

Ipstones Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th October 2023 at 7.00pm held in Ipstones Methodist Sunday School Room

Present: Councillors Linda Malyon (Chair), Andrew Stevenson, Leslie Jackson, Mike Birch, Mike Hemsley, Mick Irwin, and Peter Hallam. The Clerk.
Thirteen members of Public

Apologies: Councillors Heather Morris and Patrick Stimpson

183/23	Dispensations: There were no dispensations.
184/23	Declaration of Interests: To be taken if/when arise.
185/23	Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on 27th September 2023 were reviewed and two amendments were required: • Location should read Ipstones Methodist Sunday School not Foxt. • 177/23 Christmas tree discussion should have read that Councillor Morris objected to the parish council funding the upkeep of the Christmas / Memorial tree, there being uncertainty as to the ownership of the tree. approval carried over to the next meeting.
186/23	Christmas / Memory Tree: Standing Orders were suspended to allow members of Public to speak about the subject. Councillor Malyon informed the meeting that additional information on the tree had come to light. The tree had originally been purchased for the benefit of the village, it had been planted on the Red Lion Car Park and lit at Christmas in memory of the residents who had passed away. It was donated to the Village; the parish council previously have given funding towards the upkeep of the tree. Since the last meeting three letters had been received from residents who wished the parish council to assist in maintaining the tree. Members of the public present at the meeting were invited to speak, first member of public commented that with additional time many more residents would have written in to request the parish council support the maintenance of the tree. A second member of public commented that as the tree belongs to the village the Parish Council should fund the upkeep of the tree. A third member of public read a statement from a fellow resident which again was in support of the parish council maintain the tree. A further two members of public also spoke urging the parish council to maintain the tree. The Clerk advised that SPCA had confirmed that a section 137 grant could be made to an individual or group towards the cost of maintenance. It was also possible for the parish council to formally adopt the tree. A quote had been obtained by one of the members of public present from a qualified Arbor culturalist to undertake necessary work and this was presented to the meeting, the meeting was advised that a number of quotes,

	at least three quotes would be requested by the parish council if the works were to be funded. Councillor Irwin proposed that the Parish Council funded the necessary work, this was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously. The clerk agreed to seek the necessary quotes, and once received to contact the parish councillors to gain a consensus in order that work could be completed before the Christmas market on 24th November 2023. The meeting considered whether the tree had a TPO, but it was ascertained that it did not. The clerk was asked to contact the owners of the land the tree stands on to ascertain if they had any objections to the tree work being undertaken. It was also agreed to place the tree on the Agenda for the January meeting to decide on future actions regarding the Tree, including the possibility of formally adopting the tree.
187/23	Clerks Report: The clerks report was noted and the following comments and follow up requested. 1. Foxt Play Area – Councillor Hallam and the Lengthsman had reviewed the report from Wicksteed on site and fully checked the Swing parts, it was agreed that the specific part of the swing would be carefully checked by the Lengthsman on each inspection of the equipment. The Dog Sign was not available from the District Council, and the period of Public Spaces Protection Order was nearing its expiry and clerk would follow up once confirmation of extension. Communication on the extension of the Public Spaces Protection Order had been received detailing the proposed extension to the order for a further 3 years from 19th October. 2. Mayfair Avenue – Hamps Valley Trees had undertaken a very thorough inspection of the trees on the Open Space, Councillor Jackson had been present during the inspection, clerk to chase the report.
188/23	Plans: • SMD/2023/0458 LOCATION: LAND ADJACENT TO SUNNYHILL Clerks Bank Ipstones PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Replacement general purpose agricultural building, for lambing sheep, storage of fodder and implements. Following a discussion regarding the application Councillor Stevenson proposed supporting approval of the application, this was seconded by Councillor Irwin and carried unanimously. • SMD/2023/0429 LOCATION: Sharpcliffe Hall Bradshaw Lane Ipstones PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Proposed extension for an Indoor Swimming Pool • SMD/2023/0486 LOCATION: Sharpcliffe Hall Bradshaw Lane Ipstones PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Application for Listed Building Consent for Proposed extension for an Indoor Swimming Pool

