

Ipstones Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24th September 2025 at 7.00pm held at Foxt Village Hall

Present: Councillors Linda Malyon (Chair), Leslie Jackson, Mike Birch, Mike Hemsley, Peter Hallam, Heather Morris, Patrick Stimpson and Sue Deaville. Clerk. One member of Public.

Apologies: Councillors Andrew Stevenson

187/25	Dispensations: None
188/25	Declaration of Interests: To be taken if/when arise.
189/25	Minutes: The minutes of the meetings held on 20th August were reviewed, Councillor Hemsley proposed accepting them as a true record, this was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously.
190/25	Clerks Report Phone Box – Clerk advised that they had been unable to establish that the phone box was in a condition that warranted more urgent attention, Councillor Hemsley offered to review and feedback. Back up Drive – Clerk had identified a Toshiba external Hard drive which was suitable, Councillor Birch proposed that the clerk obtain, this was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously. Planning Training – Councillor Deaville had attended the training and commented that it had been very good. Churnet Valley Action Group – Councillor Malyon advised that CPRE would provide advice, if necessary, Councillor Hemsley proposed that Ipstones Parish Council could not at the moment provide financial support in the form of a grant. This was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously. It was agreed to advise this to DC and suggest that the Cotton Parish Council look at increasing the precept to assist with financing, also note that CPRE could also assist. Pavement Condition – It was noted that no remedial action had been taken with the condition of the pavements, it was agreed to write to Cabinet Member for Highways at SCC and copy Councillor Kelly, asking how long after the holes are marked should they be repaired, as many of the lines were now fading away.

	Sewerage Leak 19 High Street – This had been reported however a road closure would likely be required as it was felt the pipe underground was broken and required replacing. County Council be requested to facilitate repair. Debris and Rubbish on the Green: Clerk had identified that Tinsdills Solicitors had dealt with the estate of the deceased owner of the property, and it was agreed to contact them to facilitate the removal of the debris.																																	
191/25	Public Participation: Member of Public requested if the diversion signs for the Ipstones closure could ensure traffic is directed up the A52 so that Foxt was not used as a route, a sign at the junction of Foxt Road and the A52 directing traffic towards Whiston may assist in this.																																	
192/25	Accounts for Payment: The following payments were presented and Councillor Jackson proposed accepting them for payment, this was seconded by Councillor Malyon and carried unanimously. It was noted that Mr R Davies of Foxt, a previous councillor had passed away, and it was proposed by Councillor Hallam that a £50 donation be made in his memory, this was seconded by Councillor Morris and carried unanimously, with the money split equally between the two nominated charities. <table><tr><th>Payee and Details</th><th>£</th><th>£</th></tr><tr><td>Lengthsman's Gross Pay September 2025 [REDACTED] plus 12 additional hours agreed August Meeting [REDACTED]</td><td></td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr><tr><td>Lengthsman's Expenses August 34 miles @45p £15.30</td><td></td><td>£15.30</td></tr><tr><td>JW Clerk's Salary [REDACTED] Less Pension contributions £ [REDACTED]</td><td>£ [REDACTED]</td><td>[REDACTED]</td></tr><tr><td>Clerk's expenses of £414.55 – includes cost for replacement flags</td><td>£414.55</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Hamps Valley Trees Cemetery Trees Inspection</td><td></td><td>£468.00</td></tr><tr><td>Sunday School Room for Play Equipment meeting</td><td></td><td>£25.00</td></tr><tr><td>Foxt Village Hall for room use for September meeting</td><td></td><td>£30.00</td></tr><tr><td>James Perry Grass Cutting 2 Cuts August £733 and 2 Cuts September £733</td><td></td><td>£1466.00</td></tr><tr><td>Douglas Macmillan Hospice donation in remembrance of R Davies</td><td></td><td>£25.00</td></tr><tr><td>Pancreatic Cancer UK in remembrance of R Davies</td><td></td><td>£25.00</td></tr></table>	Payee and Details	£	£	Lengthsman's Gross Pay September 2025 [REDACTED] plus 12 additional hours agreed August Meeting [REDACTED]		[REDACTED]	Lengthsman's Expenses August 34 miles @45p £15.30		£15.30	JW Clerk's Salary [REDACTED] Less Pension contributions £ [REDACTED]	£ [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Clerk's expenses of £414.55 – includes cost for replacement flags	£414.55		Hamps Valley Trees Cemetery Trees Inspection		£468.00	Sunday School Room for Play Equipment meeting		£25.00	Foxt Village Hall for room use for September meeting		£30.00	James Perry Grass Cutting 2 Cuts August £733 and 2 Cuts September £733		£1466.00	Douglas Macmillan Hospice donation in remembrance of R Davies		£25.00	Pancreatic Cancer UK in remembrance of R Davies		£25.00
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193/25	AGAR: Clerk advised that the Audit had not yet been returned and that communication had been received that it may not be received before the final notice date of 30th September, and as such a notice should be placed advising that the external auditors were the reason for the delay. Clerk would follow up as necessary.
194/25	Planning: None Received
195/25	Correspondence: Website – Noted SMDC Playing Pitch Strategy – Passed to Memorial Hall Christmas Trees – Noted UKSPF – Noted Cadent Road Closure – Concerns were again raised regarding the closure, Councillor Jackson proposed that an email be sent to ensure that the emergency services are aware of the closure following the recent issues with incidents. Town and Parish Networking event – Noted, Councillors Malyon, Jackson and Hemsley wish to attend, clerk to send email to this effect. Local Government Reorganisation – Communications noted, the proposal from Staffordshire County Council to be placed on the Website. SMDC Newsletter – Noted. Old School Community Garden – Further correspondence had been received from Peak Housing querying who owned the garden area, following a discussion Councillor Morris proposed writing back advising that the Parish Council understand that the community garden was designed for use by the whole community, the original work being undertaken by volunteers for the benefit of the whole community. This was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously. SMDC Residents Survey – Noted and details to be placed on Website and on Ipstones online Veterans Wellbeing – Noted and to be placed on Website and on Ipstones online Training Course information- Noted

