

Ipstones Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd July 2026 at 6.00 pm held at Ipstones Sunday School Room

Present: Councillors Linda Malyon (Chair), Leslie Jackson, Sue Deaville, Mike Birch, Mike Hemsley and Heather Morris. Clerk. and eight members of Public.

Apologies: Councillors Peter Hallam (Dispensation), Andrew Stevenson and Patrick Stimpson

131/26	Dispensations: Councillor Hallam had sent letter of resignation which was accepted. Clerk to contact Electoral Services to advise.
132/26	Declaration of Interests: To be taken if/when arise.
133/26	Public Participation: Standing Orders were suspended to allow Public Participation Member of public raised concerns about the planning application 8 wind turbines on Ipstones edge. They explained the position of the planning application and that there needed to be a focus on this process. Considerations such as longer lasting impact on the area should be noted. Councillor Malyon suggested that the number of movements of traffic should whilst groundworks undertaken should be requested. The member of public advised that the planning form suggested 2-3 weeks of works but felt that it would be much longer. Councillor Hemsley noted that in Wales, a temporary metal roadway was put in place followed by reinstatement of previous conditions being promised. It would be the ecology that would be greatest impacted by groundworks both in the short-term and also longer term with the cumulative impact needing to be highlighted. Member of public suggested that if the permission was granted it may be sold on and therefore may never actually be built. Member of public noted that the financial gain was substantial even with quite a large amount of initial capital investment being required, the annual return could be millions of pounds per year. Councillor Hemsley noted that the RSPB are campaigning for one blade of turbines to be painted black in order to reduce the number of birds hitting blades.

Member of public noted that an assessment of the impacts of noise, vibration and flicker should be undertaken for each property individually as part of the assessment. It would be up to everyone to put in a comment.

Underground cables may also be required.

A website called votewind.org could show the visual impact of the turbines on the surrounding properties.

Small wind turbines no longer available due to longer payback, so now, only the larger up to 200 m to blade tip turbines are available and considered.

It was noted that the area would require three phase connection.

Similar applications such as Hope moor wind farm and Calder Dale wind farm were noted.

Member of public pointed out that there were twenty plus errors in the application document.

Member of public noted that some ecological impact would be worse due to the environmental impact of current environmental change.

Member of public noted that no one can afford to replace or repair the older smaller wind turbines, they were becoming financially not viable due to the expense of maintenance. Reenergising these would improve the total wind power resource.

Member of public felt that the scoping survey needed to be as in depth as possible.

Member of public queried if there would be a need for large pylons to Rownall.

Member of public reiterated the need to repower local smaller turbines. This would create more energy, and were already connected to the grid, but now not financially viable. They felt that it would be useful to suggest a counter proposal.

Member of public felt that the EIA could be a litmus test to assess the appetite for the plan. If it became too expensive to undertake the EIA, then they may move onto another site.

It was suggested that individual reports from each property's perspective onto the impact that on that property should be pursued.

Member of public advised that there were no rules against topple distance to properties, noting that some properties around the site were within the potential topple distance.

Member of public advised that the criteria for wind speed makes that area viable.

	Councillor Malyon advised that she had requested extra time for comments. It was noted that the turbines would be able to be seen from various distances such as Cannock Chase, the summit of Mount Snowden, and many other such locations A meeting to discuss the application and had already been scheduled for Monday 27th July 2026. Standing Orders were resumed.
134/26	Cemetery: Clerk gave a list of queries that had been raised and pointed out some questions which needed resolving from the implementation of the rules on 1st September 2025. 1. Consider the impact on reorganisation, cemetery may become part of larger parish or area. 2. Bradnop for instance do not have a cemetery in their parish so if all parishes did same where would they go to be buried. 3. What if a person from parish joins services and moves around for their service dies or is killed whilst serving but has not been a resident of Ipstones for the 60% criteria, e.g. may have joined Navy at 16, been in Navy for 20 years, so only lived in Ipstones for 44% of their life. 4. What if a person born and raised in Ipstones for 20 year or more but has moved around the world working and not been resident for 60% of their life anywhere and rest of their family buried in Ipstones Cemetery. 5. Are there any infants buried in the cemetery whose parents have moved out of the parish but would want to be buried in same cemetery as their child 6. Mr and Mrs Blore who gave all money for Blore Suite on current basis would not be allowed to be buried in Cemetery based on the new rules. 7. What happens if current resident purchases plot, then moves out of parish, can't ask for plot back so still need the fees for internments etc. for non-residents Councillor Malyon suggested that the previous rules (prior to August 2025) should be reinstated, citing number of queries and concerns being raised. Councillor Hemsley agreed and felt that potential to extend the cemetery could be pursued. Councillor Birch recapped the decision taken last year. Councillor Morris stated it was very emotive when the decision was taken.

Councillor Deaville stated that she had voted in favour of the decision in August but did not realise the strength of feeling within the village and parish.

