**MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF INGESTRE WITH TIXALL PARISH COUNCIL**

**on Tuesday, 29 October 2024, at 7.30pm in Tixall Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs: Mrs J Tinniswood, Dr P Parrott and K Palmer – representing Tixall.

Cllrs: D Lees and Mrs J Eccleshall – representing Ingestre.

**92/24 Apologies:** Chairman – Malcolm Sindrey, holiday and Vice Chairman – Sue Haenelt – illness. It was resolved the accept the Apologies as received.

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman it was resolved that Cllr Mrs Tinniswood would chair the meeting, as a representative of Tixall.

**90/24 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

11 members of the Public attended.

**91/23 TIXALL INTERNET**

Cllr Mrs Tinniswood introduced herself and other members of the Parish Council and welcomed everyone to the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was confirmed as an opportunity for residents to share their concerns with the Parish Council, following the recent damage to the BT box.

Any speeding concerns would be addressed at the November Parish Council meeting (13.11.24) when all residents are invited to attend the public session of the meeting. In attendance will be SCC Cllr Francis and a representative from SCC Highways team.

Cllr Mrs Tinniswood invited residents to share their concerns:

1. Damage to the box has happened before, what can be done to protect the box or can it be moved?
2. Resident has spoken with Openreach about the box being moved and was advised that there would be a lot of upheaval to move it, as well as a huge cost and it has to be accessible for maintenance, at all times. However, resident commented that costs to repair the damaged box would have been significant.
3. Believe that Openreach won’t move the box.
4. Have Openreach been asked if the box can be made safer?
5. Box needs to be protected, that is what we want. Resident commented about box at Blithfield, which has been made safe, by whom?
6. It’s not only about the box, the poles have been damaged in the past, causing loss of service.
7. Residents accept they can claim compensation from BT, however, there are several elderly residents in the Parish who have been left in a vulnerable position, because of the loss of service. One resident has an elderly mother, who is solely reliant on her landline in emergencies and when the matter was raised with BT, it was suggested to resident that she remain at home with her mother and not go to work – unacceptable response, no empathy shown on the part of BT for elderly residents.
8. Service was lost on 19.9.24, because of the box being damaged and full service was not fully restored until 23.10.24. In between these dates, service was intermittent, with some residents having normal service, only to lose it again and others not having any service.
9. Box is located near a dangerous junction. Could Openreach consider moving it approx. 20ft and out of the firing line? Traffic around this junction needs to be properly regulated, perhaps with a mini roundabout? Is this an option that can be explored?
10. Does anyone know if a speeding vehicle caused the damage to the box?

Cllr Mrs Tinniswood advised the reason is not known, however its more likely to have been caused by someone reversing into it. Speed limit on Holdiford Rd is 40mph.

1. Resident advised that she has complained to SCC, on 2 occasions, about the speeding and has been told that there is not an issue in the village. Resident suggested that any monitoring that has been done, has not been done at the right times: evenings/early mornings are the main problem times.

**Fibre to the village**

1. It is understood this is scheduled to be rolled out in the village from December 2025/January 2026.
2. Can we all work together to campaign to get this work to be rolled out sooner? This will address the issue once and for all.

**Agreed Actions**

1. Parish Council to discuss concerns with SCC Cllr Francis and explore what options may be available.
2. Cllr Mrs Tinniswood to investigate BT box at Blithfield and obtain photos, if possible.
3. Parish Council to bring matter to the attention of Sir Gavin Williamson – MP and discuss what options may be available to help address residents’ concerns.
4. Residents to provide details of how they have been impacted upon personally, through the loss of service – these can be sent to the Parish Clerk, who will collate them for use as evidence, in any further actions that may be taken. Email address is: clerk@ingestretixall.staffslc.gov.uk
5. Parish Council to explore matter with Ofcom, on behalf of residents.
6. Parish Council to arrange to discuss matter with SSC Programme Manager, Paul Chatwin.
7. Parish Council to explore how/if any pressure can be levied on BT/Openreach to bring forward the scheduled installation date for fibre to the village.
8. Parish Council to keep residents updated on outcomes of meetings/discussions with relevant parties – residents provided email addresses for this purpose.
9. Residents to make sure they log all concerns about speeding, using the link shown within the Safer Roads Partnership information below.

**Information of interest:**

**Safer Roads Partnership advised the Parish Council of the following, on 10.7.2024:** The Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) was created in 2001 with the aim of reducing road casualties in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent.  The partnership is a collaboration between Staffordshire Police, Staffordshire County Council, Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and National Highways.

Please be aware that concerns relating to specific speeding offenders or anti-social behaviour would be best directed to the local policing unit using the link provided: <https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/ro/report/rti/rti-beta-2.1/report-a-road-traffic-incident/>.

Cllr Mrs Tinniswood thanked all residents for attending, for bringing their concerns to our attention and reminded all to join us at the Parish Council meeting on 13.11.24, 7.30pm prompt start. Public session will be available for them to discuss matters with SCC Cllr Francis and the SCC Highways representative.

**Meeting closed at 8.10pm**