

## Minutes of Woore Parish Council Meeting



**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026, 7.30pm, The Victory Hall, Woore**

### **PRESENT:**

Cllr R. Goodman (Chair), Cllr C. Hamilton, Cllr M. Austin, Cllr A. Gath, Cllr H. Sweeney and Cllr A. Morral.

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms C. Burnard (Clerk to the Council)

### **PUBLIC:**

There were two members of the public present.

### **25096 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent**

Apologies were received from Cllr J. Higgin due to prior commitments and Cllr M. Carter due to illness.

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

### **25097 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).

**None were received.**

### **25098 Cllr Micheal Cowey**

Woore Parish Council are very sorry to lose our Chairman, Mike Cowey in December 2025. During his many years as a Parish Councillor and as Chairman, Mike was dedicated to assisting the people of Woore Parish in any way he could, including during the pandemic and the long running HS2 saga. Comments received since his passing from parishioners, our MP, contacts in Shropshire Council, the police and beyond, have all noted his determination, kindness, deep knowledge of local issues and dedication to parishioners, and what mattered to them.

He stood out with his commitment and enthusiasm for helping the parish and went above and beyond whatever the issue.

He will be sadly missed.

The Vice Chair requested a minutes silence to remember him.

### **29099 Co-Option of New Councillors**

Mrs Helen Sweeny stood up and read her declaration of acceptance of office form. It was signed and witnessed by the Clerk.

Mr Adam Morrall stood up and read his declaration of acceptance of office form. It was signed and witnessed by the Clerk.

Both new Councillors committed to fulfilling their duties responsibly and took a seat.

The Clerk will send the paperwork off to Shropshire Council and file as appropriate.

The Vice Chair welcomed them both onto the Parish Council.

### **29100 Election of Chairman (Until May 2026)**

The Vice Chair, Rachel Goodman, proposed that she take up the role until May 2026 which is when the AGM is to be held. No other Councillors expressed an interest in the Chair role and all were in agreement that she take the role.

The declaration of acceptance of office form was signed and witnessed by the Clerk.

Cllr Micheal Cowey also looked after the Woore United Charities, but it was decided that unless they need

two councillors, to not appoint a new representative as Cllr J. Higgin is happy to be the sole representative for now.

**25101 Open Forum: to last no longer than 15 minutes.**

The Chair opened up the meeting to the members of the public. No attendees had anything to add. The Chair informed Councillors that she had recently posted on the website about the grit bins in the parish due to the recent storm. She noted that quite a few are now empty. While it is great that they were being used, she asked Cllr Tom Dainty what the process is for getting them refilled. Cllr Tom Dainty said that Shropshire Council is responsible for refilling them and asked the Chair to send her a list of the empty ones and he would see what he could do.

The Chair added that the road closure request for Remembrance Day for November 2026 has been approved.

She reminded Councillors that the Severn Trent Community Flooding Officer – Phil Wild is attending the Community Café on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan.

Cllr A. Gath asked if there has been any update on the sale of the Coopers Arms premises. The Chair replied that no more information is available but they are now thinking that completion will be in January due to issues with previous leaseholders causing delays. Cllr Tom Dainty added that Shropshire Council have not received any notifications of change of use or pre planning applications.

**25102 Approval of the Minutes of the meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025** (Local Government Act 1972, s12p41(1))

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the minutes for the meeting

**25103 Matters arising: to cover any matters arising from Minutes referred to in 25102.**

The Chair is continuing to chase National Grid regarding the street lights in Dorrington Lane. The newly upgraded street lights have not been operational for a few months now. She has received confirmation that National Grid are coming out on 19<sup>th</sup> January to assess the issues. It is hoped they can fix the issue on the 19<sup>th</sup> however this is conditional on what the issue is. She will keep Councillors and the residents updated.

There have been no updates on the HS2 purchase of the Manor House.

Connexus, the social housing provider, have said regarding the sale of the social housing bungalows on Kendrick Close, that if Woore Parish Council have any land they would be willing to have new properties built on, to let them know. As Woore Parish Council does not, the Chair believes the proceeds from the sales will be redistributed elsewhere in the county.

