

Ipstones Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th September 2024 at 7.00pm held at Methodist Sunday School Room Ipstones

Present: Councillors Linda Malyon (Chair), Leslie Jackson, Mike Birch, Patrick Stimpson and Mike Hemsley. Clerk.

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

160/24	Dispensations: Councillor Hallam notified chair of request for three months dispensation, all were in agreement.
161/24	Declaration of Interests: To be taken if/when arise.
162/24	Minutes: The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21 st August were reviewed. Councillor Hemsley proposed acceptance as a true record, this was seconded by Councillor Jackson and carried unanimously.
163/24	Clerks Report: The clerk's report had been circulated and was noted. Wall had been built in front of orchard, discussion regarding replacing fencing and gates to the orchard area, quotes to be obtained for this Councillor Stimpson noted that in some cases wooden gates could be obtained from Natural England
164/24	Financial Review: The return of the external audit had been received with no issues being found. The external auditors had noted that it was advisable to adopt .gov.uk emails for councillors. It was proposed by Councillor Birch and seconded by Councillor Stimpson to follow up this advice. The provision of copies of accounts to resident requests as per the requirements of the audit was discussed, Councillor Hemsley proposed that the charge for such copies should be increased to £20, this was seconded by Councillor Stimpson and carried unanimously. Councillors wished to note their thanks to the clerk for the audit result.
165/24	Online Banking: Clerk advised that there was still no progress by Natwest in offering online community banking accounts. Clerk to check if Santander offer a suitable account, using the post office was considered but it was established that a suitable account was not available.

166/24 Accounts for payment: -

On a proposal by Councillor Hemsley, seconded by Councillor Jackson the following were unanimously approved for payment and checked as correct by Councillor Birch, this included a second order for Blossom trees from Jacksons Nurseries –

Payee and Details	£	£
Councillor L Malyon Sponsorship of Cup from Chairs Allowance		£ 90.00
Lengthsman's Gross Pay for September 2024		£ 270.63
Lengthsman's Expenses August miles 46 @45p £20.70		£ 20.70
JW Clerk's Salary (Gross) plus expenses of £	£ 812.50	£ 841.70
	£29.20	
Ipstones Methodist Sunday School Room		£30.00
James Perry Grass Cut August		£733.00
ROSPA Foxt Play Equipment inspection and checklist		£141.60
Staffordshire Farm Supplies - Strimmer Line		£19.99
Councillor Jackson Expenses 90th Birthday voucher for resident		£30.00
D W Banks Web Hosting and security certificate updates		£280.00
CHAPs Form for HMRC National Insurance charge		£8.41
Ipstones Memorial Hall Grant see minute 169/24		£700.00
Foxt Village Hall Grant see minute 169/24		£700.00
Grant from SMDC towards Ipstones Comedy night		£100.00
Donation for Christmas Lights see minute 169/24		£700.00
Jacksons Nursery - Blossom Trees remainder of £500 Grant		£314.93
Moorlands Landscaping building Orchard Wall		£460.00
M Hemsley Bandages for First Aid Kit		£12.98
Deposit for Baker Street Belles re VE Day 80 event, see minute		£88.90

167/24 Financial Review

	Clerk circulated latest balance sheet and bank statements.
168/24	Plans SMD/2024/0412 LOCATION LAND SOUTHWEST OF 4 MOUNT PLEASANT Foxt Road Foxt PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Outline planning consent for self-build residential purposes with all matters reserved Following discussion Councillor Birch proposed recommending refusal of the application for the following reasons • The development would not be infill as it would be outside the centre of the village • There is no existing access off Foxt Road This was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried by Majority
169/24	Correspondence: Correspondence circulated. Councillor Malyon declared a personal interest in first item of correspondence and therefore Councillor Jackson took the chair Ipstones Lights – letter requesting donation towards the costs incurred in running Christmas Market, including replacing the stall lights due to failure of very old lights, councillor Jackson proposed a donation of £700, this was seconded by Councillor Stimpson and carried unanimously. Councillor Malyon retook the chair Ipstones Memorial Hall – Letter had been received requesting funding support to assist with replacing cooker in kitchen area Foxt Village Hall – Communication received requesting funding support to assist in covering cost of repairs to wall. Councillor Birch declared an interest in the request from Foxt Village Hall. Councillor Jackson proposed £700 be provided to each of the Halls, this was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously. It was noted that when grants are given it is usual practice for the receiving organisation to provide some proof of the spend and copies of accounts for the organisation. It was agreed that any large donations/grants to organisations etc should require confirmation of how the money has been spent and a copy of accounts for the organisation Openreach Voucher Scheme – Currently pledges stand at 67% Crowgutter Wood Path – Councillor Hemsley updated that the path is still closed, Clerk to write to RSPB to strongly request an update as to when the path will be reopened

