

Ipstones Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 4th February 2026 at 7.00pm held at Ipstones Sunday School Room

Present: Councillors Linda Malyon (Chair), Leslie Jackson, Mike Hemsley, Heather Morris, Andrew Stevenson, Mike Birch. Clerk. Twenty members of Public.

Apologies: Councillors Patrick Stimpson, Peter Hallam and Sue Deaville

17/26	Dispensations: P Stimpson Six Month Dispensation
18/26	Declaration of Interests: To be taken if/when arise.
19/26	Public Participation: High Street Issues- Standing orders were suspended to allow members of the public present to speak. Councillor Malyon outlined a number of issues that had been raised by residents, including the dangerous positioning of road closed barriers, parking issues in Froghall during Churnet Valley Railway events, High Street congestion and parking near junctions. Councillor Malyon thanked the PCSO's for their attempts to rectify the positioning of the Road Closed signs. It was noted also that Emergency Vehicles, Fire vehicles, had been unable to pass through the narrow space between parked cars in High Street and an ambulance had also recently been unable to access Church Lane due to traffic being backed up by the congestion on High Street. Congestion was also causing Road Rage incidents when vehicle drivers were unwilling to give way to each other or in fact overtook other vehicles waiting. It was also noted that Staffordshire County Council were not always giving sufficient notice of closures. A member of public commented that a possible solution may be the sharing of unused drive spaces in the village, those with drives but no vehicle allowing other residents with vehicles to use the space. Other solutions to reduce the speed of vehicles included Raised Cushion areas similar to on Brookfield Road, Speed Indicator Signs (SIDs), Road Humps, Slow Down Signs and Road Markings, Chicanes, and also a Weight Limit to reduce the number of HGVs. Councillor Birch thanked the residents for attending the meeting and sending in details of their concerns. Councillor Hemsley advised those present that the Parish Council had tried to implement or request implementation of several options without success due to lack of support from the County Council. The County Highways Department not supporting any remedy as no injuries or accidents had occurred. Councillor Stevenson also advised how the issues have been discussed for several years, including the extension of the Double Yellow lines, but if only one person objects to this then the extension will not be allowed, Councillor Hemsley advised that it was only a short extension of around 3 metres, 10 feet, of double yellow lines that had been requested.

	Councillor Jackson noted that the main pinch point was at the junction of Brookfields Road with the High Street near the old chip shop site. It was vital to deal with this pinch point. Councillor Morris also noted that the discussions on the issues had gone around without a solution being found, in fact at the time of the meeting a van was parked on the double yellow lines near the shop. Member of the public noted that not only parked cars, but the speed is a problem Also comments on there being far mor traffic now and larger vehicles travelling at speed, safety or people should be most important. Others commented that they felt the village should qualify for traffic management solutions. Councillor Malyon advised that the County Council had prevented such measures. The number of houses without off road parking caused issues. Member of public noted that if double yellow lines were extended then the blockage would still occur, citing issues on the previous day. Member of public noted the difficulty an ambulance had had in getting through to a patient, the road being blocked due to two lorries meeting where they could not pass each other and not being willing to give way to one another. The lorries were also too close to properties due to the width. The ambulance was unable to get past the queuing traffic for some considerable time, 25 minutes. Member of public noted that it only took a few more minutes to travel through the village at a reasonable and safe speed. Another member of public who has two small children agreed with previous comments and advised that they avoid walking down High Street as it is too scary due to very large lorries. They plan to live in the village for a long time and would welcome chicanes to reduce speed and a weigh limit to reduce size of vehicles. Councillor Malyon advised that the Parish Council had tried to obtain these and were looking for support from County Council. Member of public noted how Parish Council had tried without success, also commenting that County Highways will only look at where serious and fatal injuries have occurred. There was a need for a structure plan, to decide what was required, whether this was a single objective or several in combination. It as also noted that County Highways department would likely only listen to County Councillors. Therefore, decide what was required then go to County Councillor to ask for that.
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Councillor Birch noted that the correspondence received had identified around 16 possible options and that no one item was likely to resolve the issues and there was likely to be unintended consequences of any action taken.

Councillor Beardmore noted similar issues had been experienced in Wetley Rocks, with HGVs and narrow roads. Similarly plans of what can be done and what money is required to be put in place to obtain.

Councillor Birch queried the cost of a safety plan; this was given as around £6000 by Councillor Beardmore.

Councillor Hemsley noted that Ipstones was slightly different than Wetley Rocks as the issue is on a B Road not an A Road.

It was questioned as to whether the £6000 would be better being spent towards a solution to reducing speed or improving safety instead.

It was noted that some of the speeding drivers were parents taking children to school.

Councillor Kelly noted she had authorised funding for a safety survey at Rushton and that the next allocation would not be available until April, though she would check for this.

