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

**on Wednesday, 13 November 2024, at 7.30pm in Tixall Village Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs: Malcolm Sindrey (Chairman), Mrs Jane Tinniswood, Dr Patricia Parrott and Keith Palmer representing Tixall. Cllrs Mrs Sue Haenelt (Vice Chairman), Mrs Judy Eccleshall and David Lees representing Ingestre.

SCC Cllr John Francis and SBC Cllr Ms Karine Aspin.

**92/24 Apologies:** SBC Cllr Mrs Frances Beatty. It was resolved to accept the Apology as received.

**93/24 PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

3 representatives of SCC’s Highways team attended: Paula Lees (PL), Kayleigh Lees (KL) and Angela Dickinson (AD) along with 9 members of the Public.

Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced SCC’s Highways representatives and advised they had been invited to come along to hear the concerns of residents about speeding within the Parish. Chairman invited questions from the Public.

Recent internet outage in village, left residents vulnerable and affected – situation seems to be getting worse, not better. Reference was made to meeting of 29.10.24, where various options were considered, is there any update?

Speeding concerns: many 30mph signs, some not visible, covered by shrubbery, damaged, etc.

PL advised any issues with road signs should be reported to SCC highways – Clerk confirmed this had been done, often response received was matter was non urgent.

Chairman advised that damage to BT box, causing outage was caused by a lorry hitting it, trying to turn round. PL advised it is the responsibility of BT to protect its asset, this is not down to SCC. BT need to be convinced that protection is needed, if they agree, an approach will be made to SCC, as the landowner, for approval to install suitable protection. It was noted that protection had been installed by BT around a box at Blithfield – resident agreed to take photos and provide these to the Clerk.

Cllr Mrs Tinniswood advised a meeting with MP Sir Gavin Williamson has been arranged, for Cllrs, early in Jan 2025 to discuss the recent outage and the installation of full fibre to the village. Clerk confirmed contact had been made with SCC’s Digital Infrastructure Programme Manager, Paul Chatwin, who had referred her onto Robert Rowan – Openreach. No response has been received from Openreach yet, Clerk will continue to chase this up.

Discussions about the actions of BT took place, which was often unsatisfactory.

Speeding – very little deterrent in village to not speed, something needs to be done to address this. Gateways, rumble strips, speed humps, chicanes were suggested. Residents confirmed they would like to see Gateways installed. KL advised the Parish Council would be responsible for this, would need Section 59 Licence and Permit to dig from SCC – cost approx. £700.00. Can only be installed in an appropriately sized verge – can support with identification of suitable locations and must be installed by a suitability qualified contractor.

Roundabout is what is needed at Holdiford Rd and Tixall Village Rd junction, as this will calm the traffic. Seems no consideration was given to impact of traffic elsewhere, resulting from works on A34. Cllr Francis advised a roundabout would cost ¼ million to install. SCC cannot legislate for drivers’ behaviour and without the Police on the roads, speeding will continue. Cllr Francis advised he would support SCC undertaking a feasibility study; however, it needs to be noted this will take 12-18 mths to be actioned.

KL advised that rumble strips/speed humps are not deterrents they would wish to install in a rural village, chicanes/roundabouts may need to be illuminated.

Cllr Francis advised he would be willing to support the Parish Council to purchase speed signs/Gateways. Works at Radford Bank will be completed before Christmas, then works will move to Queensville and continue along the A34, there remains another 12 months of works still to be completed.

Relocation of speed signs was discussed, KL advised this would require a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), at a cost of approx. £8,000 to SCC. Chairman asked why can we not have metal replacement poles in the village, we have been told replacements will be on a like for like basis, i.e. wooden poles? KL confirmed this is correct, however did agree to establish cost of wooden poles versus metal poles and advise the Clerk.

Residents expressed their frustrations with SCC: what options are there that can be done to address concerns, after all SCC are responsible for road safety?

KL understood SCC are responsible for roads and re-affirmed to discuss a feasibility study with Cllr Francis.

Potholes were discussed and AD outlined the approach taken by Amey, their contract partner. It was noted that this can often appear haphazard, however potholes are categorised and dealt with in order of priority, eg, category 1 potholes will be dealt with first, which may be near to category 2 potholes, which will be dealt with separately, temporary fixes are often actioned, until permanent repairs can be completed. There are many different factors which need to be borne in mind, however, it was accepted that repairs should be completed the first time, however, this not always possible.

Chairman thanked SCC Highways Officers for attending, along with members of the Public and closed the Public Session at 8.30pm. SCC Officers, Public and Cllr Francis left the meeting at 8.30pm

**94/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

**a.** Previously declared interest in HS2, by all Cllrs, was noted.

**95/24 MINUTES APPROVED**

**a.** Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 September 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.

