

## Minutes of Woore Annual Parish Council Meeting

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024, 7.30pm, The Victory Hall, Woore



### **PRESENT:**

Cllr M. Cowey (Chairman), Cllr R. Goodman (Vice Chair), Cllr M. Carter, Cllr C. Gath and Cllr A. Gath.

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms C Burnard (Clerk to the Council), Sally Tyson (Tree and Path Warden) and Robert Rowan (BT Openreach representative).

### **PUBLIC:**

There were five members of the public present.

The Chair moved up item 24026 to allow for the BT Openreach representative, Robert Rowan, to leave the meeting early due to prior commitments.

### **24026 Update from Openreach regarding the fibre broadband upgrade programme.**

The Chair introduced Robert and thanked him for attending. Robert informed councillors and the public that the scheme was going well and as of the 10<sup>th</sup> of June, the pledge target is at 88%. Only 22 more pledges are required to reach 100%.

The key element of this scheme is to get these final few pledges as this guarantees that the survey team will come and ensure the fibre route in to your property.

Robert pointed out that if residents are still unsure about upgrading, to pledge now and get the survey's completed on your road/lane and decide to formally upgrade to fibre later.

Some of the new fibre cabinets have already started to be installed which will give the internet providers the power to upgrade properties as soon as the area gets fibre and a lot of the internet providers are doing this for free as it's a more reliable network which means less upkeep costs of the provider.

These new cabinets will be installed on telegraph poles and while will be different to existing boxes, will not be noticeable.

A resident asked about how much choice they will get as to the location of the master socket in their home. Robert replied that as this is a new line there could be quite a lot of choice. The engineer will be able to answer fully when they come and install it but the option to move it will definitely be available to some extent. A resident expressed confusion over the percentages quoted as they believed it didn't need to be at 100% to get the upgrade but this 100% keeps getting pushed for. Robert replied that the more pledges the better. The more pledges the more certainty we have that all areas will be covered with the fibre and not just the easily accessed properties. Robert confirmed that the 75% target was for them to ensure there was enough interest to get the Openreach engineers out to do their survey's and that with the 88% target Openreach will build in Woore and immediate areas but cannot guarantee to do all the rural areas without more pledges. The Chair added that because we want the whole parish to be included in this, including the isolated properties and farms, we need to get to this 100% target.

Basically the 100% pledge target will ensure 100% coverage of the parish so while your individual pledge will ensure your property is connected, reaching 100% of pledges helps out the rural neighbours more than it'll help your immediate neighbours.

Robert will update Ben Walker at Shropshire Council following this meeting and will send out further letters giving residents one final encouragement to pledge.

**Robert Rowan left the meeting.**

### **24023 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent**

The Chairman thanked Robert Rowan for his attendance and formally opened the meeting and welcomed all who were present.

Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr M. Blake due to illness and from Cllr R. Aldcroft (Shropshire Council) for work commitments.

Apologies were also received for Cllr J. Higgin and Cllr C. Hamilton due to other commitments.

It was unanimously **resolved** to accept all apologies.

#### **24024 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or any other Interests**

Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting and which is not included in the register of interests. Members are reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of members' interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer. Members are reminded to declare any gifts and/or hospitality. (LGA 1972 s94).

No declarations were received.

#### **24025 Requests for Dispensations of DPls**

None received.

#### **24027 Open Forum: to last no longer than 15 minutes**

The Chair opened up the meeting to any of the residents present.

A resident raised the issue of the flooding on Dorrington Lane. The resident stated it has been established that this issue is not a highways issue and is the result of a well pit on private land overflowing and asked if the Parish Council could send a letter to the landowner requesting it be rectified.

The Chair replied that the last response from Shropshire Council via email was "the in-house drainage team have already been to Dorrington Lane when they were last in the area. They identified an issue, which the landowner will need to resolve. We are awaiting Land Registry documents and will follow this up when they arrive. Unfortunately, for one landowner, the details aren't held electronically, so we're waiting for those to come in the post."

