Councillors Malyon and Stevenson declared a non-pecuniary interest and did not take part in the discussion – Following a discussion it was agreed to review if anything had been budgeted for this and to revisit the letter at the next meeting. 12. Email from Memorial Hall re-funding request – The email did not give any details of what the funding was to be used for and it was agreed to write back requesting more details and discuss at the next meeting.
156/23	Mayfair Avenue: Councillor Swindlehurst noted that local parish councils know what works best for areas such as Mayfair Avenue and that they should be supported with funding to undertake what is needed. There is a need to think about how areas can be used to combat climate change and provide areas of shade for future years. Further Councillor Swindlehurst noted that relationships between District Council and Parish Councils needs improvements. There is a local website called enjoy Staffordshire which can be used by local businesses promote their local activities and amenities. Clerk would share this on the parish website. Areas of land such as Mayfair Avenue can help create nature corridors and be part of nature trails. It was agreed that a working group/task and finish group was required, Councillors Malyon, Jackson, Hemsley, and Irwin along with the Clerk volunteered to form this group. This group would move forward with plans for Mayfair Avenue.
157/23	Foxt Play Area and site visit: Councillor Hallam had sown grass seed on the levelled ground of the play area. A sign stating 'Childrens Play Area no dogs allowed' was to be sourced from District/County Council contacts, Councillor Malyon offered to follow up. Additional piece of play equipment would be provided, Councillors Hallam and Stimpson to liaise in establishing preferred piece of equipment.
158/23	Ipstones Charity: The requirement to complete annual Charity Commission returns was discussed along with the details to hand of the charities. A complete list of the properties was to be ascertained for the next meeting.

159/23	Grant for Building: Councillor Jackson had requested a meeting to progress the possibilities for the building, possibility for housing the historic fire engine was discussed and Councillor Stevenson questioned the suitability of the building for this purpose. Councillor Hemsley commented that if the building was not dealt with soon, it would be become difficult to repair. Councillor Hemsley undertook to ask for a full meeting of the Trustees to discuss plans going forward.
160/23	Lengthsman's Report: Report of work undertaken by Lengthsman was noted and signed by Chair.
161/23	Milestones and Benches: Councillor Malyon requested the Mile Posts and Benches be treated before winter. Clerk to follow up with Lengthsman. Councillor Hallam noted that the Picnic Benches at Blakelow were damaged and rotten. These were noted as being responsibility of SMDC and Councillor Malyon undertook to inform the District Council.
162/23	Winter Planting: Details of cost of winter planting had not been provided by previous provider, Clerk to follow up and discuss at next meeting.
163/23	Highways: • Park Nook Foxt - Hedges are overhanging road, also large amount of Himalayan Balsam • Odda Common – Some reoccurrence of Japanese Knotweed – Lengthsman to investigate. • Casey Road Foxt – Large area of washed away verge still dangerous • Bottomhouse A523 – Large Pothole • Foxt Bank – Cracks across width of road over a large area • Citroen parked on Trustees Car Park – Still on Site and needs removing.
164/23	Any other business deemed urgent: None
165/23	Annual Audit Report: The response from the auditors was noted and agreed, Councillor Irwin proposed that persons requesting copies of accounts should be asked for a payment of £10, this was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously.

166/23 Accounts for payment: -

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

Payee and Details	£	£
Lengthsman's Gross Pay for August 2023		
Lengthsman's Expenses TBC miles @45p		
JW Clerk's Salary (Gross)		
JW Clerk's Expenses (See Expense sheet for Breakdown) TBC		
JC Clerk Casual Hours for April to July 11 hours plus tax refund To Be Confirmed		£ 201.40
Foxt Village Hall - 3 meetings March, June August		£ 75.00
SPCA New Clerk Induction from May		£ 48.00
D Price - Topsoil Foxt		£ 110.00
JAF Graphics Sign for Stocks Green		£ 34.00
Wicksteed - Foxt Play area equipment inspection		£ 158.40
James Perry - 2 cuts in July		£ 690.00
Mazars - Accounts and audit review		£ 252.00
L Malyon reimbursement of Golden Wedding Gift - Chairs Allowance		£ 31.29

**The date of the next meeting was set for
Wednesday 27th September 2023 at 7.00 p.m.
at
Ipstones Methodist Church
Sunday School Room**