	Youth Club – Currently operating as a drop in only for next three months, the committee do not want it to fold completely but need additional volunteer support, the drop-in sessions had been approved by SCVYS.
196/25	Neighbourhood Plan: Councillor Jackson updated the meeting on details obtained from the parish assembly meeting regarding the benefits of having a neighbourhood plan. National Planning Framework would push for additional housing development in areas whilst not providing additional infrastructure and services to meet demands of additional population numbers. The example of Congleton was noted where additional housing without increasing Dr's etc was resulting in people having to travel to Biddulph for doctor services. It was agreed that a neighbourhood plan was required. Further Councillor Deaville updated meeting with information from the planning training she had attended which had specified that housing stock was expected to double.
197/25	Community and Bus Services: Deferred till next meeting, request would be made to see if interested parties could attend.
198/25	Residents Survey and next steps: Survey results were being reviewed by each Councillor in turn. Councillor Hemsley commented that the surveys gave a mandate to extend the double yellow lines and proposed that this was pursued. There was also support to provide a car park to provide off-road parking for residents, in the field near High Street if possible. It was felt this would aid tourism and local businesses as well as residents. Councillor Jackson proposed a letter be sent to the owner of the field off High Street to explore the possibility of obtaining part of the field, either by lease or purchase. Councillor Morris noted that there may be issues around obtaining planning permission and would need to be sufficiently large to allow turning. Councillor Stimpson suggested leasing may be a better option. Councillor Birch suggested that the yellow lines should be the priority, which Councillor Deaville agreed with. Councillor Hemsley queried what implications would there be with running a car park, who would manage it, what public liability would need to be covered etc. Councillor Jackson proposed writing to the owner to the piece of land whilst also pursuing extension of the yellow lines, this was seconded by Councillor Malyon. Councillor Morris proposed that only yellow lines should be explored at this time, this was seconded by councillor Hemsley, a vote was made and by a margin of five votes to three it was agreed to explore the possibility of obtaining a piece of ground for a car park, alongside pursuing additional yellow lines. It was also agreed to place the holding of a public meeting on the topic on the next Parish Council meeting agenda.