	Resident fundraising for Autism Charity – Clerk to put link on Parish Website.
170/24	Parish Assembly Update Councillor Jackson provided the following feedback from the Parish Assembly meeting - Deputy Chief Commander of Staffordshire Moorlands Division gave a presentation explaining 44 incidents a day. Overall crime is down 6%, Car Crime is up, theft of cars is up 17%, Concern that the CCTV in Staffordshire Moorlands is not working (Councillor Malyon said she had seen evidence that CCTV was working). Release of prisoners was of concern. - Ben Haywood from Planning team gave presentation, explained solar farm applications were being pushed.
171/24	Clerk Feedback from Clerks Networking Meeting Clerk updated meeting about the networking meeting for clerks, this network would allow for sharing of information and support among clerks across the area. A Newsletter would be issued and clerk to submit article on planting of orchard.
172/24	BKVC Presentation Evening Invite to attend evening on 23 rd October had been received and meeting agreed Councillor Malyon and the clerk should represent at the evening, a number of guides and brownies had been placed in the competitions and some would be attending. The parish Council's photo consent form would be forwarded to the guides prior to the evening for parents to sign, so images could be taken and used.
173/24	Blossom Trees Funding It was noted that some of the barrel planters were broken and would need replacing before planting again, Councillor Birch to follow up.
174/24	Speed Cameras Estimate had been received for speed cameras; however, these were deemed to be too expensive at the current time.
175/24	VE DAY 80 Clerk reported that the Memorial Hall had been booked for 10 th May and a quote had been received from Baker Street Belles to perform, Meeting agreed that the quote was acceptable and deposit to be paid to book for 10 th May
176/24	Cemetery Mowing Trees etc

	Quotes had been received for tree work on Cemetery etc from three providers, it was suggested that another quote be obtained from Mr Dakin. Clerk to follow up. Councillor Malyon noted that the box in the cemetery which the crosses on Remembrance Sunday would be placed requires replacing, Councillors Birch and Hemsley volunteered to look at how the Box could be repaired or replaced.
177/24	Blakelow Picnic Site etc Working Group Councillor Birch provided a portfolio of maps of the areas being reviewed for commons, Councillor Malyon took the maps for SMDC to review and land ownership details on file
178/24	Noon Sun Common Report received from Staffordshire Wildlife Trust, Val Riley and John Stanney, this was noted and found to be very comprehensive. Councillors agreed letters of thanks should be sent to both for their support in completing the survey.
179/24	Foxt Play Area - Equipment Councillor Jackson had spoken with Waterhouses Parish Council who had advised they had been awarded a grant from the UKSPF towards play equipment, Clerk to check if any further monies available to support equipment for Foxt.
180/24	Old Files at Fire Station Deferred until next meeting.
181/24	Highways and Lengthsman's Report: Gullies – Had not all been cleared in readiness for winter Grit bins – Require filling prior to winter weather Foxt Bank – Urgent assessment required, signs stating road liable to subsidence, Clerk to send special delivery letter to Councillors Deaville and Flunder expressing concerns due to the dangerous condition of the road. Foxt Bend – Trees overhanging the road on the bend with junction above rose cottage, clerk to report Johnnys Bank – Trees on embankment of road require assessing as one had fallen in recent winds, clerk to report.

	Road Sign - Near Bennison's required cleaning, Clerk to ask Lengthsman. Lengthsman's report reviewed and signed by Chair of Council. Lengthsman had noted the following issues • Dog fouling on the Barley Road Play area – Clerk to check if SMDC had reinstated regulations and look at obtaining signs • Hours for Completing training, 12 hours, Councillor Stimpson proposed these should be paid as additional hours, this was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously
182/24	Any other business deemed urgent: Consideration of positioning of a bench in memory of Mary Oldfield, possibly in front of recently planted orchard. Similarly, a bench in memory of Joe Barks, Councillor Birch to ask Churnet Valley Furniture for process.
The date of the next meeting was set for Thursday 24th October 2024 at 7.00 p.m. at Foxt Village Hall	