

ST. IPPOLYTS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of St. Ippolyts Parish Council held on Monday 9th September 2024 at St Ippolyts Parish Hall.
Welcome to the Meeting of St Ippolyts Parish Council.

ATTENDANCE DETAILS

Cllrs. Mrs Pamela Skeggs (Chairman), Miss Hannah Tandy, Mr Peter Webber.

In attendance: HCC Cllr Mr Richard Thake (part), NHC Cllr Mr Dominic Griffiths (part) and clerk Mrs Susan Mears.

Also present: one member of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Cllrs Mrs Rebecca Elliott, Mrs Louisa Knapp, Mr Jonathan Hackford, Mr Peter Hobson, Mr Robert Moore and HCC Cllr Mr Keith Hoskins.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members are reminded that any declarations of interest in respect of any business set out in the agenda should be declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Copies of the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8th July 2024 have been circulated to each member of the Council.

Resolved. The minutes be approved as a true and accurate record of the procedures and be duly signed by the Chairman.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Wymondley Parish Council Cllr Mr Paul Harding attended to discuss an item in 8a) 24/01666/SO. Cllr Mrs Skeggs referred to 7a). and advised the current application is not for planning permission but for a screening opinion on the need for an environmental impact assessment (EIA) and do not consider we can comment. Cllr Mr Harding advised of previous discussions and referred to current scheme. Wymondley Parish Council oppose the application and will be submitting comments on the location. Date for a joint meeting with the applicant Brockwell, Wymondley and St Ippolyts Parish Council to be confirmed. Cllr Mr Harding discussed neighbouring scheme and greenbelt concerns. Cllr Mr Thake discussed previous application and reasons for refusal. A discussion took place on planning considerations. Cllr Mr Griffiths advised he is attending a meeting with the applicant and was advised of the proposed joint meeting with Parish Councils.

5. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS, POLICE AND OTHERS

Cllr Mr Griffiths advised there was nothing further to report other than the meeting with Brockwell to discuss the Solar application.

Cllr Mr Thake gave an update on the progress of Hitchin to Gosmore Footpath scheme and discussed the environmental consultation referring to loss of hedgerow offset with request to plant 27 trees in the parish at cost from the highway budget if highway land, ongoing maintenance to be negotiated. Cllr Mrs Skeggs advised trees will need to be added to the plans for the new Pavilion, other sites to be reviewed. Cllr Mr Webber discussed speed concerns and was advised this will be reviewed.

A discussion took place on the visibility and verge erosion at Gosmore Gate and Cllr Mr Thake advised a safety audit is due. Passing places on Ashbrook Lane funds are secured.

Discussion took place on surfacing in Folly Lane junction near Stevenage Road.

Resolved. Clerk to raise a complaint with Cllr Mr Thake.

Cllr Mrs Skeggs also discussed Sperberry Hill verge erosion.

6. CLERK'S REPORT

Note to residents referring to householder hedges encroaching footpath from Tall Trees to B656 London Road, confirmation received maintenance carried out.

Parish Tour arranged for 16th September for Cllr Miss Tandy.

ST. IPPOLYTS PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Mr Moore requested grass verge maintenance at Orchard Close, matter reported to highways and request for SID to be moved from Preston Road to Hitchin Road. Clerk to circulate further information.

7. UPDATE ON ON-GOING MATTERS AND AGREE NEXT ACTIONS

a) Chairman's update.

Cllr Mrs Skeggs referred to email from Frances Cosby, Lexington and looked at Brockwell exhibition on their website <https://sperberryhillsolar.co.uk/> and note that planning application is due to be submitted.

There is Parish Hall management meeting next week, new booking secretary.

b) Consultations

NHC Parish Review - NHC Community Governance Review-7/10/24

Resolved. No change to our civil boundary that includes north and south wards also land west of Stevenage.

HCC Rights of Way Consultation.

c) Maintenance and repairs

Tree pruning at St Ippolyts Village Green carried out by contractor. Tree pruning at recreation ground near swings carried out by grounds maintenance contractor.

