

## Minutes of Woore Parish Council Meeting

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024, 7.30pm, The Victory Hall, Woore



### **PRESENT:**

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

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms C. Burnard (Clerk to the Council), Cllr Roy Aldcroft (Shropshire Council Representative)

### **PUBLIC:**

There were two members of the public present.

### **24070 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent**

Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr M. Blake due to illness and Cllr J. Higgin due to holidays.

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

### **24071 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.

### **24072 Requests for Dispensations of DPs None received.**

### **24073 Open Forum: to last no longer than 15 minutes**

The Chair opened discussions to the members of the public. No comments received.

The Chair informed Councillors that he has received correspondence from National Grid on a matter regarding connecting an electric supply from Kenrick Close down to the Grove which will help prevent power cuts. This matter dates back to Sept 2021. The National Grid still do not have approval from the landowners to finish this project which requires access to private land. National Grid are still liaising with the landowners and will update on proposed completion dates when they can.

### **24074 Approval of the Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 (Local Government Act 1972, s12p41(1)).

Cllr. M Carter raised an amendment request to the September minutes detailed as below:

The original minutes read -

“The Chair reminded Cllr R. Aldcroft that the Parish Council is happy to take on additional duties to aid Shropshire Council with tasks like grass cutting but as our budget is set in November, we need to know sooner rather than later. Cllr R. Goodman pointed out that the sooner we know the sooner we can act and get savings by maybe grouping activities like grass cuttings together with neighbouring parishes.”

The agreed amendment reads -

“The Chair reminded Cllr R. Aldcroft that the Parish Council would be willing to take on additional duties to aid Shropshire Council with tasks like grass cutting but as our budget is set in November, we need to know sooner rather than later. However, a full discussion would need to take place before additional duties are agreed so we can update parishioners of any extra costs. Cllr R. Goodman pointed out that the sooner we know the sooner we can act and get savings by maybe grouping activities like grass cuttings together with neighbouring parishes.”

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the amended minutes of the Parish meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**24075 Matters arising:** to cover any matters arising from Minutes referred to in 24074.

Cllr R. Goodman is continuing to progress with her idea of a parish walking route map board highlighting the key public footpaths in the area. Companies have been asked for quotes and ideas. There will be an information request in the next Church magazine asking residents to share information they have about which routes they enjoy and which paths they would like assistance using.

The domain change to Gov.co.uk project is also progressing well. Quotes have been received. Cllr R. Goodman is still awaiting on a few more quotes and will then share them with all Councillors to discuss.

The Chair informed all Councillors that he has, this morning, received an email from Robert Rowen regarding the Fibre Broadband upgrade.

"So in terms of the scheme, we are doing well, however we have a potential issue which could cause delays to around 300 premises. We are working with Shropshire Highways to explore options which require a road closure. We have agreed a way forward which will enable us to deliver all the premises in the scheme by the end of December. In terms of the premises not affected by the road closure, we are hoping these will start to go live in the next 4 to 6 weeks."

The Chair is reluctant to have them close the B5026 and will keep all residents and Councillors updated. An Openreach representative is due to attend the November Parish Council meeting.

The Chair updated Councillors that the 30mph sign on Newcastle Road has been ordered and we are expecting a new sign to be in place shortly.

No updates on the flooding issue on Dorrington Lane have been received. The Chair no longer has any active contacts so requested Cllr R. Aldcroft to provide a new contact. The Chair wishes to receive confirmation that the landowners have fixed the issue.

The Chair informed Councillors that the road closed signs stating the road at Irelands Cross is to be closed on 4<sup>th</sup> October were placed there by mistake.

The Chair has again emailed Mark Wootton requesting an update on the 40mph on London Road which was a condition of the planning being granted. Still no reply so Cllr R. Aldcroft will chase up.

The Chair also reminded Cllr R. Aldcroft that the CIL money from that development has still not been received.

The Chair informed Councillors that, thanks to Cllr J Higgin, the parish Christmas tree has been organised.

The Chair informed councillors that Woore Parish Council are now members of CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) as agreed in September. Councillors feel this will be of great benefit for the countryside of the parish.

The Chair finished off the matters apprising asking if Cllr R. Aldcroft had got any information from Shropshire Council regarding the ownership of the Manor Bed flower bed. The Manor House is being compulsorily purchased by HS2 with this purchase to complete soon. The Chair has been in communication with HS2 LTD regarding this matter and the response was "We have requested that our supplier liaises with the claimant to address the dilapidated fence. However, at this stage of the proceedings we have no legal recourse for the current owners to comply.