The Chair will chase up with Shropshire Council.

Cllr R Goodman wished to thank the volunteers and Woore Produce and Veg Show for their work on the communal herb garden. Its looking beautiful.

The Chair reminded councillors that the Woore School village Fete is being held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2024 12pm – 3pm and encouraged councillors to attend if they can to support the school.

The Chair informed councillors that he will be meeting with Multidog regarding the scheduled road closure in the parish on 5<sup>th</sup> July for five working days. The Clerk is updating residents via social media.

Another resident raised a concern regarding a planning notice they had noticed in the hedgerow outside their property regarding a HS2 passing point and wanted confirmation that this was out of date. The Chair replied that he believed this was no longer relevant but will confirm with his contacts.

**24028 Approval of the Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (Local Government Act 1972, s12p41(1)).

Cllr M. Carter raised an amendment request for the following paragraph under item number 24008 -

"The Chair also noted that a lot of the road signs are becoming a bit dirty and being entombed by overgrown hedges. We believe these can fall under the remit of the Lengthsman and he requested that Cllr J. Higgin and the Clerk work together to pass these jobs onto the Lengthsman."

The following amendment was made -

"The Chair also noted that a lot of the road signs are becoming a bit dirty and being entombed by overgrown hedges. This task falls under the remit of Shropshire Council, however with the proper risk assessment this task could be completed by the Lengthsman and he requested that Cllr J. Higgin and the Clerk work together to resolve."

And it was unanimously **resolved** to approve the amended minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**24029 Matters arising:** to cover any matters arising from Minutes referred to in 24028.

Cllr R Goodman informed councillors that the new benches for outside the village hall have been ordered and she will update all when they are ready for delivery.

The work on the play area in St Leonards had started and the work was almost complete, but due to heavy rain, the gym equipment was unable to be moved and we are awaiting a new date from the contractors to complete the project.

The Chair reminded Cllr R. Goodman that as soon as the work is completed, we need to organise a RoSPA report as it will be due its annual inspection.

The Clerk is still to update the policies and procedures on the website during June 2024.

The Chair was happy to report that the defib located at the Chetwode Arms has been repaired and is fully operational. The fault was caused by a faulty battery.

**24030 Shropshire Council Representative Report:** for Cllr R. Aldcroft to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

No report was provided prior to the meeting.

**23031 Planning:**

a) Applications: to adopt comments submitted via delegated powers in response to the following applications and as approved by Councillors prior to the meeting;

**No applications received since the last Parish meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024.**

b) **Decisions:** to acknowledge all planning decisions made between 20<sup>th</sup> May and 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

i) Reference: 24/01319/FUL (validated 08/04/2024)

Address: Norley, Dorrington Lane, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire, CW3 9RR

Proposal: Single storey extension to rear elevation

Decision: Permission Granted

ii) Reference: 24/01528/FUL (validated 18/04/2024)

Address: 4 Westlands, Dorrington Lane, Woore, Shropshire

Proposal: Proposed Single Storey Extension inc. front porch / canopy

Decision: Permission Granted

**24032 Committee and Representatives Reports:** for Councillors/representatives to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

a) All reports as required;

Cllr R. Goodman provided the following report for the Woore Victory Hall -

*"Bookings continue to be stable and regular hirers have been maintained.*

*Regular events – as published (no film / café in August).*

*Christmas Quiz – 7th December 2024*

*Portrait of the King provided by the Parish Council is now on display.*

*LED lighting is set to be installed mid / late June, a request for CIL money will be made as this was included in the Place Plan*

*75th Anniversary - the Hall will be 75 in November 2025 so planning will start soon for an event and some projects to make the Hall look the best it can for its anniversary."*

Cllr C. Hamiton provided the following Community Speed Watch Report -

*"We were out last Friday [31<sup>st</sup> May 2024] Newcastle Road 5.30 to 6.30pm.*

*Around one speeder every minute for the first 20 minutes, then one every 2 minutes for the remaining time.*