**b.** Minutes of Extraordinary Parish meeting held on 29 October 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.

**96/24 MATTERS TO BE UPDATED from previous meetings**

**a. 83/24d – Ingestre Golf Club.** Planning Application remains undecided.

**b. 83/24f – Police attendance/feedback.** Matter followed up with Police, in particular reporting rural crime/poaching – no response received from Police.

**c. 83/24i – Risk Management Assessment.** Updated copy has been added to the Parish website.

**97/23 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

**a**. No update provided, as Cllr Francis had left the meeting.

**98/24 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT**

**b.** Ms Karine Aspin provided the following update: following the death of Andrew Harp, Karine has taken over the role. Appeal for Solar Farm at Drointon has been lodged; Christmas lights switch on is taking place on 16.11.24; Stafford Railway Project will start in early 2025, will provide increased parking and will involve road surfacing works; Demolition of Guildhall and Co-op building will start in Jan 2025; Heritage Centre is now open and includes an education and learning space; recent advice from Police is that threat to UK is substantial, all concerns to be reported; Sir Gavin Williamson is looking for details on those still waiting for compensation from HS2, Karine advised Cllrs to raise this at meeting in January 2025 and finally, Cllr Mrs Beatty will provide an update on changes to the planning system in due course.

Cllrs asked for clarification as to why SBC Planning Officers are still working from home and are not in the office? It was agreed this matter will be raised with the Leader of the Council.

**Action – Cllr Ms Aspin**

**99/24 PLANNING MATTERS**

No new Planning Applications have been received.

**100/24 CLERKS REPORT**

**a.** Meeting dates for 2025/26 were proposed as follows:

14.5.25; 9.7.25; 10.9.25; 12.11.25; 7.1.26 and 11.3.26 – all were accepted and approved.

**b.** Annual Parish meeting date was confirmed as 9.4.25. Suggested speakers were: PCSO; representatives from the Heritage Centre, the Clerk will follow these up and update Council in due course. Cllr Mrs Eccleshall to explore if SBC representative from the bee friendly team could attend.

**Action – Clerk and Cllr Mrs Eccleshall**

**101/24 FINANCE**

**.** The following payments were noted:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Paid to:** | **Details:** | **Net Amount** | **VAT** | **Total Paid** |
| HP Instant Ink | Monthly printing contract: 16.8.24 – 15.9.24 and 16.9.24 – 15.10.24. Direct Debit payments. | £4.57  £4.57 | £0.92  £0.92 | £5.49  £5.49 |
| Forvis Mazars Auditors | External Audit fee 2023/24 – cheque 100210 | £1420.00 | £84.00 | £504.00 |
| Site Supply Company | 6 x high viz jackets – Debit card purchase | £62.31 | £12.50 | £74.81 |

**b.** Pay Award for Clerk, back dated to 1.4.2024 was approved.

**c.** Accounts outlined below were approved for payment:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Paid to:** | **Details:** | **Net Amount** | **VAT** | **Total Paid** |
| Clerks Salary & expenses | Period covered 1 Sept – 31 October 2024, includes home working allowance | £498.84 | Nil | £498.84 |
| **Paid to:** | **Details:** | **Net Amount** | **VAT** | **Total Paid** |
| HMRC | PAYE for the period 6.9.24 – 5.11.24 | £120.60 | Nil | £120.60 |
| SVS Garden Services | Grass cutting at Ingestre Community Garden: 19.9, 8.10, 22.10 & 8.11.2024 | £120.00 | Nil | £120.00 |
| Clerks Salary | Arrears of pay owing from 1.4.2024, following Pay Award. Covers period Apr – Oct 2024, inclusive | £81.38 | Nil | £81.38 |

**d.** Cllr Palmer confirmed the mid-year review of the Parish Councill had been carried out, which was all in order. This was noted by Cllrs.

**102/24 SCC’S COMMUNITIES STRATEGY – virtual meeting on 15.8.24**

**a.** Cllr Mrs Eccleshall referred to the Summary Report, shared with all Cllrs on 7.11.2024 – copy attached as **Appendix A.** In conclusion, it was noted that SCC’s Highways Officers are difficult to contact and that this was the view of all Parish Councils who attend the virtual meeting. There is a need for 3-way communication to be in place, for improvements to be made. Presentation slides from the meeting are attached as **Appendix B.**

**103/24 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN – meeting with SCC on 20.9.24**

**a.** Cllr Lees advised that SCC is hoping to formulate a plan up to 2050, which is sustainable and will provide an excellent quality of life for residents. Cllr Lees advised Cllrs they can share their top 3 transport trends with the Clerk, who will forward these onto James Turnock at SCC. Presentation slides from the meeting are attached as **Appendix C.**

**104/24 VILLAGE MATTERS**

**a.** Sign post on corner of Hoo Mill and Ingestre Park Road was discussed. Cllr Mrs Eccleshall confirmed that sign post is currently with Aaron Chetwynd. Cllr Mrs Eccleshall will follow this matter up with him directly.

