

## Minutes of Woore Parish Council Meeting

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 7.30pm, The Victory Hall, Woore



### PRESENT:

Cllr M. Cowey (Chairman), Cllr M. Carter, Cllr M. Austin, Cllr J. Higgin, Cllr C. Gath and Cllr A. Gath.

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms C. Burnard (Clerk to the Council)

### PUBLIC:

There was six members of the public present.

### **24096 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent**

Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr M. Blake due to illness, Cllr R. Aldcroft due to work commitments, and Cllr R. Goodman and Cllr C. Hamilton due to prior commitments  
It was unanimously **resolved** to accept all apologies.

### **24097 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.**

### **24098 Robert Rowan Update on The Fibre Broadband Upgrade**

Robert Rowan informed councillors that the project has enough pledges now and the upgrade has commenced.  
*"We have now built over 500 premises with Full Fibre services. This includes 60 that went live in the last day or so. Whilst I am not able to share the exact list of premises, I can advise that the areas that are now available are below (See appendix 1)*  
*Please note that not all premises in the street/postcode listed below are enabled yet, so people can check whether they are enabled by clicking on the link and checking their details [www.openreach.com/fibre-checker](http://www.openreach.com/fibre-checker)*  
*In terms of the roadworks undertaken at Ireland's Cross overnight this week, I can confirm that this work was completed, which is excellent news. Special thanks to my colleagues who undertook this work overnight, especially given most of them had been working last weekend in very difficult and dangerous conditions repairing our network during storm Darragh.*  
*Over the coming weeks we are hopeful to enable further premises, and this will continue into the New Year with full scheme completion by the end of March. "*

Residents can still take advantage of the fibre broadband deals if they wish, and many providers will upgrade customers to fibre for free as it's a more reliable service so providers want customers off the copper network.  
Cllr M. Austin asked a question regarding the access to landline home phone lines upon the upgrade and asked whether this could be why some older or vulnerable people aren't upgrading. Robert Rowan assured everyone that the provider will upgrade the phone line to a digital home phone line. At worst, this may result in the resident needing to upgrade their handset however they will definitely not lose the phone number or handset completely. A resident added that with the digital landline service, if the property loses power, they lose the ability to use the landline until power is restored so anyone worried might benefit from a battery pack/back up power supply for their phones.

#### **24099 Open Forum: to last no longer than 15 minutes**

No residents had any comments, so the Chair opened the meeting up to Councillors. No comments received. The Chair thanked all residents that helped in the set up of the Christmas tree and nativity scene. He also thanked the children of Woore Primary School, as they have designed the Christmas tree decorations this year and it looks spectacular.

The Chair informed all Councillors that for the 2025 Remembrance Day service, they will need to apply for a road closure as a formality. It will not cost the Parish Council anything. Cllr A. Gath asked if the newly introduced 'Martyn's law' will impact on the application for the road closure. The chair answered that gatherings of over 850 people outside will be impacted by this so it is unlikely that this will cause any issues. However, the Clerk has undertaken training on this so when it is fully implemented, the Parish Council will know what to do.

#### **24100 Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024 (Local Government Act 1972, s12p41(1)).**

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the Minutes of the Parish meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> November 2024.

#### **24101 Matters arising: to cover any matters arising from Minutes referred to in 24100.**

The Chair updated Councillors about the sale of The Coopers Arms. The freehold is now formally up for sale however no offers on the premises have been received. The Chair checked all the records and confirmed there has been no pre-planning applications. He is aware there are concerns within the village about the sale/development and the loss of the car park. He will update all as soon as he hears anything further.

Cllr A. Gath asked about just buying the car park as a community asset, as he is already aware the pub cannot be purchased as a community asset because the Parish already has one. The Chair said this was not possible as the premise is being sold as one lot.

Due to the recent planning application to prune some protected trees in the Parish, HS2 has been in communication as The Chair doesn't feel like the suggested pruning will provide enough cut back. However, with it being a rookery, this is the best that can be done now. Shropshire Council has said they will bring in the Tree Enforcement Officer to ensure the work is carried out in line with the Tree Protection Order as well as looking at any overhanging branches left behind that could pose a danger to pedestrians or vehicles travelling underneath.

