

Ipstones Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26th November 2025 at 7.00pm held at Ipstones Sunday School Room

Present: Councillors Linda Malyon (Chair), Leslie Jackson, Mike Hemsley, Peter Hallam, Andrew Stevenson, and Sue Deaville. Clerk. Two members of Public.

Apologies: Councillors Patrick Stimpson, Mike Birch, and Heather Morris

234/25	Dispensations: None
235/25	Declaration of Interests: To be taken if/when arise.
236/25	Minutes: The minutes of the meetings held on 22nd October were reviewed, Councillor Morris proposed accepting them as a true record, this was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously.
237/25	Clerks Report Community Transport – Further discussion held. Iceland Vehicle – Communication received requesting details of incident, Clerk to follow up with resident. Sewerage leak – Clerk to contact David Owen County Council Officer. SPCA AGM – Councillor Stevenson had attended, noting that a number of displays of providers including Church Council Investment Group which is utilised by many Parish Councils for depositing Reserves. Councillor Introduction Course – Councillor Deaville to be booked on to course and also Councillor Stevenson if date and time was available. Noon Sun Weeds – Councillors felt a site visit with Alliance to locate exact position of weeds would be beneficial, Councillors Stevenson, Hemsley and Jackson offered to attend. 75 Brookfield Road – Path by the Allotments to be reported as it had washed away in rain and was in a dangerous condition. Councillor Stevenson asked if clerks annual report went into the Magazine.

238/25 Public Participation:

Member of Public raised concerns over the traffic congestion and large lorries such as MJS and Lomas travelling through the village.

Councillor Hemsley noted that the road is a 'B Road' and therefore would not be likely to have a weight restriction placed on it.

Member of Public advised that they felt the road was being used as a short cut instead of using Whiston Bank A52 route.

Councillor Hemsley noted that recent road closures had also caused this to occur.

Member of Public noted number of vehicles also travelling at excessive speeds at the top of the High Street, which gave rise to concerns around safety. Traffic Calming measures would be welcomed.

Councillor Hemsley noted the recent considerations of the cheaper versions of SIDs.

Member of Public advised that the weight of vehicles was a concern and that they had written to the County Council to raise this matter. Especially since the pavement was not wide enough to accommodate a double buggy, causing them to have to walk pushing the buggy in road. The County Council had responded advising they would put the concerns to the committee. It was felt that there was a danger to children in the area from the large vehicles and speed,

Councillor Hallam queried if speed cameras could be installed to assist in reducing speed.

Member of public queried what solutions were available.

Councillor Malyon noted the recent Public Survey had highlighted concerns and the ongoing volunteer Speedwatch was trying to assist in reducing speeding. Councillor Malyon had also spoken to owners of the larger vehicles in an attempt to reduce the impact.

Councillor Jackson considered the use of a Chicane at the top of the High Street may assist speeding and also the extension of the Double Yellow Lines near the Junction of Cart Lane to prevent congestion.

Councillor Hemsley queried if the lack of pavement space could assist in restricting the weight of vehicles passing through the village, if not then a chicane is required.

Speed is an issue.

Councillor Jackson asked if the Parish Council could go back to the County Council and request chicanes. Councillor Jackson proposed writing to the

	County Council leader stating that speeding and large lorries are causing a safety issue and ask for a site visit with Leader of the County Council. Member of Public commented that the Narrow pavements on High Street and the added issue of vehicles being parked half on the pavement cause significant hazards. Councillor Malyon Stated that there was a possibility to aske the Traffic Wardens if they could visit the village. Councillor Hemsley proposed that a notice be placed in the Noticeboard advising that traffic wardens will be monitoring parking in the village including on pavements and too near to junctions, this was seconded by Councillor Deaville and carried unanimously. Councillor Jackson proposed sending a strong letter to the leader of the County Council, as discussed above, including adding the results of the survey this was seconded by Councillor Hallam and carried unanimously.
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239/25 Accounts for Payment:

The following payments were presented and Councillor Hallam proposed accepting them for payment, this was seconded by Councillor Jackson and carried unanimously.