199/25	Cemetery Tree report: Report received from Hamps Valley Ltd noted, Councillor Hemsley suggested that a site visit alongside Hamps Valley Trees would be useful, this was seconded by Councillor Stimpson and carried unanimously. Date to be arranged in November with Councillors Hemsley, Jackson and Birch alongside Hamps Valley Trees.
200/25	Cemetery Regulations and Fees: Clerk asked for clarification on the fees which should be applied as no vote had been made at the last meeting to change the level of fees, Councillor Morris proposed the fee for a plot should be increased to £200, this was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried by seven votes for and one against. Clerk also queried how the requirement for living in the parish for 60% of a person's life was to be proved and who by, it was agreed that the onus was on the family and undertakers to provide the necessary proof and that the person must reside or have resided in the parish not just owned property.
201/25	Grass Cutting Contract Review: Clerk had produced a draft Mowing specification in order to gain quotations for the next two mowing seasons, this excluded any mowing requirements for the Froghall Road Community Orchard area, Councillor Stimpson proposed accepting the specification, this was seconded by Councillor Hallam and carried unanimously. Clerk to follow up obtaining quotes and placing tender opportunity on noticeboards.
202/25	Working group: Meeting scheduled and update would be provided at the next meeting.
203/25	Foxt Play Area: Councillor Birch updated the meeting on the discussions and shortlisting which had been undertaken at the special meeting and the additional quote, for a multi-play unit to replace the existing piece, and information which had been requested from the shortlisted providers following that meeting. That information had been received and was presented for discussion. Councillor Hemsley noted that a good range of quotes had been received which gave a good choice. Following review of the information and the quotes Councillor Stimpson proposed accepting the quote from ESP Play, this was seconded by Councillor Hallam and carried unanimously. Discussion took place regarding when installation should be requested, and it was agreed to ask if installation could be delayed until spring next year. Councillor Malyon expressed thanks to Councillor Birch and the Clerk for the efforts undertaken in progressing this piece of work.

204/25	Bus Shelter: Awaiting quote for the replacement of sheets
205/25	Remembrance Sunday: Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday were discussed, Councillor Hemsley would be playing the cornet on the 11 th and had arranged for cover for the Sunday service. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to Rob Barber to ask for a good attendance from the Fire Service for the Sunday Service. Wreaths would be available from the 2 nd of October.
206/25	Noon Sun Weeds: It was noted that youngsters were digging parts of the ground on Noon Sun Common in order to make jumps etc for bicycles, following a discussion it was decided that little could be done to prevent the use of the area. It was also noted that some of the weeds on Noonsun may require treating, full discussion to be held at next meeting
207/25	Lengthsman Report: The Lengthsman's report was reviewed and accepted
208/25	Highways: a) Pot-Holes – Reports required for the following areas: - i. Casey Bank towards Winkhill ii. Froghall Bank, which could be completed whilst road is closed for Cadent works iii. Foxt Bank cracks appearing and requires attention before winter It was agreed a meeting with highways would be beneficial. b) Road Closure Issues – discussed under correspondence. c) Foxt Keep Left Sign – Report missing sign 'through traffic keep left' d) Cart Lane Strimming – Review in spring to establish if there are wildflowers present which may prevent strimming. Several hedges around the parish were deemed to be overhanging the road and it was decided to place a notice on the website to remind landowners to trim hedges back to prevent them overhanging the highway. It was also noted that some hedge trimmings had been left in roadside ditched which could cause a problem, where these were identified Martin Solace should be notified.
209/25	Any other Business Deemed urgent.

	It was noted that Ipstones had won the best large village in the Best Kept Village Competition, Ipstones Parish Council had also been awarded with a certificate for being the most inspirational team, There had also been runner up prizes in the Children's Poster competition for two children from the First School and First prize in the young persons category for a poem entered by a young person from the village.
The Next meeting was set for Wednesday 22nd October 2025 at 7.00pm at Ipstones Sunday School Room	

Subject to Approval