The Chair reminded the Clerk to send a letter to Woore Bowling Club confirming that the application for CIL funding was successful.

#### **24102 Shropshire Council Representative Report: for Cllr R. Aldcroft to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.**

No report provided by Cllr R. Aldcroft due to absence.

The Chair informed Cllr A. Gath that his query from November, about the unsatisfactory pothole 'repairs, has not received an update. Nor has the Chair's queries on the London Road development speed reduction request, nor the question as to which services Cllr R. Aldcroft expects Shropshire Council to stop providing during 2025/26.

The Chair will update all as soon as he hears anything.

#### **23103 Planning:**

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

- i) Reference: 24/04466/TPO (Validated 22nd November 2024)  
Address: Falcon Inn, London Road, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire  
Proposal: Prune overhanging branches back to boundary and remove overhanging squirrel damaged trees protected by the Shropshire Council (Land at Manor House, Woore) TPO 2010 (SC/00033/10)

Comments submitted via the Clerk as below -

*"Woore Parish Council supports the above application and recognise the request, these trees along with other trees covered by the TPO for land at the Manor House, Woore in providing safety and carrying out the required maintenance.*

*As a Condition the Parish Council request that any damaged trees that are removed are replaced with a similar species of tree and maintained for at least 5 years till established.”*

The Chair added that there have been two additional applications received since the agenda was sent which both need comments submitting before the January 2025 meeting so will need to be worked on via delegated powers.

Reference: 24/04556/FUL (validated: 02/12/2024)

Address: West Of Villa Farm 10, Audlem Road, Woore, Shropshire

Proposal: Change in use of agricultural field to a dog walking area

Cllr J. Higgin will review and write up comments for support and submission

Reference: 24/04629/FUL (validated: 06/12/2024)

Address: The Gables, Nantwich Road, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire, CW3 9RH

Proposal: Erection of detached dwelling and garage

Cllr M. Austin will work with both Cllr R. Goodman and Cllr M. Cowey on this.

The Chair reminded the Clerk that the letter to Brook Side Farm, Dorrington Lane needs sending out once the Clerk has checked the electoral role to ensure the details are up to date.

b) Decisions: to acknowledge all planning decisions made between 11<sup>th</sup> September and 13<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

i) Reference: 24/04042/FUL (Validated 24th October 2024)

Address: Selsey, Pipe Gate, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 4HU

Proposal: Proposed extensions and alterations

Decision: Permission Granted

**24104 Committee and Representatives Reports:** for Councillors/representatives to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

a) All reports as required;

Cllr C. Hamilton submitted the below due to his absence –

*“We began Woore Community Speed watch in October 2021 with initially seven members trained up by the police CSW team to operate a speed gun at the road side.*

*Over the last three years we have trained up 12 people, but currently we only have six active members due to retirement, illness and people leaving the village.*

*Currently, we also have two volunteers waiting to be trained.*

*We are only able to operate the speed gun after formal training and to do a roadside session we need three volunteers at any one time.*

*We all wear high vis jackets and we also are fully insured.*

*We typically operate for an hour at a time at 4 locations, Audlem Road, Pipe Gate, just outside the Village Hall and down Newcastle Road.*

*We record any vehicle that is 10% over the speed limit +2mph.*

*In a 30-mph area, we measure 35+ & 40 mph we measure 46+.*

*By working as a team, we need to record the speed, the vehicle registration number, manufacturer, model and colour.*

*Typically, the Newcastle Road is the worse road for speeding where we regularly pick up 25 to 35 per hour.*

*This data which is then classified as confidential is sent to West Mercia police.*

*They contact vehicle owners about speeding & in extreme cases they will visit the owners' homes.*

*We have operated moveable vehicle activated signs MVAS's within the parish for a few years, these pick up data which is then downloaded and sent to West Mercia police and also published on the parish website.*

