Ipstones Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27th September 2023 at 7.00pm held in the Foxt Village Hall

Present: Councillors Linda Malyon (Chair), Andrew Stevenson, Leslie Jackson, Mike Birch and Heather Morris. The Clerk.
One member of Public

Apologies: Councillors Hemsley, Irwin, Stimpson and Hallam

167/23	**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.
168/23	**Declaration of Interests:** To be taken if/when arise.
169/23	**Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 16th August 2023 were proposed as correct by Councillor Stevenson, Councillor Jackson seconded this, and the motion was carried unanimously.
170/23	**Clerks Report:** The clerks report was noted and the following comments and follow up requested. 1. **Tree Stump –** Councillor Malyon agreed to speak to the SMDC Assets team to attempt to get a response. 2. **DBS Checks for Councillors –** Clerk to seek guidance from SPCA. 3. **Garage on Green –** Concern on condition of the building was noted, as was condition of old slaughterhouse.
171/23	**Public Participation: -** **Member of Public representing Christmas Markets – Councillor Malyon declared an interest and therefore Councillor Jackson took the Chair** Member of public thanked the council for donation to the running of the Christmas Market in previous years and asked if a donation could be made this year. They explained how the stallholders are local and the proceeds from the evening go to a local charity. Stallholders who have supported the market in previous years are given the opportunity to have a stall. The Charities being supported are Ipstones Fire Fighter Benevolent Fund and the Ipstones Rainbows and Brownies. The Member of Public also sought support in publicising the event. Councillor Morris queried if the bar for the event would be rotated around the different public houses in the village and the member of public confirmed this would be the case to ensure all public house businesses were given the opportunity over a period of a few years. Following a brief discussion on the level of donation councillor Jackson proposed a donation to the event of £500, this was seconded by Councillor Morris and carried unanimously. Councillor Malyon retook the chair after this discussion and vote.

172/23	**Plans:** • **SMD/2023/0310** **LOCATION: Booths Hall Farm Belmont Road, Ipstones ST10 2JP** **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Proposed single storey rear extension.** • **SMD/2023/0311** **LOCATION: Booths Hall Farm Belmont Road, Ipstones ST10 2JP** **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Listed Building Consent for Proposed single storey rear extension.** Both above applications were discussed in detail, following discussions and review of proposals Councillor Stevenson proposed supporting approval of both applications, this was seconded by Councillor Jackson and carried unanimously.
173/23	**Correspondence:** 1. **Agricultural Show Donation –** Due to the number of councillors who had an interest in the Agricultural Show a final decision on a donation to the Agricultural show could not be made, this would be carried forward to the next meeting. 2. **Letter requesting donation to Ipstones Memorial Hall –** Councillor Morris declared an interest and did not participate in discussions or vote**.** Following a discussion regarding the level of donation Councillor Stevenson proposed £700, this was seconded by Councillor Jackson and carried Unanimously (Excluding Councillor Morris) 3. **Letter received from resident regarding Full Fibre Broadband Voucher Scheme –** Communications had been sent to most if not all residents from local MP regarding the voucher scheme. Councillor Morris queried the cost of undertaking this mailing, especially considering current cost of living situation. It was agreed for the clerk to write to K Bradley requesting if further information on the scheme could be provided, also pointing out the alternative ways that could have been utilised for publicising the scheme considering the cost of postage involved. 4. **Ipstones Charities Information –** Details of the properties linked to the charities had been provided and the details of the previous date of collection of the monies, the Clerk agreed to attempt to collect current year funds and previous years funds. 5. **Warm Home Grants –** Communication received detailing the level of grants and how to apply for these grants had been received. The aim was to reduce the costs incurred and the amount of energy used in heating homes. BroadOak are recognised as an installer of the various initiatives available. There are significant levels of funding available. Details and links to be put on website. 6. **Parish Assembly –** Details of the upcoming parish assembly were noted, Councillor Jackson would be attending, Councillor Malyon advised she would also attend. 7. **Digitising Parish Records –** Clerk advised of various communications she had held with National Archives concerning the possibility of

obtaining grants to enable the digitisation of the parish cemetery records and providing suitable storage and conservation of them whilst awaiting depositing at Stafford Record Office. The Record office is not currently accepting deposits of records due to building works to expand the space. All Councillors offered help in transcribing records, also highlighted was the possibility of involving the history group for transcribing. The Clerk would follow up the possibility of applying for a grant.