	Standing orders were suspended for the discussion on these. Both above applications were discussed in detail, including input from three members of public. Details of the plans were reviewed, including recommendations and input from the conservation officer on the design of the building development. The design, although modern in nature limits the impact on the existing building. A member of public raised concerns on the possibility of light pollution, which was acknowledged by the agent of the applicant. Following the discussions and the detailed review of proposals Councillor Jackson proposed supporting approval of both applications, subject to minimising the impact of light pollution, this was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously. Standing orders were resumed. • SMD/2023/0507 LOCATION: FOUR MEADOWS FARM Foxt Road Foxt PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT - 1 - Replacement and increase in size of a current redundant building onsite. The proposed replacement will be used to store machinery and fodder. 2- Extension to an existing building to produce a cattle housing and muck storage Following a review of the plans for this application Councillor Irwin proposed a site visit would be beneficial, this was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously. The planning officer would be asked if they could attend alongside the councillors. The Site visit was agreed to be held, subject to access being available, on Monday 30th October 2023
189/23	Correspondence: 1. Agricultural Show Donation (Item carried forward from last meeting) – Level of donation to the Agricultural Society was considered, Councillor Jackson proposed £500, this was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously. 2. Polling Station Review – Communication noted, there was no change to local provision in Ipstones Parish. 3. WMAS Letter received in response to complaint from July AED incident – The letter was read out which acknowledged there had been failures in procedures. Councillors expressed concern regarding repetition of failures from the first incident. It was also noted that there appeared to be an error in the target response times for Cat 1 calls. The clerk was asked to respond to the letter pointing out the error in the response time and to raise the point that the issues were a repeat of the previous fatal incident. 4. Response from the ICB to the July AED incident – Letter of response from ICB was read out. Councillors raised concern that the response was not answering the concerns which had been raised. The clerk was asked to respond noting that Tony Marsh, CEO of WMAS, had admitted not being able to meet the target response times in rural areas and that the concerns raised had not been answered. Also, that the area covered by the Trust was too large which was causing the issues being encountered.

	The letter also noted that the ombudsman could also be contacted, the clerk was asked to write to the ombudsman to raise the concerns previously raised by the Parish Council and highlighting the admission of never being able to meet the 8 minute response times in rural areas which historically Staffordshire Ambulance Service had been able to achieve prior to WMAS taking over service provision. The Parish Councillors also noted that the responses were callous. It was noted that letters, supporting Ipstones Parish Council concerns, were being sent by Waterhouses Parish Council to the ICB and CQC. It was agreed that the ombudsman would be informed of the concerns of the Parish Council. 5. Remembrance Service – Details of the Annual Remembrance Service were noted, Clerk to ask Lengthsman to remove the old crosses from the box in the cemetery. Copy of the Parish Council reading to be obtained and forwarded to Chair in readiness. It was noted that a member of the services was expected to read the names of the fallen. Councillor Birch advised that a representative would lay the wreath at Foxt, Councillor Jackson agreed to lay the wreath at Ipstones. The list of fallen would include those from Berkhamstych. It was also noted that the Soldier would be unveiled on Saturday 4th November. Clerk to enquire if any service was to be held on the 11th of November and advise Mark Barlow of the event in Ipstones. 6. Correspondence levels – Councillor Stevenson had raised the quantity of correspondence that is required to get through at meetings, Councillor Birch proposed all correspondence received by email to be forwarded by email to all councillors, this was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously, the outline of all correspondence would still be covered at the meetings 7. Website – The clerk had enquired about the cost of adding a subscribe to updates option to the useful links page on the parish website so individuals and businesses could be notified of any updates to the useful information on there. The cost was noted as a one-off cost of £120 + £35 per annum for the 'Subscriber' licence. Councillor Irwin proposed that this was undertaken, Councillor Hallam seconded this, and the motion was carried unanimously. Clerk to action. 8. Business Premises Survey – Communication noted and to be forwarded to all councillors. 9. NatWest – Communication regarding the complaint noted. 10. DBS – Advice from SCPA on DBS noted, it was agreed to not proceed with DBS checks for Councillors. 11. Boundary Post – Communication noted on completion imminent. 12. Defib Fund – Details noted, including application made. 13. Tree Stump – Communication on responsibility noted, clerk following up. 14. Memorial Application – Details of an application received discussed and as to the whether the wording was appropriate or could cause distress through misinterpretation. Councillor Malyon proposed that the wording specified should not be permitted, this was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried with a vote of five for and two abstentions. 15. Allotment Pond – Communication received from member of public wishing to have pond questioning the specifications requested by parish
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	council following last meeting prior to them commencing any work on installing a pond on the allotment. It was noted that the requirements were those requested to be in place by the insurance providers to the Parish Council. 16. Royal Mail – Communication received from Karen Bradley in relation to delivery issues noted. 17. Flags – Details of costs for replacement flags for the three flagpoles noted, Councillor Birch proposed that three new flags be purchased this was seconded by Councillor Irwin and carried unanimously. 18. Biddulph Neighbourhood Plan – Details noted. 19. Clerk's Knowledge course – Details noted. 20. MJ Achievement Awards – Details of nomination process noted, Councillor Hemsley agreed to look at possible nominations.
190/23	Mayfair Avenue: Final details for the wildlife event were discussed, Gazebo was being provided by Councillor Hemsley, who had also prepared Bird Box Kits. Councillor Jackson was to check if Brownies would be attending, Children attending would be encouraged to help fill the Bug House frame with materials that would be provided. Clerk had a feedback survey ready for completion by attendees. Picnic Bench options were discussed and a mutual agreement for a round picnic table from Churnet Valley Garden Furniture was agreed, clerk to follow up ordering. Clerk to source materials for light refreshments, tea, coffee, biscuits etc. Councillor Malyon to ask if urn and tables could be borrowed from Sunday School Room.
191/23	Froghall Road: Management Plan was signed by Chair, Councillor Birch offered to assist in completing an updated risk assessment.
192/23	Brookfield Road: Councillor Hemsley advised that he was in process of writing to ask for a meeting of the Common Good Trust committee.
193/23	Policies and Procedures: The Safeguarding Policy and the Equality and Diversity Policies shared previously in draft format were accepted unanimously.
194/23	Annual Reviews: This item was carried over to the next meeting due to time.
195/23	Highways and Lengthsman's Report: Blossom Trees – Permission would be required to plant the blossom trees, clerk to follow up with County Council, planting would be in areas of Froghall

