

Ipstones Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th April 2024 at 7.00pm held Foxt Village Hall

Present: Councillors Linda Malyon (Chair), Leslie Jackson, Mike Birch, Andrew Stevenson, Heather Morris, Peter Hallam, Mike Hemsley and Mick Irwin. Clerk and two members of Public. Emma Ford from Healthwatch.

Apologies: Councillors Patrick Stimpson

61/24	Dispensations: There were no dispensations.
62/24	Declaration of Interests: To be taken if/when arise.
63/24	Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21st February 2024 were reviewed, Councillor Morris Proposed acceptance as a true record, this was seconded by Councillor Stevenson and Carried Unanimously. The Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 2024, were reviewed, Councillor Hemsley proposed accepting as a true record, this was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously.
64/24	Healthwatch Standing orders were suspended to allow open discussion. Councillor Malyon welcomed Emma Ford (EF) to the meeting and introduced the councillors. Councillor Malyon outlined some of the current issues being encountered in the area when requiring support of an ambulance from West Midlands Ambulance Trust (WMAS). Noting that AEDdonate reported that there were currently six defibrillators missing in the area. Also, there was a responder manager post currently not filled. Councillor Malyon explained the incidents were accessing the defibrillator in two emergency situations had been delayed due to access codes not being provided promptly. A discussion took place on the current support from SMDC, and the various communications sent to and received from WMAS and other raising the concerns of the Parish Council. Clerk to forward correspondence to EF for review and information for Healthwatch. Councillor Malyon described the issues being experienced in the Staffordshire Moorlands, giving many specific examples. Councillor Malyon reiterated that it is not the actual staff of WMAS but the system. EF explained that Healthwatch are going into the control room of WMAS to review the operation. Councillor Jackson explained that the closure of ambulance stations and removal of 4X4 response vehicles and the impact this has had. Councillor Jackson further explained that Fire Service were trained to respond to cardiac arrest emergencies, but this has also been removed as an option.

	Councillors Hemsley and Morris commented on how the situation is a corporate failing.' Councillor Hemsley expressed concerns on how the failings are being covered. Councillor Morris explained how problems are wider spread than just the Staffordshire Moorlands, with similar incidents occurring in Stoke. Councillor Jackson described how 4X4 Rapid Response Vehicles (RRV) are needed to respond in country areas. Clarifying how Community First Responders are Volunteers whereas a RRV would have a qualified Paramedic on board. Councillor Hemsley explained how information provided is fact and demonstrates the delays. The meeting also explained how the Health Ombudsman had stated that the Parish Council could not complain about an incident as they had not been directly impacted. The petition currently gaining signatures asking for an inquiry into WMAS was noted and link to be shared with EF. Councillor Malyon thanked Emma for her attendance and taking the comments of the Council on board. Standing orders were resumed
65/24	Clerks Report: The clerk's report had been circulated.
66/24	Plans SMDC/2023/0598 54 Meadow View Froghall Road Ipstones Proposed demolition of existing dwelling and erection of 2 proposed dwellings Amended details. Amended details were reviewed, following discussion Councillor Morris proposed recommending refusal due to the following: - • There would be a loss of privacy to neighbouring properties with what would appear to be from the plans submitted, less than one metre from the boundary wall caused by proposing two large properties in the space that one currently takes. The property would also be blocking part of a neighbour's window and does not appear to give a 45° view. These factors would make the development unneighbourly. • Application would have a negative visual impact on the neighbouring area as the proposed properties would not be in the building line of the other properties in the road, which currently has a strong defined line. • There are concerns regarding the health and safety of residents with the possibility of up to fourteen drivers living in the properties with insufficient garage/parking facilities. This could cause a hazard on the roadway near the proposed properties, especially as there is a junction directly opposite.

	It was also noted that - • A review of the covenant associated with the property, which is understood to restrict or prevent demolition of the existing building, and consideration of any implications this may have should be undertaken. This was seconded by Councillor Jackson and carried unanimously. SMD/2023/0106 and SMD/2023/0107 (Listed Building Consent) Whitehough Coley Hole Ipstones Proposed Structural work and renovation/ alterations to change use of barn from Agricultural to C3 The plans for the two applications were considered and councillor Stevenson proposed recommending approval subject suitable access to the development being available. This was seconded by Councillor Irwin and carried with seven votes for and two abstentions. SMD/2019/00029 APPEAL REFERENCE APP/B3438/C/24C334104. Land to rear of Tunstead House Foxt Alleged Breach of Planning Control - Erection of Pole Barn, erected on stone chip hardstanding and walled in blue tarp on 3 sides ("the Barn") on the land. A discussion took place on the details provide by SMDC, including consideration of the planning rules. Councillor Birch proposed support of the planning officer's original decision that there had been a breach of planning. Also supporting the serving of the enforcement notice for the reasons given by the panning officer. This was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried with 6 votes for and 2 abstentions.
67/24	Correspondence: Correspondence previously circulated to all councillors and noted. WMAS – Councillor Hemsley proposed the Clerk to write to WMAS to urge for a correct procedure to be implemented to ensure the return of Defibs in a timely manner following deployment. This was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously. FP82 – Noted. Advertising on Website request – Councillors agreed this was not appropriate. AONB Churnet Valley - Councillors agreed to write a letter of support and forward to Dame Karen Bradley. Mayfair Avenue Tree – Awaiting Steve Massey to visit, Clerk to email to request follow up. DP Skips Quote – The quote for topsoil for new planters was accepted unanimously. Topsoil to be ordered when required.