Councillor Malyon queried what data would be gathered in the safety survey.

Councillor Kelly advised that it also used information on traffic flow from Google Maps

Member of Public queried the cost of placing chicanes, this was thought to be tens of thousands of pounds.

Councillor Morris commented that Wetley Rocks already had SIDs.

Councillor Malyon questioned if SIDs could be borrowed

It as noted that the Speed Cameras in Wetley Rocks do not function.

PCSO noted that new style cameras also pick up illegal use of mobile phones.

It was felt that some speeding of vehicles was a direct result of rushing to get through pinch points.

It was noted that Speed watch was easier to undertake in the South part of the village.

Member of Public queried why Road Closures seem to appear without proper warning.

Councillor Kelly advised that the road was scheduled to be closed on the 2nd and 6th for carriage way repairs.

Councillor Morris queried whether a 20 or 30 MPH speed limit would be wanted with modern speed cameras.

Member of Public noted the speed cameras at Wetley Rocks were put in position after fatalities on the road.

Councillor Birch queried what the Parish Council could do without having to gain further formal permission from County Highways, e.g. SIDs, Speed Gate on entry to Village etc.

Councillor Kelly advised there would be a cost for the order and also a length of time to wait.

Councillor Jackson reiterated the need to get a resolution for the Pinch Point. Councillor Kelly offered to take up the issue.

It was queried if there were repeat offenders for inappropriate parking and if so, could the parish Council write to them.

Member of Public queried if the Memorial Hall Car Park could be used, however it as noted the times this would not be available.

Member of public noted that two or three properties were currently empty and for sale and that the issues could be worse when these were sold.

Councillor Malyon noted that she had asked councillor Kelly to attend to try and get the issue sorted as previously the parish council where consistently being told that nothing could be done.

Clerk was asked to send E-mail correspondence received regarding this issue to councillor Kelly.

Member of public noted that many had questioned if land could be purchased to provide a car park.

Councillor Beardmore suggested making a list of options and undertaking a similar exercise to Wetley Rocks.

Councillor Morris noted that the car park opposite the old school was not being utilised fully. It was also noted that if cars were not parked on the side of the road, then the speed through traffic would increase through the village.

It was agreed that the parked cars creating a pinch point was a natural speed restriction.

Councillor Birch suggested that a list of options and proposals be created which could then be scored.

Councillor Kelly Would like to find out which of the proposals would be preferred.

Counsellor Beardmore suggested that if SIDS proposed then a safe location would be required. Counsellor Kelly could find if this was a possibility and also a price.

The maintenance cost of SIDS was queried and if the parish council requested these to be put in place would the parish council be responsible for maintenance.

Churnet Valley Railway –

Councillor Lucas of Kingsley Parish Council commended Churnet Valley Railway for their success and admired the good things they are doing for the area. He advised that signage had been requested and also CVR volunteers to assist visitors to the railway in crossing the bridge from the car park to the station. He had observed over the polar express period that visitors were not being supported from the car park. Kingsley Parish Council had requested additional signage on the A52 to warn oncoming traffic of hazard. Councillor Beardmore advised that a letter was in process of being sent to CVR from Kingsley Parish Council.

Member of Public noted that during the Christmas period children in festive mood and not having safety in mind may step into the road, local residents who are aware slow down, but other traffic are not aware of the potential danger.

Councillor Birch commented that he thought CVR would be 100% responsible if someone was hurt.

Member of public believed that CVR were looking at the issue.

Road Closures –

Member of Public noted that road closure signage does not show where the roads are actually closed so can be misleading for traffic.

Rainbows and Brownies –

Support was requested from representatives of the Rainbows and Brownies. It was explained that Rainbows take children from 4 years old and therefore need sufficient adults (leaders) to support the groups. The adults required registration etc which incurred a cost of £80 per leader which was difficult to fund. The cost was for admin and legal costs. Parents contribute weekly for attendance with weekly subscriptions, which are currently £3 per week per child, but this will have to increase. Hire of the Memorial Hall also must be paid for.

Councillor Malyon asked how much would be needed, the representative advised that at least £385 just to cover the costs of the leaders.

Councillor Stevenson queried if local businesses had also been approached.

	The representative also advised that the group was looking for additional leaders. Councillor Malyon suggested they also ask the other parish councils in the area as children from surrounding parishes attend the group in Ipstones and also ask the relevant County Councillors. Councillor Morris proposed providing a grant of £400, this was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously. Clerk to also send BKVC details to leaders. Councillor Hemsley thanked the County Councillors for their attendance
20/26	Minutes: The minutes of the meetings held on 7th January 2026 were reviewed, Councillor Stevenson noted two minor spelling mistakes, subject to these being amended Councillor Birch proposed accepting the minutes as a true record, this was seconded by Councillor Jackson and carried unanimously.
21/26	Clerks Report Clerk had obtained prices from Oakley's for wooden half barrels to replace damaged ones, Councillor Malyon proposed ordering six, this was seconded by Councillor Jackson and carried unanimously.