*Our objective is to be seen by the public such that we help create a deterrent to speeding within the parish.*

*Speeding in the village is an issue and we particularly are concerned at speeding near the school where we are hopefully in the future going to get a 20mph limitation around school start and finish times.*

*Market Drayton police at times will join us, but essentially the existence of a village CSW would tend to mean that the police themselves will not be out with their speed camera vans.*

*Currently, we are in the final process of having three new speed indicator devices (S.I. D's) fitted within the parish. Any time we would wish to have more volunteers so we can be out more often, be more visible such that speeding behaviour throughout the parish improves."*

Cllr M. Carter added he is expecting his community speed watch training to happen within the next few weeks. The Chair added that the Community Speed watch team were out on Newcastle Road recently and caught 24 vehicle driving over the speed limit within an hour.

The Chair provided the below report on the recent Chairman's meeting -

*"Summary of key issues discussed at the Shropshire and Telford Chairman's Meeting attended by 35no representatives of Town/Parish Chairmen & Mayors held on Wednesday 13th November 2024 at 6pm (Remote Meeting).*

- Delegates reminded to include Shropshire Election Fees in Precept calculations/submissions.*
- Some Parish Councils will not be using the Gov.UK Domain Name due to cost an increase to their Precepts. (SALC advised it is not enforceable but recommend it is preferred.)*
- Parish/Town Councils were reminded that they are not allowed to give any donations to Shropshire Council.*
- Shropshire Councils devolving of Powers/Services to be advised, a SALC Working Party is in the process of discussions with SC on which and how Town/Parish Councils can manage this. Further information over the next few weeks.*
- All Town & Parish Councillors can register to NALC using their Councillor email address, useful source of information and Guide References. (Link and details will also be provided on Mondays Briefing from SALC.)*
- All Town/Parish Councils should implement via a Motion their recognition of Climate Emergency as it is a requirement of law. (Propose that WPC include on the January Agenda and Chair will obtain information from other Councils that have conducted this action)*
- The RMG payment from SC is felt will not apply for the 2025/26 Financial Year and some Town/Parish Councils are including this amount as an increase on their Precepts so that the services this funded can be continued. The smaller Parish Councils feel that due to the Grant is not paid will increase their Precept by too much so are taking the decision not to carry out the work like grass/hedge cutting etc.*
- Issues raised by Chair of Woore Parish Council*
- The AGAR Auditors are running late on releasing the Town/Parish Reports, some have received theirs and balance should be out over the next few weeks.*
- CIL Monies held by Shropshire Council, it was confirmed that the Strategic and Local Fund is "ring fenced and protected" and cannot be used by SC.*
- ROSPA, Town & Parish Councils were advised that there is the possibility that SC are no longer offering this service, and the recommendations is that Town/Parish Councils should make alternative arrangements, so they have an Annual Report.*

*Next Chairman's Meeting Wednesday 15th January 2025 at 6pm"*

The Chair has not received any new reports of blocked footpaths. He has had a few queries from residents regarding which species of trees we have been given to plant within the Parish. Cllr R. Goodman will update residents when details are shared.

#### **24105 Budget 25/26 to be discussed**

The deadline for precept declaration and budget submission is 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 so The Chair asked all Councillors to review the below and put forward any fully costed proposals in time for the January 2025 meeting.

The Chair reminded all that our main aim with the budget is to maintain the precept percentage at its current level. It is believed that Shropshire Council will increase Council Tax in April 2025 and the Parish Council do not wish to add to people's household expenditure.

That is why in the proposed budget for 2025/26, the expected expenditure is in line with the current year's precept percentage, with the exception of the election expenditure, which will come from savings made this financial year.

Cllr M. Carter wished to put forward a costed proposal for new Christmas lights running down London Road which will be completed by the January meeting.