With regard to meeting Woore Parish Council, HS2 Ltd stated "the new Government have advised that they will thoroughly review the position they have inherited before setting out more detailed plans in due course, including plans for HS2 Phase 2a remediation and a disposal programme for land and property acquired for HS2 that is no longer required.

Once we receive further instruction from the new Government on how we are to proceed, we will of course be happy to meet with the Parish Council."

**24076 Shropshire Council Representative Report:** for Cllr R. Aldcroft to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

Cllr R. Aldcroft opened his report by stating that Shropshire Council are still trying to arrange which services the County Council are wishing to push out onto Parish Councils.

Some parishes have already started taking on their own libraries and running them as volunteers. But other than that, no information has been passed out. Cllr R. Aldcroft suggested that these additional services might not be required until FY26/27 budget.

According to the BBC, Shropshire Council's proposed spending cuts are amongst the worst in the country. The bank reserves at Shropshire Council are very low and if this gets used up any more than is currently expected, the council will have to only operate essential services.

A discussion was had regarding the possible impacts of Shropshire Councils financial situation and Cllr R. Aldcroft ended it by saying the nobody becomes a Councillors to cut services and this is the last thing that anyone within the county council wants.

The Chair asked Cllr R. Aldcroft if the discussions on the SAMDev plan have started as it was due to start in October. Cllr R. Aldcroft believes discussions have started but could not provide any further updates. It was concluded it will likely be 2025 before any formal decisions are made.

The Chair ended Cllr R. Aldcroft report informing Councillors that a surgery is being held at the Village Hall for all residents to come along to and voice their concerns on 25<sup>th</sup> October and 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024.

#### **23077 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;
- i) Reference: 24/03531/VAR (Validated 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024)  
Address: Weston House Audlem Road Woore Crewe Shropshire CW3 9RL  
Proposal: Removal of Condition 7 (Removal of Permitted Development Schedule 2 Part 1 class E and F attached to planning permission 18/00504/FUL.

Cllr M. Cowey had already prepared comments and with all in favour, comments were submitted by the Clerk as follows:

*"Woore Parish Council OBJECTS to the removal of Condition 7 that was applied to the Granting of permission to 18/00504/FUL. It is noted since the Granting of this permission further unauthorised development as taken place with the erection of a greenhouse and tennis court.*

*In the Comments submitted by the Parish Council, which it supported the development for the erection of outbuilding to provide swimming pool and gymnasium ancillary to the use of the main house, but did include the following comment:*

*3. Whilst the PC appreciates that any future applications relating to the site will be considered on their own merits, the PC would ask that its opinion be noted that the latest planning application is one of a number relating to the site and risks, given the rural nature of the site / plot and the proximity of neighbours to it, making the site / plot overdeveloped.*

*The Parish Council is of the opinion that this site is now overdeveloped, and no further applications should be granted and that Condition 7 is not removed.*

*Woore Neighbourhood Plan 2016-2036 Housing and Design Policies, Policy HOU1 – includes the following:*

*Outside these settlements the parish is designated as open countryside, where new development will be strictly controlled in line with the development plan and national policies."*

- b) **Decisions:** to acknowledge all planning decisions made between 11<sup>th</sup> September and 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024.
- i. Reference: 24/03014/FUL (Validated 13<sup>th</sup> August 2024)

Address: Wistera Cottage, 1 Newcastle Road, Woore, Crewe

Proposal: Two storey rear extension, single storey rear extension and elevational changes

Decision: **Application Withdrawn**

**24078 Committee and Representatives Reports:** for Councillors/representatives to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

a) All reports as required;

Cllr R. Goodman provided a report for the Village Hall -

*"Films –12th October, 9th November, 11th January 2025, 8th Feb, 8th March.*

*Café –25th October, 22 November, 24th January 2025, 21 Feb, 21 March.*

*Christmas Quiz – 7th December 2024 (tickets available from 9th November)*

*Barn Dance – 12th April 2025*

*The Café in September raised £96 for Macmillan as part of the Big Coffee Morning."*

Cllr C. Hamilton provided an update from the Community Speed Watch Volunteers -

- *We currently have 6 active members, with two volunteers awaiting approval &/or training.*
- *Mark Booth the trainer retired in July & his replacement MAY be starting in December.*
- *Typically we are out fortnightly as we need 3 members to be available & free at the same time.*
- *We typically visit Newcastle Road as the 'hot spot' for speeding, but the last outing down Audlem road picked up 19 in an hour.*
- *Pipe Gate at 40 mph is used randomly but the 10% + 2 means not many are recorded & reported. i.e. 46mph is the cut off.*
- *Recent VAS cameras show the following statistics:-*
- *Priory Gardens April-June 17592 vehicles, ave speed 38.7mph highest 66.6mph, total over 40 mph 47.7%. that means 92 per day.*
- *Priory Gardens July-Sept 10328 vehicles, ave speed 39.3mph highest 68.0mph. total over 40 mph 52.3% . that means 110 per day.*
- *Newcastle Road April-June 6472 vehicles, ave speed 34.2 mph highest 67.7 mph, total over 30 mph 80.3%. that means 57 per day.*
- *Newcastle Road April-June 6320 vehicles, ave speed 34.1 mph highest 63.0 mph, total over 30 mph 78.2%. that means 54 per day.*