22/26	Accounts for Payment: The following payments were presented and Councillor Stevenson proposed accepting them for payment, this was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously.																																						
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23/26	Internal Auditor: Clerk advised that the same auditor as last year had been confirmed																																						
24/26	Commercial Waste Contract Renewal: The clerk advised that the renewal had not yet been received																																						
25/26	SLCC Membership and CILCA Training for Clerk: The Clerk advised that the membership of the SLCC for the clerk was due for renewal, membership gave access to resources for the clerk which were of benefit to the Parish Council. Clerk also enquired if they should undertake the CILCA Course for Clerks. Following a discussion which considered the benefits to the council Councillor Malyon proposed that the clerks should undertake the CILCA course and renew the membership of SLCC, this was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously.																																						

26/26	Plans: TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 Appeal APPLICATION NUMBER. DET/2025/0041 LOCATION FAR LAKES FARM Shaw Wall Lane Whiston PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Appeal again refusal of Application to determine if prior approval is required for a proposed conversion of an agricultural building to two dwellings Following full discussion which included consideration of the SMDC Plan and local survey results giving residents wishes and the proposed neighbourhood plan, Councillor Hemsley proposed recommending refusal of the appeal. This was seconded by Councillor Jackson and carried by a vote of four for and one abstention. SUBMISSION OF DETAILS REF. No. SCC/25/0131/DA– Submission of details in compliance with conditions 12 (Construction Environmental Management Plan CEMP), 17 (Access), 18 (Pipe Works), 21 (Vehicle washing facilities), 25 (Plant, Machinery, Generator details and location), 26 (Noise Monitoring Scheme), 34 (Soil Management Plan), 37 (Ecological Protected Species Surveys), 38 (Landscape and Ecological Management Plan LEMP), 42 (Detailed Restoration and Aftercare Scheme) of planning permission SCC/21/0033/FULL AT Whiston Hall Golf Club, Black Lane, Whiston, ST10 2HZ. Details of the conditions being met were noted. Councillor Jackson proposed sending a letter to County Council and copying to Councillor Kelly requesting that traffic to the site was prohibited from the small nearby roadways in the parish of Ipstones. This was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously.
27/26	Froghall Picnic Site and Churnet Valley Railway Traffic and Parking: This was covered under Public Participation.
28/26	High Street Traffic Issues: This was covered under Public Participation.
29/26	Peak Cluster Pipeline: Councillor Malyon raised concerns on the proposal, these were echoed by other members of the Parish Council. Following a full discussion Councillor Birch proposed raising the concerns as part of the consultation as follows: 1. The Safety of local residents both during construction and during the operation of the pipeline. The impact of escaping CO2 from the pipeline could have devastating effects on the surrounding inhabitants and Fauna. 2. The cost of the project. 3. The Environmental Impact of the construction of the pipeline on the biodiversity of the areas, especially considering the vast areas of the project. Especially around areas of special scientific interest. 4. The damage to, and possible destruction, of listed buildings and heritage sites along the route, including heritage earthworks and rural characteristics.

	This was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously
30/26	Correspondence: Thankyou Card Received – From Post Office Counter person on receipt of Flowers given to recognise the additional work she had undertaken. Brownie Leaders – Councillor Malyon proposed certificates for Brownie Leaders, this was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously, clerk to action. SPCA Cherry Trees – Councillor Birch proposed the trees should be offered to another parish as Ipstones had already sufficient trees to be accommodated, this was seconded by Councillor Morris and carried unanimously, clerk to advise SPCA. Community Resilience Survey – Councillor Hemsley proposed completion, this was seconded by Councillor Stevenson and carried unanimously. Common Good Trust – It was noted that Councillor Stevenson was Vice Chair of Common Good Trust. It was requested that the clerk assist the Common Good Trust in seeking grants to repair the shed and walls on the land. Possibility of Moorlands Partnership Funding noted.
31/26	Working group: The Next meeting of the Working Group was agreed for the 19th February 2026
32/26	Froghall Parking and traffic issues: This was covered under Public Participation but would also be added to next meeting, especially relating to issues around the teashop.
33/26	Lengthsman Report: Held until next meeting
34/26	Highways: Held until next meeting
35/26	Any other Business Deemed urgent. Councillor Hemsley requested a letter of thanks be sent to Royal Mail to thank the local Post Lady for her speedy and commendable response when she spotted water flowing through the closed door of a property in Ipstones, this was seconded by Councillor Morris and carried unanimously.
The Next meeting was set for	

Wednesday 25th March 2026
Ipstones Sunday School Room

Subject to Approval