	Full Year Forecast Spend 2024-2025	Actual Budget 2024-2025	Proposed Budget 2025-2026	Reason for Change
<b>INCOME</b>				
Precept	£ 31,249.00	£ 31,249.00	£ 31,250.00	
Bank Interest	£ 2,616.00	£ 1,800.00	£ 2,000.00	Interest rate decreasing from current rate
CIL / Neighbourhood Fund	£ -	£ -	£ -	
VAT received	£ 1,383.66	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,400.00	Less VAT Reclaimed due to reduced spending
Grants	£ -	£ 750.00	£ -	
Misc.	£ -	£ -	£ -	
	<b>£ 35,248.66</b>	<b>£ 35,299.00</b>	<b>£ 34,650.00</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Clerk salary	£ 6,600.00	£ 10,000.00	£ 7,500.00	No back dated pay for previous Clerk included
Postage	£ 64.00	£ 300.00	£ 100.00	Stamps purchased in bulk before price rise in October 24 so less needed in 2025-26
Office Expenses	£ 642.24	£ 1,300.00	£ 1,600.00	Includes Office 365 subscription
Office Stationary	£ 48.00	£ 100.00	£ 100.00	
Subscriptions	£ 730.34	£ 700.00	£ 800.00	Nominal increase of SALC Affiliation fees
Computer Costs	£ 1,642.24	£ 100.00	£ 1,600.00	
Section 137 Grants	£ 1,120.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,500.00	
Insurance	£ 634.29	£ 1,000.00	£ 1,000.00	
Bank/Audit Fees	£ 600.00	£ 600.00	£ 800.00	
Grounds Maintenance	£ 6,000.00	£ 5,000.00	£ 6,000.00	Increased to allow for extra work if Shropshire Council stop services
Planting	£ 2,000.00	£ 2,000.00	£ 2,000.00	
Lengthsman	£ 500.00	£ 1,000.00	£ 2,000.00	Funds allocated to allow new Lengthsman to catch up from work not done in 2024/25
Room Hire	£ 1,034.00	£ 1,100.00	£ 1,500.00	Nominal Increase
Training	£ 500.00	£ 800.00	£ 1,000.00	
Newsletter	£ 300.00	£ 700.00	£ 500.00	Over budgeted in 2024/25
Neighbourhood Plan Expenditure	£ 1,500.00	£ 1,500.00	£ 2,000.00	
Remembrance Day / VE Day	£ 185.00	£ 500.00	£ 500.00	
Christmas	£ 535.00	£ 400.00	£ 600.00	£500 for Christmas tree. Remaining for power.
Speed Group Costs	£ 2,000.00	£ 2,000.00	£ 2,000.00	
Misc.	£ 600.00	£ 3,500.00	£ 1,500.00	Defib Repairs not need for two years now
Election Costs	£ -	£ -	£ 2,500.00	
	<b>£ 27,235.11</b>	<b>£ 34,100.00</b>	<b>£ 37,100.00</b>	
<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>£ 8,013.55</b>	<b>£ 1,199.00</b>	<b>-£ 2,450.00</b>	

### 24106 Finance:

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

Date	Recipient	Reason for Payment	Cheque Number	Net Amount	VAT Amount	Power of Expenditure
09.12.2024	Chelsea Burnard	Clerk Salary (Nov month): Gross Pay - Income Tax deduction -  Back Dated Pay - Back Dated Income Tax - Deduction -		£543.84 -£108.77  £105.60 -£21.03  <u>£ 519.64</u>		LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2)
09.12.2024	Chelsea Burnard	Expenses - Defibrillator Replacement Battery and Pad  HMRC PAYE Payment -		£327.90   £98.65	£65.58   £0.00	LG a 1980 s. 96   LG (FP)A 1963 s. 5
09.12.2024	Woore Victory Hall	Room Hire and Storage 2024 Q4		£154.00	£0.00	LGA 1972 s. 112
09.12.2024	Parish Online	Domain ownership for December 24 to November 2025		£100.00	£20.00	LG a 1972 s. 111
09.12.2024	SALC	Training Course for Cllr A. Gath and Cllr C. Gath		£70.00	£0.00	HA 1980 s. 96
09.12.2024	Westholmes Nurseries	14 Tubs for winter planting		£350.00	£70.00	LGA 1972 s. 137
09.12.2024	Tony Seabridge	Grass Cutting August 24 to November 24		£895.00	£179.00	HA 1980 s. 96