**Action – Cllr Mrs Eccleshall**

**b.** Cllrs discussed the future of the community garden at Ingestre. Cllr Mrs Tinniswood provided photos of the current condition of the garden, there is lots of fallen fruit, rotting on the ground and questioned if it is used by parishioners? Cllr Mrs Tinniswood proposed it is sold with the proceeds being used for speed calming measures in the Parish.

Cllr Mrs Eccleshall acknowledged it is not regularly used, except in the summer months, however, believes that Home Farm Court residents would be unhappy if it was not available for use. It was noted that ongoing maintenance of the garden was an issue, regular volunteer support is needed. After further discussion, Cllr Mrs Eccleshall proposed to arrange a meeting in the Orangery in March 2025, for all parishioners, to discuss the following: way forward; maintenance; future of the garden; sustainability. Details to be included in the February 2025 Parish Newsheet.

**Action – Cllr Mrs Eccleshall and Clerk**

**c.** Verges/hedges along Ingestre Park Rd were discussed. Cllr Lees provided photos – verges/hedges well maintained by Golf Club, as are the verges/hedges at the entrance to the village, however, verges/hedges near the Dower House, Lodges towards Hoo Mill crossroads look very untidy. It was noted that SCC do not cut any verges/hedges along Ingestre Park Rd, Cllr Lees has raised this matter with Paula Lees – SCC’s Highways Officer, without response to date. The Parish Council understands that SCC has responsibility to maintain the following areas; travelling from Ingestre village towards Hoo Mill crossroads,

**1.** Right hand side verge (i.e. on the opposite side of the road to the fence to the Dower House) between identified points A and B, with Point A being on the opposite side of the road before the entrance to Manor Farm and is bounding the area where HS2 Ltd. have created an environmental pond and point B being the opposite side of the road to the entrance to the Dower House/Nursing Home.

**2.** Right hand side verge between point B as above and point C which is the entrance to the two Lodges

**3.** The verges on both sides of the road between point C above and point D which is identified as Hoo Mill crossroads, in particular the left-hand verge which is wider than the right hand one.

Cllrs believe that if the hedges/verges were maintained, then it would make the road much safer for pedestrians. Cllr Lees referred to a meeting he attended in July 2024, with HS2 representatives, which identified areas that fell within SCC’s responsibility. Matter to be raised with Cllr Francis.

**Action – Clerk**

**105/24 CORRESPONDENCE**

**a.** Law Commission is consulting on grave re-use. NALC will be responding to the survey on behalf of the sector. Cllr Dr Parrot enquired if this consultation had been provided to the PCC’s – Cllr Mrs Haenelt advised she believed so. It was resolved to provide no comment from the Parish Council

**b.** Electric Vehicle charges in the Parish. Cllrs felt there is insufficient space in the Village Hall car park. Cllr Mrs Eccleshall will raise this item with the Orangery for their consideration.

**c.** Affordable Rural Housing – does your community need more? This was noted, but was of no interest.

**d.** Sakura Cherry tree project. Details shared with all Cllrs, via email, on 7.11.2024. Noted, no interest declared.

**e**. Invitation to SPCA’s 85th AGM – 16.12.24, 7pm, in the Trentham Suite, Staffordshire Place. To be followed by Christmas drinks/food. Details provided to Cllrs, via email, on 7.11.2024. This was noted.

**SBC Cllr Ms Aspin left the meeting at 9.40pm**

The following items are CONFIDENTIAL and no members of the Public were present.

**106/24 CLERKS PERFORMANCE REVIEW – 2024**

**a.** Cllrs Mrs Tinniswood and Dr Parrott confirmed the performance review had been completed with the Clerk and there were no concerns to raise. All Cllrs confirmed they were very happy with the work the Clerk did for the Parish Council and offered their thanks to the Clerk. It was noted that the Clerks Development Plan for 2024-25 will be to move the Parish Council onto electronic banking.

**Action - Clerk**

**107/24 BUDGET 2025/26**

**a.** Clerk presented DRAFT Budget proposals, as discussed with Cllrs Mrs Tinniswood and Dr Parrott. After discussion, it was resolved the Clerk will establish charges associated with several Precept increases per Parish for consideration and further discussion in January 2025. If approved, the increase would be used to fund speed calming measures within the Parish, where possible. Clerk advised Precept will have to be agreed at the January 2025 meeting.

**Action – Clerk**

**108/24 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

**a.** Budget 2025-26 and Precept – all Cllrs **Meeting closed at 9.55pm**