*Plus quite a few drivers were missed as they were so close in time to others that all the data could not be observed & then recorded in time.*

*So essentially, it's the usual hotspot. A number of abusive gestures were shown at our members, even by slower vehicles...*

*In the short term we are another member down. This makes 6 active members including myself.*

*In the next month due to family commitments & holidays coming up, numbers will be very low. I will ask the CSW team by WhatsApp tonight if anyone can commit ahead, but as we know more member/volunteers are still needed.*

Cllr M. Carter expressed an interest in becoming a volunteer as he now has availability. The Chair requested that he reach out to Cllr C. Hamilton for more information but if he can help, it would be greatly appreciated. It was also suggested that the Parish Council put a notice in the Falcon Inn requesting volunteers.

There has been no Chairmans Networking meeting but the Chair will chase up the slides from the previous meeting as they have not been sent out.

The Chair did remind Cllr M. Carter that the SALC meeting is taking place on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Cllr M. Carter confirmed his attendance.

The Chair provided and following updates on the Tree and Paths -

*The public footpath 0236361 at Irelands Cross to Dorrington Lane. This is in two sections as there is not an official footpath connecting the two onto Dorrington Lane, but the landowner has agreed to a provisional route with kissing gates.*

*The end of the footpath closest to Woore where the properties that own the land that have fenced off the footpath and left the foliage to grow is still to be resolved. The latest response from Outdoor Partnership via email is "I have not made any further progress into the judicial measures that could be implemented to prevent the regrowth of hedgerow vegetation in the restructuring of this footpath."*

*The Chair added that he has been made aware of this happening in a few different locations where property owners are building fencing between a footpath and their property and thinking this excludes them of maintaining the footpath. This is not the case!*

*The Chair has emailed Outdoor Partnership regarding the growing list of issues unresolved on Fix my Street but is yet to receive a response.*

*Shropshire Council have released a statement in the Shropshire Star reminding landowners of their responsibly to maintain the rights of way. The Parish Council will include a reminder in the Parish magazine.*

Cllr A. Gath informed councillors that the footpath by the vicarage on Audlem Road is getting overgrown again. The Chair replied that this is a regular occurrence, approved letters will be issued to the residents that are offending and results in actions to resolve along with the path that runs along the Bowling Club.

#### **24033 Summer Planting; Update from Councillor J. Higgin to agree plans to the Village planters.**

Due to absence, Cllr J. Higgin provided the below report on the Summer Planting -

*"All the fixed planters have been completed. There are a few left to do around the remembrance area in the church yard.*

*There are only a few trays left so they will be used up on above and if any leftover will donate them to an area looking in need.*

*This should be carried out w/c 18<sup>th</sup> May.*

*The fixed planters are scheduled to be in situ on Thursday or Friday.*

*Due to the removal of the usual fixed planters in Pipe Gate as agreed with the resident, new locations have been agreed and the Planting Schedule will be updated for future refence.*

*We have volunteer waterers for all the planters let's hope they will be all done this year."*

The Clerk, Cllr R. Goodman and Cllr J. Higgin are to complete the list of volunteers and planter owners together so they can keep track of who is maintaining what in future years.

#### **24034 New Speed Indictor Devices for Parish to be discussed.**

The Chair informed Councillors that the current VAS (Vehicle Activated Sign) device currently located near Westholme Nurseries is 8 years old so is now not functioning at the required level. It only flashes to tell driver their speed but does not tell them if this is too fast or not.

He has applied to Shropshire Council via their Traffic Engineering team to use their infrastructure to host new devices but is yet to hear back.

The other existing VAS devices are

- One in Pipe Gate is owned by Shropshire Council and tracks vehicles coming into the village from the 40mph zone.
- One on the A525 Newcastle Road as you travel towards the pumping station and is also owned by Shropshire Council. This tracks speeds entering Woore only.
- The small Speed indicator sign in on Audlem Road (end of Candle Lane Estate) advises if drivers are going over 30pmh.

