

Ipstones Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th June 2024 at 7.30pm held Foxt Village Hall preceded by Site visit to Foxt Community Play Area

Present: Councillors Linda Malyon (Chair), Leslie Jackson, Mike Birch, Andrew Stevenson, Patrick Stimpson, and Mike Hemsley. Clerk and three members of Public.

Apologies: Councillors Heather Morris, Peter Hallam, and Mick Irwin

103/24	Dispensations: Councillor Malyon advised that Councillor Irwin was unable to attend and would benefit from a six-month dispensation, Councillor Jackson proposed that a six-month dispensation should be granted this was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously.
104/24	Declaration of Interests: To be taken if/when arise.
105/24	Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22 nd May 2024 were reviewed. Councillor Hemsley proposed acceptance as a true record, this was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously.
106/24	Clerks Report: The clerk's report had been circulated. Foxt Tree – Councillor Birch to speak to Mr S and MR C Foxt Bank – Highways had been seen inspecting Foxt Bank.
107/24	Public Participation: Representatives from Openreach and Staffordshire County Council were in attendance to give information and answer questions on the Gigabyte project which was a government funded project but required sufficient signup from residents, each resident signing up would ensure a voucher worth £4500 of government money would be available to fund the project. The following points were of note: - • The timescale for completion was noted as first phase completion by November/December 2024 with full completion by March 2025. • Scheme is ringfenced funding from Department of Science Innovation and Technology. Guaranteed if sufficient support obtained.

	• Require 290 properties out of 900, currently require a further 77 pledges. • Fibre has additional capacity. • Lack of sign up from outlying properties may mean those areas not being surveyed. • Master Socket requires power socket. Therefore, Battery Backup for Master Socket is beneficial which will keep phone and router working during power outage. (note digital switch rollout which will impact Telecare services has been put off until January 2027) Following discussions councillor Stimpson proposed supporting and publicising the scheme, this was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously.
108/24	Plans SMD/2024/0188 THE GREEN MAN Ashbourne Road Bottomhouse Proposed Development - Holiday lodges supplementing existing holiday accommodation. SMD/2024/0235 Managers Accommodation, The Green Man Ashbourne Road Bottomhouse Leek Proposed DEVELOPMENT Manager's Lodge to Supervise existing holiday accommodation and proposed lodges. The above were considered together and following discussion Councillor Jackson proposed recommending refusal based on the reasons given previously for a similar application at the same location. This was seconded by Councillor Stevenson; this was carried unanimously.
109/24	Correspondence: Correspondence circulated to all councillors and noted. Churnet Valley Railway – Moving to charitable status noted and councillors support this decision. Ipstones Agricultural Society – Request for donation, Councillors Malyon and Stevenson declared an interest and took no part in the discussion or vote, Councillor Jackson took the chair. Councillor Hemsley proposed supporting with a donation of £500, this was seconded by Councillor Jackson and carried unanimously, (excluding Councillors Malyon and Stevenson) Councillor Malyon retook the chair.

	WMAS Communication – Noted. Healthwatch – Noted, clerk to put link on Parish Website. Parish Assembly Meeting – Noted date of next meeting 27th June, also noted was communication from Chair of Parish Assembly Councillor L Swindlehurst. Nature in Neighbourhood – Noted, clerk to put details on Parish Website. ECO Youth – Noted and to be passed to youth club. D-Day Commemoration – Grant received, comments received verbally on how much residents had enjoyed the event, £460 had been raised on day to be split between the three cadet forces, a discussion took place on the parish council contributing to the sum and Councillor Birch proposed adding £140, this was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously. Councillor Malyon thanked Councillor Stimpson for lighting the beacon on his property on 6th June. Froghall Road Lease – Noted. Buglife – Noted, agreed that a photo consent form should be devised to assist in such cases to allow photos taken to support donations received. SPCA – Training course for play equipment inspections noted, Councillor Hemsley proposed asking the Lengthsman if he would wish to go on the course, this was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously.
110/24	Annual Accounts for year end 31/03/2023 and Section 2 of Annual Return: The clerk presented the Internal Audit report and details of the annual accounts, the file of supporting documents and bank statements being available for review. The Internal Auditor report concluded that the council's financial records are well maintained, and effectively managed. Councillor Jackson proposed acceptance of the Accounts and associated reports, this was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously. Section 2 of the Annual Return was therefore duly signed by the Chair. The Chair proposed a vote of thanks to the clerk for the effective work.
111/24	Standing Orders Review: Clerk had adapted the Model Standing orders to suggest requirements for Ipstones Parish Council, a point of discussion was the starting time