SIFC requested an increase in grass cutting at the recreation ground pitch by around 4 cuts per year.

Resolved. It was agreed remain with current regime as quote requested but not always that amount carried out and if SIFC have special match could request additional cut.

Advice sought from Maydencroft regarding tree roots lifting path Tall Trees to B656, reply received advised depending on the proximity of the trees to the footpath there may be a potential to prune the roots, install a root barrier and then breakout and resurface the footpath however this would be expensive and could have a detrimental impact to the trees if a large amount of rooting area is to be impacted and root damage will be a reoccurring issue as the trees and roots continue to grow.

Resolved. Agreed to follow contractor advice.

d) Parish Council Magazine

Resident emailed an update on number of articles currently received. New Councillors and HCC/NHC Councillors were reminded to submit a short entry prior to deadline 16th September. Councillors to chase remaining sponsor. Clerk advised that councillors assist with distribution and more help may be required.

e) St Ippolyts Parish Neighbourhood Plan

An informal meeting took place 8th August. Cllr Mrs Elliott circulated meeting notes.

f) Play areas, equipment and pavilion visual inspection

Clerk requested the visual inspection rota is signed at the meeting.

Resolved. Agreed by councillors.

Annual play and equipment inspection of Dell Field, Recreation Ground, Gosmore Village Green and St Ippolyts Village Green agreed and requested with NHC.

8. PLANNING

a) Planning Applications

24/01425/FP at 2 Orchard Close. St Ippolyts. Two storey side extension following demolition of existing single storey side extension.

Resolved. It was agreed between meetings there was no objection, submitted by clerk under scheme of delegation.

24/01464/FP at Land To The East Side Of, Maydencroft Gardens, Gosmore. Erection of two 3-bed semi-detached dwellings including cycle/garden store; parking and landscaping.

Resolved. It was agreed between meetings there was no objection, submitted by clerk under scheme of delegation.

ST. IPPOLYTS PARISH COUNCIL

24/01175/OP Sports Pavilion following demolition of existing changing rooms. Information added to Parish Council website, Football and Bowls Club advised. Revised plans are to be submitted and Ian Lawrence will update us on the this.

24/01519/FPH at West Wing, St Ibbs, London Road, St Ippolyts. Alterations to existing roof and Insertion of rooflight to northwestern roof pitch. External alterations.

Resolved. It was agreed there was no objection.

24/01520/LBC at West Wing, St Ibbs, London Road, St Ippolyts. Alterations to existing roof and Insertion of rooflight to northwestern roof pitch. Internal and external alterations.

Resolved. It was agreed there was no objection.

24/01666/SO Land To The South Of Wymondley Substation And South Of Sperberry Hill St Ippolyts Hertfordshire Proposed solar farm measuring 35.5 hectares with associated battery storage and ancillary infrastructure. Extension agreed until 16th September. See discussion item 4).

Resolved. It was agreed the application is not for planning permission but for a screening opinion on the need for an environmental impact assessment (EIA) and do not consider St Ippolyts Parish Council can comment. However, Parish Council are actively monitoring the revised scheme and its impact on our parish and wider area and are liaising with Wymondley Parish Council.

b) NHC Planning Decisions

24/01238/FPH at 2 The Willows Hitchin. First floor front extension and front entrance porch (as amended by plan received on 03/07/2024). CP 16.07.24.

24/01135/LBC at Thistley Farm Thistley Lane Gosmore. Alterations to second floor room layouts. Installation of secondary glazing to second floor windows. Removal of non-original staircase door (at first floor level). Installation of fire door to: a) first floor bedroom (rear door to stairs) and, b) to ground floor sitting room (door to entrance hall). Installation of water mist fire suppression system to ground floor sitting room. CC 16.07.24.

24/01045/LBC and 24/01044/FPH at West Wing St Ibbs London Road St Ippolyts. Insertion of two rooflights to existing south-east elevation roofslope. Internal alterations. Withdrawn 17.07.24.