Councillor Hemsley agreed it did not hit him hard and had not realised what feelings would be generated by the decision.

Standing orders were suspended to allow member of public to speak

Member of Public queried if a person moved into a care home could they be buried in the cemetery as they had heard that this would not be the case, they stated they did not want to go into their latter years not knowing if family can come to Ipstones Cemetery.

They felt that the Cemetery issues were creating division in the community, those who have moved into the parish and those who had long historic links to the parish.

They pointed out that not everyone had access to the Parish Council equally.

They felt that the Parish Council should be putting a legacy down for the parish not just a set of rules. The Parish Council should be for the community and making a legacy.

Councillor Birch advised that anyone moving into a care home from the parish would be considered as a resident of the parish.

Member of Public felt a thorough consultation should be held.

Councillor Jackson queried if a £1000 per year part of the precept should be ringfenced for future cemetery expansion. Also stating reversal of the rules to pre-August decision should be continued.

Member of Public said they appreciated Councillor Jacksons suggestion; the subject did upset her and that it was a shame the topic had created a divisive atmosphere.

Councillor Birch stated that there is no division but just a wish to ensure space for residents.

Councillor Deaville stated that when the decision was made it was looked at sensibly but felt that she had to admit the decision was wrong.

Councillor Morris stated that it was misinformation that was spreading. Querying if an amendment which included those born in Ipstones or Bradnop would resolve concerns. Both options could be put to a public vote.

Councillor Hemsley also admitted that it was a wrong decision made in August. Agreeing with the idea of £1000 in the precept. Also Sorry for the decision and the feelings it had caused.

	Member of Public noted that all the plots could be currently sold to residents of the parish. Councillor Morris suggested a public meeting be held and putting out a survey. Also suggesting adding on those born in Ipstones or Bradnop as qualification to be buried in the cemetery. Councillor Malyon suggested the clerk draft a survey to go out to residents which could be reviewed by Councillors before issuing. Clerk to action. Member of Public suggested a holding message should go out to advise that consultation was to take place. Standing Orders were resumed Councillor Jackson proposed reinstating the Pre-August 2025 Rules, this was seconded by Councillor Malyon and agreed unanimously. Clerk advised that a query had been received about internment of ashes of a non-resident in the grave of a parent had been received, and asked if this was ok to allow, and as the grave was not in the lawn cemetery could a memorial stone similar to cremated ashes plot stones and similar to one on a nearby plot be allowed. Councillor Deaville proposed that it should be allowed, this was seconded by Councillor Birch and carried unanimously. Clerk queried what fees should be used for those outside the parish for such internments etc, noting triple fees had been in place pre-August 2025, Councillor Morris proposed this was acceptable, this was seconded by Councillor Hemsley and carried unanimously. Councillor Morris suggested the survey should also have the reason the decision was made included in the introduction. Member of Public thanked the Parish Council and the Clerk for their support.						
135/26	Plans <table border="0"> <tr> <td>APPLICATION NUMBER</td><td>SMD/2026/0258</td></tr> <tr> <td>LOCATION</td><td>LAND REAR OF MEADOW PLACE FARM Brookfields Road Ipstones</td></tr> <tr> <td>PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT</td><td>Application for Approval of Reserved Matters following Outline Approval of SMD/2022/0593 for the construction of a single dwelling to the rear of the existing house.</td></tr> </table> A full discussion took place regarding the above with the possibility of a watercourse/spring or wellbeing in the location. Councillor Hemsley proposed recommending refusal due to the old well being shown on the 1890 map of the area. The unneighbourly planting of hedges and trees on the boundaries to other properties as shown on the plan which could become overbearing. This was seconded by Councillor Deaville with a vote resulting in 3 votes for recommending refusal and 3 abstentions.	APPLICATION NUMBER	SMD/2026/0258	LOCATION	LAND REAR OF MEADOW PLACE FARM Brookfields Road Ipstones	PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT	Application for Approval of Reserved Matters following Outline Approval of SMD/2022/0593 for the construction of a single dwelling to the rear of the existing house.
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	APPLICATION NUMBER SMD/2026/0180 LOCATION Little Greenhills Farm Dog Lane Ipstones Edge PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT Portal frame agricultural building Concerns had been raised as to the visibility on the skyline of this development, following discussion no consensus could be arrived at. Councillor Malyon to review as district Councillor
136/26	Any other Business Deemed Urgent Councillor Hemsley proposed writing a letter of thanks to Peter Hallam for his service to the parish Council, this was seconded by Councillor Morris and carried unanimously. Councillor Hemsley noted that the flap on the Letter Box on the cemetery gates had become detached and fallen inside, he would try and sort. Councillor Birch noted that the High Street Congestion issue should be on the next agenda
The date of the next meeting had already been set for Monday 27th July 2026 at Ipstones Memorial Hall at 6.00pm Next Full Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 29th July at Ipstones Sunday School Room commencing at 7.00pm	