*For the record there have been a number of comments on the Woore Community Facebook page about residents frustrated at the speeding through the village.*

*Hopefully this may stimulate more interest in the CSW.*

*Plus hopefully our new MVAS signs will assist as that plan is progressing well."*

Cllr M. Carter informed Cllr C. Hamilton that he had received a visit from the Safer Roads team earlier today about his application to become a community speed watch volunteer and is still eager to progress with this.

The Chair met with Shropshire Council Traffic Engineer earlier this week regarding the new MVAS's for the Parish. The three locations have been agreed and discussions are now being had regarding how to install the devices. There are no issues with the location selection at Cherry Tree Lane.

There is a small issue with the new location of St Leonards due to the hedge that may block the view heading into the 30mph zone so the installation company need to look into positioning the device on brackets so it sits out further than the hedge. Or the Parish Council could ask the hedge owner to cut it back completely however this would run the risk of the MVAS being useless should the hedge ever grow out again.

The MVAS proposed for outside the school has been deemed too close to the school crossing, so it was agreed to move the device slightly further up the road. Drivers will still see the speed warning before they reach the school so it will still improve safety.

The Chair will update Councillors.

The Chair informed councillors that the next SALC meeting is in January 2025.

The Chair has emailed HS2 asking for any updates on whether the project will be reinstated. They are unable to comment at this time but he will continue to press for information.

CLlr R. Goodman was delighted to inform Councillors and residents that Woore Parish Council has been allocated 210 trees from the Woodland Trust to be planted February/March 2025. She will be requesting input from residents to ensure they are planted in good places where they can thrive in due course.

The Chair updated Councillors on the outstanding footpath issues. The public footpath at Buerton that currently terminates at the county boundary has had approval to extend this. Shropshire Council are awaiting on the signed documents to be received.

The Public footpath diversion order for the footpath that runs from Irelands cross to Dorrington that stops in the middle of a field, is still in discussions with the land owner but it looks promising that this will be resolved shortly. All other enforcement issues are still being investigated with two yet to be investigated.

The Chair updated Councillors that while some overgrown hedges have been dealt with, some paths are still blocked included the footpath by the Vicarage and the Swan. The Chair will send another letter and if not actioned, he will enlist Shropshire Council to intervene.

The Chair then read out a letter he had received from Shropshire Council's Street Scene Team -  
*"Due to the current wet weather conditions, we have taken the decision to bring the grass cutting season of 2024 to an end. This is due to the damage being made to the ground while mowing in wet conditions. However, we plan to move on to hedge and shrub pruning and as a part of this, we plan to work with local households regarding private hedges that are blocking footpaths.*

*If you would like to report an issue, you can do so via FixMyStreet. This will ensure that each enquiry is logged, acknowledged, and issued with a reference number. The enquiry will be allocated to the appropriate service area who will investigate the matter and action as required.*

*Thank you for your help and co-operation. We are always actively looking to improve both Councillor and customer engagement and this process of recording Street Scene data is vital to the development of the service, feeds into our asset management system of identifying and prioritising service improvements."*

While it is disappointing that the grass will not be cut again this year, it is good that the hedges will still be dealt with.

#### **24079 PC Meeting Dates for 2025/226**

The Chair informed Councillors that as 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 is election day for Parish Councillors, there will be six weeks when the councillors have stepped down, awaiting re-election (this is to be confirmed by the Clerk after consulting with SALC).

With that in mind, it was proposed that the meetings be -

13th January 2025,

10th February 2025

10th March 2025

These dates were agreed with the remaining dates still to be considered once Shropshire Council has released the 2025 timeline of events regarding the election which will include the Annual Parish Meeting.

#### **24080 Budget 25/26 Update** ready for Budget Setting in November.

Below is a summary of current spending 2024/25 year to date compared to the budget.

The Chair asked councillors to start thinking about what services they think will need to be increased for 2025/26.