	Road. Councillors Hallam and Birch would liaise with Foxt Village Hall Committee to establish if there were any suitable locations in Foxt. Daffodil Bulbs – Councillor Malyon advised that a working group was in process of being organised for planting the daffodil bulbs. Items to report or requiring attention were noted as follows: - • Tree down on Little Lane • Councillor Jackson/Hemsley to review tree on Common Good Trust land. • Hedges throughout Foxt. • Mile Posts. • Debris on side of road near Belmont Road, including branches around telegraph pole.
196/23	Mowing Specifications: Three quotes for undertaking the mowing for the seasons 2024 and 2025 had been received, a detailed discussion was held with the costs of the three respective quotes being considered. Councillor Irwin proposed the provider of the cheapest quote be awarded the work, this was seconded by Councillor Jackson and carried unanimously. James Perry provided the successful quote.
197/23	Any other business deemed urgent: None
198/23	Quarterly review of finances and appoint Internal Auditor: The Clerk had issued the quarterly accounts summary and review of payments and account balances. Councillors reviewed the information and the proposal to utilise the same Internal Auditor as last year. Councillor Irwin proposed the acceptance of finance review and appointment of the Internal Auditor, Councillor Jackson seconded this proposal, and this was carried unanimously.

199/23 Accounts for payment: -

The following accounts were agreed for payment Proposed by Councillor and seconded by Councillor Birch, 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		
Ipstones Sunday School Parish Council Mtg September		£ 25.00
DW Banks Website Hosting		£ 280.00
Staffordshire Farm Supplies - Strimmer Husqvarna carburettor		£ 52.74
Ipstones Memorial Hall - Drs Surgeries 13 days July , August and September		£ 390.00
Ipstones Memorial Hall Speedwatch Training		£ 16.00
James Perry – 2 cuts in October		£690.00
Donation for Agricultural Society		£ 500.00

**The date of the next meeting was set for
Wednesday 22nd November at 7.00 p.m.
at
Foxt Village Hall**