Payee and Details	£	£
Lengthsman's Gross Pay November 2025 £305.93		████████
Lengthsman's Expenses October 38 miles @45p £17.10		£17.10
JW Clerk's Salary £910.00 Less Pension contributions £ 29.12 plus expenses of £36.86	████████ £36.86	████████
SPCA AI Training course for J Ward		£48.00
Staffordshire Farm Supplies Ltd Post-crete		£7.40
James Perry Mowing October		£733.00
Ipstones Memorial Hall Meeting £16.00 AM535		£16.00
Ipstones Methodist Church use of Sunday School Room for October and November		£60.00
L Malyon expenses for Diamond wedding and Christmas decorations for Church Tree Festival		£78.06
A Stevenson Car Parking Expenses		£6.00
Staffordshire History Development Trust Sponsor a Shelf		£50.00
Ipstones Methodist Church Room use for meeting		£30.00

A cheque raised at the last meeting had been lost in transit to the recipient, a replacement cheque had been raised and the original one cancelled at the bank. In addition to this there were two payments which had been approved at the October meeting with cheques raised after the meeting, the three cheques for payments as below were verified at this meeting.

Payee and Details	£	£
Replacement for lost cheque number 003769		£107.50
Royal British Legion Donation for Poppy Wreaths and Poppy Appeal		£350.00
Ipstones Christmas Market Donation		£500.00

	Clerk also advised that the Memorial Hall had raised two invoices on the same number for two different uses of the rooms. The actual amounts paid had been verified as correct against actual use, Memorial Hall were in process of rectifying their records and had confirmed that all payments made had been correct against the actual use. The Clerk also advised that the request for a donation to the Christmas Market had been duplicated and approved at the previous meeting, Clerk had spoken to the organiser, and the payment was in process of being returned.
240/25	Budgeting: Clerk reminded Councillors that the budgeting process for annual precept calculation would require their thought and input.
241/25	Internal Auditor: Clerk advised that the Internal Auditor for the forthcoming year end would need to be appointed, Councillor Jackson proposed approaching the same auditor as had been used in the previous years, this was seconded by Councillor Malyon and carried unanimously.
242/25	Plans: None Received
243/25	Correspondence: Parish Assembly – Councillor Jackson gave an update on the recent Parish Assembly meeting, which was focused on the Local Government Reorganisation, five options had been put forward by current local authorities. Councillor Jackson advised that Newcastle Borough Council had been in talks with Shropshire Council to look at the possibility of cross border working, this had been understood to be not possible. It was also noted that all assets currently owned by local authorities would be transferred to the new larger Authority. It was agreed to follow up the transfer of Mayfair Avenue Open Space. Thank You Card from Guides – for donation. Planning Response – Email received in response to comments submitted from last Parish Council Meeting. Councillors were disappointed with the response, feeling that the response from the planning officer was not in the manner expected to parish councillors. Parish Councillors felt they were being belittled and that the response lacked courtesy. Councillor Hemsley proposed sending a formal letter of complaint to SMDC officers raising their concerns, this was seconded by Councillor Deaville and carried unanimously. Ipstones Memorial Hall – Invite to ‘Thank-You’ event on 8th December. Council Tax Reduction Scheme Survey – Details noted and Councillor Hemsley would complete on behalf of the parish council.

Staffordshire Wildlife Communication re Amendment 130 – Communication noted and discussed, Councillor Hemsley proposed that the Parish Council support the campaign and write to the MP this was seconded by Councillor Deaville and carried by a vote of five supporting and one abstention.

Emergency Planning Meeting Correspondence – Documents had previously been circulated, Councillor Hemsley acknowledged that the documents were useful and the exercise event held at Alstonfield had been very useful. Clerk advised that they had followed up a potential grant opportunity for supporting an emergency planning initiative. It was noted that a serious power cut would take out mobile phones and therefore it was necessary to build up resilience, it was agreed that this was a piece for the working group to follow up.

SMDC In Touch Newsletter – Noted

Christmas Events – Noted and placed on website.

Staffordshire Archives Sponsor a Shelf Scheme – Communication reviewed and Councillor Jackson proposed that a donation of £50 be made which would allow Ipstones Parish Council to name a shelf, this was seconded by Councillor Deaville and carried unanimously.