8. **Slow Ways –** Presentation discussed, Clerk to place details on Facebook page and on Parish Website. The Walking group may also be interested.
9. **Climate Change Communication -** Noted.
10. **SMDC Residents Survey –** Communication Noted, details and link to be forwarded to all councillors and posters and detail on notice boards and website.
11. **Finger Posts –** Karen Bradley was assisting in the endeavours to get replacement finger posts for those missing/damaged which have been awaiting replacement for some time.
12. **Stoke Air Ambulance or HESE –** Communication noted regarding people collection for this, note not linked to West Midlands Air Ambulance Charity which operates the helicopters, information on WMAAS website.
13. **Countryside Charity Hedges –** Communication noted.
14. **C Atkins regarding WMAS –** Communication noted.
15. **ICB Letter regarding WMAS –** Communication acknowledging complaint noted, a full response should be expected 19th / 20th October. Councillor Jackson noted there was no comment on splitting WMAS to a more manageable geographic area or the CEO performance relating to the admission of not meeting response times. Councillor Jackson proposed that a response be sent to the ICB pointing out that: -
    - the area of coverage be split.
    - Mr Marsh to be asked to consider his position as CEO.

    With a copy to Councillor Jones of SMDC. This was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously.
16. **CQC Letter regarding WMAS received by email –** Communication noted. It was proposed by Councillor Jackson that a letter be sent in response highlighting that WMAS were not meeting targets in the parish of Ipstones, in addition the recording from first incident be shared with CQC through Jamie at AEDdonate, Advise CQC that they would receive the recording, also include the original letter received from A Marsh admitting that WMAS would never meet the target times. This was seconded by Councillor Malyon and carried unanimously.
17. **Peak Wildlife Park Bus Stop –** Communication from the Wildlife Park seeking support for a Bus Stop was noted, the council agreed that the first step for the park would be for them to contact the bus service provider to check the feasibility, Clerk to advise Peak Wildlife Park
18. **Best Kept Village Competition –** Ipstones had received a Highly Commended certificate in the competition this year, Clerk advised that she would be compiling a list of activities the community had been undertaking over the last few months and into the early part of next year to supplement the entry next year. Also, one of the Judges had offered to visit to give tips on how to increase the scoring, clerk to contact to

arrange a suitable date. Councillor Morris suggested use of the 'Tales of Ipstones' as a source also.

19. **Foxt Village Hall Request for Donation –** Discussion took place regarding providing a donation to Foxt Village Hall, Councillor Stevenson proposed £700 be given, this was seconded by Councillor Jackson and carried unanimously.
20. **Boundary Post –** This was now in situ but still had minor work to complete, a lead top was to be added and the support struts to be removed once the Lime Mortar had completely set. Councillor Stevenson noted that KW had done an excellent job.
21. **Solar Panel Park –** Information communicated from local records office noted.
22. **Residents email regarding Himalayan Balsam –** Communication noted.
23. **Wicksteed Play equipment report –** Report was noted, details to be forwarded to Councillor Hallam, Lengthsman would be asked to meet with Councillor Birch and Councillor Hallam on his next inspection visit to review the report.
24. **Leek Building Society Defib response –** Communication indicating that Leek Building Society were concentrating the provision of defibs to towns where they had branches was noted.
25. **Resident communication regarding placing a pond on their allotment –** This was noted, it was proposed by Councillor Stevenson that the person would need to take full responsibility for the pond and write to confirm this, Insurance company to informed, Pond would need to be made fully Child proof and the allotment would need to be reinstated to its original state if the person gave up the allotment. This was seconded by Councillor Morris and carried unanimously.
26. **Mayfair Avenue Open space ownership –** It was agreed that the possibility of taking ownership of the Open space be sought from Councillor Swindlehurst of SMDC, with comparable funding being provided for ongoing maintenance from SMDC. With the possibility of the land adjacent Church Meadow to be included in the future if possible.
27. **Canal and River Trust Communication re Cherry Eye Bridge –** Details of email noted.
28. **Public order notice re Dogs –** Extension of order relating to dogs in public spaces noted, from this the possibility of provision of signs for Foxt Play area was noted.
29. **Kompan –** Communication noted.
30. **Top Cash Grant Application –** Acknowledgement of application noted.
31. **TPO's in Foxt –** Communication providing details of new TPO's near New House Foxt noted.
32. **20MPH Zones –** Zoom details noted.
33. **Quotes received for work on Froghall Road and the Cemetery trees –** Councillor Stevenson proposed accepting the quote from James Perry to undertake the work on the two sites be accepted, Councillor Jackson seconded this, and it was carried unanimously, Clerk to advise James to undertake the works at his earliest convenience.
34. **Upgrade of FP82 –** Following a discussion relating to the upgrade of this footpath Councillor Morris proposed supporting the upgrade, this was

	seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously, clerk to write to advise. 35. **Media Release for Community and businesses –** noted, Clerk queried whether a separate page on the parish website for useful information for businesses and community groups would be beneficial, clerk to ascertain from web domain provider if there would be a cost. 36. **Picnic Site at Blakelow –** Communication noted regarding SMDC assets team not accepting ownership, this was being followed up. This area would at the right time be included in the request as per Mayfair Avenue as noted in point 26 above. 37. **Highways reports –** Number of reports had been returned as unable to action this was noted.
174/23	**Mayfair Avenue:** Three Quotes had been received for the inspection of trees on the open space, these were reviewed, and Councillor Stevenson proposed accepting the quote from Hamps Valley Trees, this was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously. Clerk to advise Hamps Valley of success and thank other companies and advise of not being successful.
175/23	**Froghall Road:** Lease had been signed by Chair and Vice Chair, Invoice received for legal work and first year rental, Insurance to be notified of completion of agreement.
176/23	**Policies and Procedures:** This was carried forward to next meeting.
177/23	**Winter Planting:** Following a discussion regarding winter planting Councillor Morris proposed that winter planting of tubs should not be undertaken, this was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously. Councillor Malyon advised that a donation of around one thousand daffodil bulbs had been promised for planting on the roadside on the entry to the village, it was suggested that SPCA be contacted to ask if any guidance on volunteers planting etc. Councillor Malyon raised concern on the height of the Christmas Tree near to the Red Lion A discussion to be held at next meeting regarding Blossom Trees
178/23	**Lengthsman's Report:** Report of work undertaken by Lengthsman was noted and signed by Chair. It was noted that the training for Lengthsman and Volunteers would be up for renewal next year.

179/23	**Mowing Specifications:** The contract for mowing cemetery and open spaces would be up for renewal next season, Clerk to rewrite specifications to include Froghall Road site and invite quotes from three providers, Clerk also to place on the notice board and website requesting quotes.
180/23	**Highways:** It was noted that County Council had commenced replenishing Grit Bins and Piles
181/23	**Any other business deemed urgent:** There appeared to be issues with deliveries to Ipstones by Royal Mail, it was proposed by Councillor Morris to email K Bradley and the Cheadle Delivery Office to highlight the need for reliable service as many are already marginalised by lack of internet coverage. This was seconded by Councillor Birch and Carried unanimously. Clerk reminded Councillors that planning for the spending for next year would need to be started and therefore to think about projects that may need to be included. Clerk would provide details of spend to date and estimation of full year spend. Councillor Malyon advised that a resident had some plum trees which were available for the community orchard, Clerk to ascertain if James Perry could heal them in somewhere temporarily. Wildlife Event – Poster to be completed including details of event and confirmed attendance by Wheatcroft Willow and Staffordshire Wildlife, next subcommittee meeting scheduled for 3rd October at 16.00hrs at Mayfair Avenue

182/23 **Accounts for payment: -**

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

Payee and Details	£	£
Lengthsman's Gross Pay for August 2023	[redacted]	[redacted]
Lengthsman's Expenses TBC miles @45p		
JW Clerk's Salary (Gross)		
JW Clerk's Expenses (See Expense sheet for Breakdown) TBC		
Ipstones Sunday School Mayfair Avenue Mtg and Parish Council Mtg September		£50.00
Staffordshire Farm Supplies repair to Foxt Mower		£116.60
James Perry – 2 cuts in August		£690.00
Eric Whitehead re Lease Froghall Road		£615.00
Brabners llp invoice for Annual rent for Froghall Road		£100.00
James Perry – 2 cuts in September		£690.00
Donation for Christmas Market		£ 500.00
Donation for Foxt Village Hall		£ 700.00
Donation for Ipstones Memorial Hall		£ 700.00

The date of the next meeting was set for
Wednesday 25th October at 7.00 p.m.
at
Ipstones Methodist Church
Sunday School Room