The Chair is proposing if agreement with SC can be reached into installing either a VAS or a SID (Speed Indicator Display) on Cherry Tree lane (this site already has approval however it would need to be solar powered as there is no electricity supply) and move the existing VAS on Newcastle Road to outside the school facing traffic coming from the South direction. And install two SIDS on the Newcastle road site capturing vehicles coming into and out of the village as this is a speeding hotspot.

The Chair is taking advice from the Safer Roads team and is awaiting whether the device outside the school would be covered by Shropshire Council when they upgrade the crossing.

Proposed Funding of the new devices will come from the Parish Council CIL fund.

#### 24035 Finance:

a) Invoices/payments & receipts: to resolve to approve the below detailed expenditure:

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the following payments as presented, including the additional invoice for the defib repair that was not on the agenda but is represented below.

Date	Recipient	Reason for Payment	Cheque Number	Net Amount	VAT Amount	Power of Expenditure
10.06.2024	Chelsea Burnard	Clerk Salary (June): Gross Pay NI deduction Income Tax deduction.  Expenses - Milk for Meeting Biscuits for Meeting HugoFox Subscription 2024-25	001974	£530.64 -£106.20 £0.00  <u>£124.48</u> £1.20 £7.54 £101.90  <u>£548.92</u>		LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2)  LGA 1972 s. 137 LGA 1972 s.137 LGA 1972 s.111
10.06.2024	Tony Seabridge	Grass cutting March – May 2024	001971	£640.00	£128.00	LG A 1980 s.96
10.06.2024	Woore Produce Show	Grant Donation for 2024 Produce Show	001972	£270.00	£0.00	LGA 1972 s.137
10.06.2024	Defibs4Life	Defib Battery Replacement	001973	£195.00	£23.00	LG A 1980 s.96

b) Bank reconciliation:

<b>Closing Bank Balance at 31st May 2024</b>			
Current Account	100.00		
Business Reserve Account	210,192.27	210,292.27	
Less unpresented Cheques			
<b>Cheque 001959</b>		(200.00)	
<b>Cheque 001966</b>		(85.00)	
		<b>210,007.27</b>	
<b>Split as follows</b>			
<b>Closing Balances</b>			
Recreational fund	3,966.75		
CIL Neighbourhood Fund	119,583.35		
General Fund	86,457.17	<b>210,007.27</b>	-

**24022 Clerk's Report and Correspondence:** To receive a summary of Reports and Correspondence for the period from 11<sup>th</sup> March to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

The Clerk read out an email received regarding land in the Parish and had verbal consent to read out at this Parish Council Meeting -

*'We wish to discuss an area of agricultural land located on London Road, SHELAA site WIC005. This land has been in our family for more than 4 generations and came into our ownership almost 10 years ago.*

*Unfortunately, the landowners are now of pensionable age and have not been blessed with children, so when we ultimately die the land will most likely be put on the open market. Although we do not live in Woore, we still reside in North Shropshire and have fond childhood memories of Woore. As I am sure members of the Parish Council will understand, we would like, if possible, to try and secure some benefit from the land in our lifetime, but we are also aware of the importance of this piece of land to the Parish, and how it allows the maintenance of a sensitive gap between Woore and Irelands Cross. An approach we do understand and would endeavour to respect. Obviously we send this email recognising the content of both the Woore Neighbourhood Plan and Shropshire's Local Plan, but we would welcome an opportunity to speak with the Parish Council to explore how we might be able to work with the Parish Council to protect some element of this space between Woore and Irelands Cross, particularly along the A51 Road Frontage, whilst allowing for some modest development. We also wanted to let you know, in advance, that we are aware that the Local Plan has been re-opened for Consultation, and we do plan to explore what opportunities this may present. Hopefully you will find this of some interest, and we look forward to you inviting us to a future meeting to discuss.'*

The landowners have been invited to the July 2024 Parish Council meeting to discuss this matter should Councillors feel it useful.

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**The meeting closed at 9.30pm.**

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Parish Council Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024, 7.30pm.

Signed.....(Chair)