Bank reconciliation:

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

<b>Closing Bank Balance at 30th November 2024</b>			
Current Account		100.00	
Business Reserve Account	194,860.64		194,960.64
Less unrepresented Cheques			
<b>Cheque 001959</b>		(200.00)	
<b>Cheque 001982</b>		(642.24)	
<b>Cheque 001990</b>		(250.00)	
<b>Cheque 001992</b>		(98.40)	
			<b>193,770.00</b>
<b>Split as follows</b>			
<b>Closing Balances</b>			
Recreational fund		-	
CIL Neighbourhood Fund	114,807.35		
General Fund	78,962.65		<b>193,770.00</b>
			-

**24107 Clerk's Report and Correspondence:** To receive a summary of Reports and Correspondence for the period from 11<sup>th</sup> November to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024.

The Clerk pointed out that a cheque paid via delegated powers had been omitted from the agenda for December. It was for the new set of Christmas tree lights. This will be added to the agenda for January 2025.

Cllr J. Higgin asked if the lengthsman had sent The Parish Council his invoice for the work carried out during 2024. The Clerk confirmed only one invoice has been received but due to a house move, the cheque was never received by the lengthsman. Cllr J. Higgin will chase up for updated hours worked and an address before the end of the financial year.

The Chair asked the Clerk if there had been any updates from AGAR on the audit. The Clerk confirmed nothing had been received but she will chase.

The Clerk will also organise a date for scrutineering in the new year. She will liaise with the required councillors in due course.

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The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
Parish Council Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 7.30pm.

Signed.....(Chair)

Appendix 1

Street name	Postcode
Railway Close/Market Drayton	TF9 4HY
Phoenix Rise/Market Drayton	TF9 4HQ
/Market Drayton	TF9 4HX
/Market Drayton	TF9 4HD
/Market Drayton	TF9 4HU
/Market Drayton	TF9 4HA
Railway Close/Market Drayton	TF9 4HY
Dairy Grove/Market Drayton	TF9 4LZ
Audlem Road/Crewe	CW3 9RJ
Audlem Road/Crewe	CW3 9RZ
Nantwich Road/Crewe	CW3 9SA
Beech Avenue/Crewe	CW3 9TF
Syllenhurst View/Crewe	CW3 9TJ
Moat Lane/Crewe	CW3 9TG
London Road/Crewe	CW3 9SF
Grove Crescent/Crewe	CW3 9SX
London Road/Crewe	CW3 9SQ
Farmfields Rise/Crewe	CW3 9SZ
St. Leonards Way/Crewe	CW3 9SS
St. Leonards Way/Crewe	CW3 9ST
Westfields Rise/Crewe	CW3 9SY
Blaizefield Close/Crewe	CW3 9SU
The Northlands/Crewe	CW3 9SH
The Square/Crewe	CW3 9SD
Newcastle Road/Crewe	CW3 9SN
The Boundary/Crewe	CW3 9QY
The Square/Crewe	CW3 9SE
Kenrick Close/Crewe	CW3 9SL
Newcastle Road/Crewe	CW3 9SJ
Newcastle Road/Woore	CW3 9RE
Gravenhunger/Crewe	CW3 9SW
Gravenhunger Lane/Crewe	CW3 9RF
London Road	CW3 9RQ
Crossway	TF9 4HT
Smithy Lane/Market Drayton	TF9 4HP
/Market Drayton	TF9 4HS
London Road/Market Drayton	TF9 4HL
London Road/Newcastle Under Lyme	TF9 4HJ
Smithy Lane/Newcastle Under Lyme	TF9 4HR
Chetwode Close/Market Drayton	TF9 4NR
Chapel Lane/Market Drayton	TF9 4HW