Gog Wood Correspondence – Noted, Parish Councillors felt disappointed with the decision from the planning department, Councillor Hemsley proposed writing to the planning department querying why it had not been passed to the planning committee when the local district councillor had requested it to be put to the committee, the area had been devastated by the actions taken. This was seconded by Councillor Jackson and carried unanimously.

FP28 and FP29 – Planning Inspectorate communication noted. Councillor Hemsley gave an update on the Inquiry proceedings.

SPCA Membership Fees review – Correspondence on new scale of membership fees was reviewed and discussed, Councillor Jackson proposed that the new scale of fees was acceptable and this was seconded by Councillor Stevenson and carried unanimously.

Training Courses – Details of courses noted.

SPCA AGM – Agenda and Minutes of AGM noted.

BKVC Prize Money – Money had been issued and Councillor Hemsley was still exploring options for displaying the trophy, discussion to take place at next meeting. It was noted that the number of entries into the competition had reduced.

Old School Community Garden – Communication requesting proof that the area is a community area had been received, following a discussion including recollections that various residents had been part of the negotiations that it

	would be a Community Garden and that Parish Council had paid for the construction of the wall and that the path through the garden allowed children to access the school safely avoiding the road. Councillor Malyon noted that previously new residents into the accommodations had been approved by the parish council, It was agreed that the old minutes covering the period should be sought and also minutes of the Ipstones Action Group which had also played a key part of discussion during the sale of the old school. Other key members who had been present at the opening may also assist with establishing facts with the possibility of the Leek Post archives having some information. Clerk to contact leads and item to be on next agenda. NHS Health Check Van – Details noted and vehicle to be requested to attend when available. Peak Cluster – Communication on new Pipeline noted, Councillor Hemsley proposed that a representative be invited to attend a future meeting, this was seconded by Councillor Stevenson and carried unanimously.
244/25	Grass Cutting Contract Review: Clerk updated the councillors on the quotes received, providing outline details of costs and information received from potential providers. Following a discussion of the various costs and details quoted Councillor Hallam proposed accepting Quote number 3, this was seconded by Councillor Deaville and carried unanimously. The clerk then identified this quote as being from James Perry the previous provider.
245/25	Working group: Update from working group noted that good progress was being made and that photographs and video footage was awaited. Next meeting date of 17th December was agreed.
246/25	Archiving Paperwork: Clerk explained that it would be necessary to review documents currently held at the Fire Station and archive or dispose old documents which are no longer required. It was agreed that this was a task to be completed after the Christmas period and Councillors would assist.
247/25	SID Equipment: Equipment had been discussed during the public participation.
248/25	Foxt Play Area: It was noted that the Fencing quote was still required from Alliance, Clerk to follow up. Also, clerk to request a quote from OLT Garden Maintenance for the fencing and trimming of hedges.

	ESP had visited the site with a view to starting work before Christmas, this had been put back to March as previously agreed, it was noted that the Multiplay unit would require removing prior to the commencement of installation.
249/25	Bus Shelter: Details of cost of replacing panels received, estimated to be around £750, it was possible to put the prize money from BKVC towards this cost, Councillor Stevenson proposed accepting this estimate this was seconded by Councillor Hemsly and carried unanimously.
250/25	Noon Sun Weeds: Details of cost for spraying of weeds from alliance noted of £83.80, As noted earlier Councillors Stevenson, Hemsley and Jackson proposed that they meet with alliance at the site to assist in identifying the location,
251/25	Lengthsman Report: The Lengthsman's report was reviewed and accepted, Clerk advised that the Lengthsman had worked and additional three hours during October, Councillor Stevenson proposed these additional hours should be paid in December, this was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously.
252/25	Highways: • Gulley Cleaning – to be requested for the parish, with an email to Councillor Kelly to advise that many had not been cleaned.
253/25	Any other Business Deemed urgent. Defibrillators – It was noted from the Parish Assembly that the Defibrillators in the Parish should be checked weekly to ensure they are always ready for use. It was also agreed to ask if someone from the planning department could attend the next meeting.
The Next meeting was set for Wednesday 7th January 2026 at 7.00pm at Ipstones Sunday School Room	