24/01425/FPH at 2 Orchard Close St Ippolyts. Two storey side extension following demolition of existing single storey side extension. CP 7.08.24

23/01794/FP at St Ibbs Farm London Road St Ippolyts. Erection of stable block including feed store, tack room and storage area. CP 09.08.24

23/01138/FP at St Ibbs Farm London Road St Ippolyts. Change of use of existing agricultural outbuildings to farm shop and cafe including single storey extension, external alterations, and installation of hardstanding. CP 09.08.24

24/01419/FPH at 3 Langbridge Close Hitchin. First floor side extension; single storey front and rear extensions and open sided front porch. Alterations to fenestration, and partial garage conversion. CP 13.08.24.

24/01500/FPH at 1 The Crescent St Ippolyts. Single storey rear extension following demolition of existing rear garden room. CP 03.09.24.

24/00725/LBC at The Bull High Street Gosmore. Internal and external alterations to facilitate change of use of the public house (Sui Generis) to residential (Class C3) comprising 1x four-bed dwelling. CC 09.09.24.

9. FINANCE

a) Payments and Receipts

The following payments were requested:-

a) £468.00 (inc. £78.00 VAT) from Maydencroft Ltd (BNG Survey)

b) £141.65 (inc £23.61 VAT) from John O Conner (Litter bins July)

c) £58.22 (inc. £9.70 VAT) from Talk Talk (Phone and broadband)

ST. IPPOLYTS PARISH COUNCIL

- d) £360.00 (inc. £60.00 VAT) from Netwise (Email hosting and domain name)
- e) £36.00 from CDA for Herts (Annual subscription)
- f) £126.00 (inc. £21.00 VAT) from Galasso Signs Ltd (updates to three signs)
- g) £19.28 from St Ippolyts Parish Hall (room hire)
- h) £141.65 (inc £23.61 VAT) from John O Conner (Litter bins August)
- i) £252.00 (inc £42.00 VAT) from PKF Littlejohn LLP (External Audit Fee)
- j) £110.00 from Garden Valet (Dell Field replace wooden posts)
- k) £11.70 from Clerk (Travel Allowance)
- f) £60.08 (inc £8.04 VAT) from Clerk (Admin-laptop care, zoom, stamps)
- g) £58.22 (inc. £9.70 VAT) from Talk Talk (Phone and broadband)
- h) £782.32 from Clerk (September Salary)

Resolved. The total payment of £2625.12 was approved.

The following receipts received.

- a) £80.00 from M + L Autocare (magazine sponsorship)
- b) £1779.14 from HMRC (Vat refund)
- c) £250.00 from HCC (grant funding for Verti-drainage at recreation ground)
- d) £250.00 from St Ippolyts Football Club (1st instalment of rent)

Resolved. The total receipts of £2359.14 was approved.

Quarterly payments, receipts and bank reconciliation April to June circulated to councillors.

Resolved. Agreed by councillors

b) Orders and Quotations

Quote circulated and agreed £450.00 recreation ground metal utilities cover, order placed with CCS.

Dell Field tree encroachment near 41 Stevenage Road. Quote requested.

Quote received for Annual Insurance. £1924.17.

Resolved. Quote agreed by Parish Council and it was agreed to discuss the three-year option with the insurance provider.

St Ippolyts Football Club requested Contents Insurance for Football Pavilion through our provider, email forwarded to Gallagher with additional information on contents supplied by club secretary Andy Parsons insurance company seeking further information from SIFC.

Verti drainage order placed via email and confirmed by telephone, dates to be agreed. HCC Locality grant funding £250.00 received confirmed to SIFC.

c) Audit 2023-24

PKF Littlejohn LLP External Audit issued closure letter. Notice of conclusion of audit received and published 28th August.

Resolved. It was agreed to display the Notice for *14 days*.

10. DATES OF MEETINGS

The next meeting to be held on Monday 14th October 2024 at 7:30pm at the Parish Hall.

Meeting dates for 2024 agreed as follows: -

Monday: 11 November.

All meetings start at 7.30pm.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.25pm.