	Resident Communication regarding Potholes - Include details in letter regarding highways. NatWest Bank – Clerk explained the outline of recent complaint regarding query around online banking information. Compensation from NatWest had been received. Mazaars – Communication regarding upcoming audit noted and agenda item to review Governance in readiness for audit. Berkhamsytsch Survey – All Councillors agreed to complete the survey document, circulated with meeting pack. Request for Historical photos and postcards – It was agreed to forward the email request to the historical society for support if they are able. Village Green Applications – Information passed to working group. Foxt to Froghall Footpath – Councillor Birch had walked the footpath from Milking Lane to Froghall. It was evident that there were multiple users utilising the various footpaths. The area of the landslip had been fenced off and work in the general location was continuing, various new features were evident. It was agreed to write to the resident who had originally raised the concern to advise of ongoing work and continued use of various footpaths. Wicksteed inspection – Communication noted, Councillor Stevenson proposed requesting inspection be undertaken, this was seconded by Councillor Jackson and carried unanimously. Thank You Cards – Received from recipients of gifts for Wedding Anniversaries noted.
68/24	Insurance Quote: Details of renewal quote from existing insurers, Zurich, was reviewed, Councillor Stevenson proposed that the quote was acceptable and proposed renewal with Zurich, Councillor Hemsley seconded this proposal, and the decision was carried unanimously.
69/24	Annual Governance Return: The Annual Governance Document was reviewed in detail and each question point reviewed and agreed unanimously. The necessary audit document was completed and signed by Chair Councillor Malyon
70/24	Calendar: Councillor Malyon asked if the parish council should consider carrying on the Ipstones Calendar, Councillor Morris proposed that the council should not

	take on the additional workload and this was seconded by Councillor Jackson and carried.
71/24	Planters: Clerk advised that Nursery at Old Hall had confirmed they were able to undertake the summer planting at a rate per planter as last year, new planters would be added as necessary and charged at the same rate per planter of same size. Councillor Irwin proposed summer planting be carried out by Nursery at Old Hall, this was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously.
72/24	Mayfair Avenue Event: Event confirmed as being held on 18th May from 10.00 to 13.00 hrs, Councillor Jackson proposed that the clerk contact possible attendees for displays etc, e.g. Willowbrook, Staffordshire Wildlife etc to attend the event in a similar manner to the Autumn event, Councillor Malyon seconded this, and this was carried unanimously.
73/24	Froghall Road Site: Meeting advised that the fruit trees and Blossom Trees had been ordered. Local resident had offered to cultivate the ground prior to planting, Sign needed to state, "Access needed please No Parking in front of entrance".
74/24	Blakelow Area: With Working Group
75/24	Tree Stump Church Meadows: Councillor Irwin advised he would seek help regarding this.
76/24	Foxt Play Area: Climbing Frame information – Councillor Birch advised of the communications received and proposed completing application form to ascertain availability of funding, this was seconded by Councillor Hallam and carried unanimously. Play Equipment – Councillor Hallam undertook to ask local parents on any preference of type of new equipment for the play area.
77/24	Lengthsman: Clerk to ask Lengthsman to position benches on Froghall Road site, benches purchased last month. In meantime could they be placed in Bier Shed for Storage. Mile Posts, Finger post and Pump to be cleaned/painted.

78/24	Highways: Discussion took place regarding condition of roads throughout the parish and the method of working of Highways personnel. It was noted that residents had observed during road closures that two people were completing highway maintenance whilst two additional people were sitting in vehicles, one at either end of the closure, watching the work being completed. The very poor condition of Foxt Bank and Froghall banks were noted and the apparent waste of resources. The councillor asked if the cost per repair of average pothole, cost of claims to council for damage to cars caused by potholes and the cost of traffic lights could be ascertained. It was also suggested that a request for a visit to the parish by County Councillor Deaville, cabinet lead for highways, be made. Clerk to follow up.
79/24	Any other business deemed urgent: Councillor Morris Declared an interest and did not participate in discussion or vote. The council were made aware that Ipstones Memorial Hall were seeking funding for disabled access to the Gallery area, Councillor Jackson proposed sending a letter stating that the Council are not able to utilise the space at the moment due to access limitations for General Public and that having disabled access would facilitate the Gallery are use. This was seconded by Councillor Stevenson and carried unanimously (excluding Councillor Morris). Councillor Morris proposed that future summer meetings should revert to starting at 7.30pm this was agreed by the meeting. Clerk to ask for grass cuttings to be removed from headstones following mowing.

80/24 Accounts for payment: -

On a proposal by Councillor Hemsley, seconded by Councillor Irwin the following were approved. -

Payee and Details	£	£
Lengthsman's Gross Pay for April 2024	£ 270.63	£ 246.96
Lengthsman's Expenses 27 miles @45p		£ 12.15
JW Clerk's Salary (Gross)	£ 812.50	
JW Clerk's Expenses (See Expense sheet for Breakdown) £26.22	£26.22	£ 838.72
Foxt Village Hall for Use of room meeting April 2024		£30.00
Simisters Wildflower seeds re Buglife Donation 700.00 plus vat		£840.00
TB Logotypes D-Day Flyers		£86.82
Staffordshire Farm Supplies Limited		£164.63
MATS First Aid Course Consumables		£102.15
Fenland First Aid Course Administration certificates etc		£147.85
Zurich Insurance		£906.83
Ipstones Memorial Hall DRs Surgery		£370.00
Invoice due for work undertaken by James Perry on Froghall Road		£1,100.00
Newton Flag Company SI 3827 four D-Day flags		£128.40
CPRE Membership		£36.00
L Malyon Gifts for Anniversary		£31.29
M Birch expenses – Ink, Oak Planter and Compost		£74.90
H Morris expenses – Gift for Wedding Anniversary		£30.00

**The date of the next meeting was set for
Wednesday 22nd May at 7.30 p.m.
at
Sunday School Rooms
Ipstones**