	of meetings it was noted that a 7.30 start time meant meeting could extend to well after 9.30pm, Councillor Malyon proposed including a start time in the standing orders of 7.00pm, this was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously. The full points requiring inclusion into the template Standing orders were reviewed, and councillor Birch proposed accepting these, Councillor Hemsley seconded this and carried unanimously. The clerk undertook to incorporate these into the document and present for acceptance at the next meeting.
112/24	Standard Financial Procedures review: The meeting considered the model financial procedures and Councillor Birch proposed accepting the financial procedures, this was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously.
113/24	Representatives of outside Organisations: The following representatives for outside organisations were agreed. School Trustees – Councillors Andrew Stevenson & Leslie Jackson School Governor – Councillor Linda Malyon Memorial Hall Committee – Councillor Heather Morris with Councillor Andrew Stevenson as reserve. Foxt Village Hall Committee – Councillor Peter Hallam Foxt Village Hall Trustees – Councillor Peter Hallam Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly – Councillor Leslie Jackson & Councillor Linda Malyon Ipstones Common Good Trust – Councillors Andrew Stevenson, Leslie Jackson, Mike Hemsley, H Morris, P Stimpson and L Malyon Speed Watch Monitoring Officer – The Clerk Financial Monitoring Officer (for checking cheques/invoices) – Councillor Mike Birch, Mike Hemsley deputising as required. Ipstones Parish Action Group – Group not currently active Cheque Signatories – It was agreed unanimously for the following: - Councillors Linda Malyon, Heather Morris, Andrew Stevenson, Patrick Stimpson, Leslie Jackson, and the Clerk.

114/24	Noon Sun Common: Councillor Malyon raised the possibility of tidying up the area in a comparable manner to the Froghall Road site, Councillor Jackson proposed a site visit would be useful and this was agreed, this was scheduled for Friday 21st June at 4.00pm.
115/24	Mayfair Avenue Open Space Tree: Councillor Jackson detailed the site meeting with Mr S Massey, Hamps Valley Trees and residents concerned. It was noted that there were two large Ash trees with Ash Die Back in the vicinity, this had been pointed out to the residents. (In Residents Garden) A quote had been received from Hamps Valley Trees for removing branches. Correspondence had been received from the residents which was read out to the meeting. Councillor Stevenson proposed rejecting the quote and await the full report from Mr S Massey, this was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously.
116/24	Blakelow Picnic Site etc Working Group: Blakelow Pond Survey – Noted. Also noted was the award of MBE to Val Riley of Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Councillor Stevenson proposed a letter of congratulations be sent from the Parish Council, this was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously. Concerns from SWT on permission to undertake a survey of the pond were considered and it was agreed to request advice and permission from Ben Haywood at SMDC. It was also suggested that the land be registered with the land registry if not already registered.
117/24	Foxt Play Area Equipment: Councillor Birch proposed that it may be more productive if Councillor Hallam carried forward the project on equipment whilst Councillor Birch concentrated on the working group work. Councillor Jackson proposed asking councillors from Waterhouses at the upcoming Parish Assembly of their thoughts on the equipment at Waterhouses. Play Safety had been booked to undertake the Annual Inspection for Foxt Play Equipment The site visit to the Foxt Community Play area had raised the following notes: - • Area around the bench and play car required clearing. • Equipment and bench required treating. • Hedge required trimming along path.

118/24	Cemetery Memorial Request - Wooden Cross instead of Headstone: Request Noted, Councillor Jackson proposed that this would be acceptable if the overall dimensions of the cross are in line with dimensions in regulations for headstones. This was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously. Sunken Grave – Councillors discussed the issue and councillor Hemsley proposed that the grave was the responsibility of the family, but they could raise the level to that of the surrounding area of the grave and noting the regulations of no additional pots etc. This was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously.
119/24	Highways: The following points were noted: - • Councillor Stevenson raised issue of area on Clerks Bank to the Stream which required strimming, Clerk to ask Lengthsman to look at this and strim if possible. • Gullies required clearing or repairing at 7 Church Lane, 51 Brookfield Road, 57 Froghall Road. • Councillor Birch reported that Foxt Bank had been inspected. • Grassed area on Daisy Avenue had not been cut by SMDC, residents had undertaken this, Councillor Malyon had raised this, and it had been confirmed that Your Housing were responsible for the cutting. • Highways were aware of the stones on the verge on High Street • Councillor Hemsley noted that the road from Warslow to Longnor was to be closed for several days in July.
120/24	Any other business deemed urgent: Planters on Froghall Road – Councillor Jackson proposed a site visit to tie in with visit to Noon Sun Common to establish number of planters required etc, this was agreed for Friday 21st June at 4.00pm

121/24 Accounts for payment: -

On a proposal by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor Hemsley the following were unanimously approved for payment –

Payee and Details	£	£
Lengthsman's Gross Pay for April 2024		£ 270.63
Lengthsman's Expenses 38 miles @45p £17.10		£ 17.10
JW Clerk's Salary (Gross) plus expenses of £67.88	£ 812.50	£ 880.38
	£67.88	
Foxt Village Hall Meeting use June		£30.00
Staffordshire Farm Supplies Paint and Brushes		£29.09
James Buxton Internal Audit Fee		£260.00
Carole Davies D-Day Event Cake		£150.00
Nursery at old Hall Summer Planting Costs		£475.00
L Malyon Expenses		£12.00
Dolly Birds Catering for D-Day event		£750.00
Donation towards Church Collection for D-Day Service to Cadet units see minute 109/24		£140.00

**The date of the next meeting was set for
Thursday 18th July 2024 at 7.00 p.m.
at
Ipstones Sunday School Room**