	Budget Spend FY25	Year to Date	Full Year Forecast	
<b>Income</b>				
Shropshire Council	31,249.00	32,250.00	32,250.00	
VAT	1,500.00	-	3,176.92	
Interest	2,000.00	1,383.66	2,421.41	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>34,749.00</b>	<b>33,633.66</b>	<b>37,848.33</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Church magazine	(700.00)	(150.00)	(300.00)	
Clerk salary	(11,000.00)	(2,177.30)	(6,531.90)	Will increase now as PAYE is due monthly
Computer costs	(1,600.00)	-	(1,642.24)	Shaping Cloud Annual License and Gov.uk Domain Change
Grant	(1,500.00)	(270.00)	(1,120.00)	
Grounds keeping & Repairs	(6,000.00)	(1,650.00)	(6,000.00)	
Insurance	(1,000.00)	(634.29)	(634.29)	
legal and professional costs	-	-	-	
Planting	(2,000.00)	(1,066.00)	(2,000.00)	
Room hire	(1,100.00)	(392.00)	(1,034.00)	
Health and Safety	(600.00)	(414.00)	(600.00)	Defib repairs
Training	(800.00)	(85.00)	(500.00)	Allows for training course for new councillors
Accounting/Audit Fees	(600.00)	(200.00)	(600.00)	No invoice from PKF yet.
Neighbourhood Plan Expenditure	(1,500.00)	-	(1,500.00)	
Remembrance Day	(500.00)	-	(500.00)	
Christmas	(400.00)	-	(400.00)	
Speed Group Costs	(2,000.00)	-	(2,000.00)	
Misc. Expenses	(1,400.00)	-	(1,000.00)	
Subscriptions	(700.00)	(670.34)	(730.34)	Affirmation Fees and CPRE Membership
<b>Total BAU Expenditure</b>	<b>(33,400.00)</b>	<b>(7,708.93)</b>	<b>(27,092.77)</b>	
<b>Additional Projects</b>				
Playarea and Gym Upgrade	(8,000.00)	(5,937.16)	(5,937.16)	
MVAS/ SIDS	(8,000.00)	-	(18,000.00)	3 new MVAS's as agreed in September
Village Green	(10,000.00)	-	(10,000.00)	
Newcastle Road Project	(10,000.00)	-	(10,000.00)	
Benches	(1,500.00)	(1,280.00)	(1,280.00)	
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>(36,151.00)</b>	<b>18,707.57</b>	<b>(34,461.61)</b>	

<b>CIL Funding Total</b>			
CIL Neighbourhood Fund	38,249.00	50,126.51	50,126.51
Woore Victory Hall Light Upgrade	-	(4,776.00)	(4,776.00)
Total in Fund at 1st April 2024		£	69,456.84
Total in Fund at 30th September 2024		£	114,807.35

## 24079 Finance:

- a) Invoices/payments & receipts: to resolve to approve the below detailed expenditure: It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the following payments as presented.

Date	Recipient	Reason for Payment	Cheque Number	Net Amount	VAT Amount	Power of Expenditure
14.10.2024	Chelsea Burnard	Clerk Salary (Sept month): Gross Pay - Income Tax deduction	PAID 1979	£530.64 -£106.20	- -	LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2)
		Expenses - CPRE Membership Biscuits and Milk		£60.00 £2.03	£0.00 £0.16	LGA 1972 s. 137 LGA 1972 s. 111
				<u>£486.63</u>		
14.10.2024	MD Steel Profiles LTD	New Benches	PAID 1989	£1,280.00	£0.00	LGA 1972 s.142 (1A)
14.10.2024	Shropshire Council	Refund of Payment Received in Error	PAID 1990	£250.00	£0.00	LGA 1972 s. 111

b) Bank reconciliation:

i) For the Council to receive end of month bank reconciliation for September 2024.

<b>Closing Bank Balance at 30th September 2024</b>			
Current Account		100.00	
Business Reserve Account	196,041.88		196,141.88
Less unpresented Cheques			
<b>Cheque 001959</b>		(200.00)	
<b>Cheque 001982</b>		(642.24)	
<b>Cheque 001988</b>		(180.00)	
<b>Cheque 001990</b>		(250.00)	
			<b>194,869.64</b>
<b>Split as follows</b>			
<b>Closing Balances</b>			
Recreational fund		-	
CIL Neighbourhood Fund	114,807.35		
General Fund	80,062.29		<b>194,869.64</b>
			-

**24080 Clerk's Report and Correspondence:** To receive a summary of Reports and Correspondence for the period from 9<sup>th</sup> September to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

A resident has complained about the litter on Candle Lane. As soon as the weather improves, it is hoped the volunteers will help with this.

---

**The meeting closed at 9.00pm.**

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Parish Council Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 7.30pm.

Signed.....(Chair)