**25104 Shropshire Council Representative Report: for Cllr T. Dainty to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.**

Shropshire Council is still actively speaking to central government to achieve additional funding to help them avoid bankruptcy. Until these talks are complete, this will take up most of the time so any progress for Woore and other parishes will be limited.

Cllr C. Hamilton asked if Shropshire Councils financial situation is unique or if other councils are struggling too. Cllr Tom Dainty replied that there are many other councils in similar situations. Social Care takes up 75% of most councils budgets with highways taking up another 10%. This does not leave much for anything else.

Cllr Tom Dainty will keep Woore Councillors updated.

**25105 Committee and Representatives Reports: for Councillors/representatives to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.**

Cllr C. Hamilton stated that the newest member of the Community Speed Watch team is fully prepped and ready to be out tracking speeds when the weather improves.

There is still an issue with the Cherry Tree MVAS sign which the supplier is trying to fix.

The Chair confirmed that the new MVAS sign by Westholme's Nurseries is operating well. She hoped to install another MVAS on Audlem Road but the Chair needs to investigate funding sources. Cllr Tom Dainty suggested applying for it before the next election as the Police and Crime Commissioner role could be cut.

There has been no Chairmans meeting since our December meeting. The next one is due 15<sup>th</sup> Jan.

There have been no Victory Hall meeting as the last one was cancelled due to snow.

The Chair has received a delivery of several hundred sapling trees. When the weather improves, she will find out which species she has as they are labelled as 'woodland pack'. After that she will ask the parishioners what they would like done with the saplings.

The Chair is happy to inform all Councillors that the public footpath steps on Gravenhunger Lane have been replaced. The steps have been evened out and a handrail installed. The Chair is delighted with the work. Some nearby finger posts have also been straightened up.

The Chair reminded Councillors that although it is Shropshire Council land, they had given permission to do the work. Cllr Tom Dainty agreed that Shropshire Council will not be completing this sort of work for the foreseeable so parish councils across the county should seek permission and undertake it themselves if they are able.

The Chair still has some OS parish maps available should any parishioners want a copy.

The footpath closure behind the Swan leading to Audlem Road has been extended as the diocese have yet to fix the wall so it is still a danger to passing pedestrians.

#### **25106 Planning:**

a) to agree on a lead councillors for the following planning applications;

i) Reference: 25/04639/FUL

Address: Ivy House, 20 London Road, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire CW3 9SF

Proposal: Two Story Side/Rear Extension

It was unanimously agreed to submit the following commits –

*“Woore Parish Council SUPPORTS this application.*

*Woore Parish Council request that during the building phase, due to the busy nature of the A51 and proximity to the junction with Grove Crescent, there is a requirement such that associated vehicles, vans and deliveries are parked off the road in the property driveway and should not block or impede the flow of traffic.”*

ii) Reference: 25/04462/FUL

Address: Weston Way, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire CW3 9FT

Proposal: Erection of a detached garage and associated works

Woore Parish Council has submitted comments as below -

*“Woore Parish Council would like to make the following representations regarding this proposed double garage and store / studio.*

*We note the inclusion of an electric charging station. We expect that this proposed development would not have any additional adverse impact on the current drainage, sewerage or electricity systems which are all currently at capacity in the Parish of Woore.*

*Deliveries & Access - should this application be approved, we request that during the building phase, due to the busy nature of the A525 and the volume of agricultural vehicles using this road, together with the proximity to a farm entrance, there is a requirement such that associated vehicles, vans and delivered materials are parked off the road in the property driveway and should not block or impede the flow of traffic at any time.*

*Garage use - we note the plans include a WC and potentially has use for living accommodation. We request that it be used in association and incidental to the enjoyment of the existing residential dwelling and shall*

*not, for perpetuity, be sold, let or otherwise disposed of or allowed to be occupied as a separate unit of residential accommodation, including holiday / occasional lets.”*

Cllr C Hamilton asked how we would police the parking conditions. Cllr Tom Dainty said that if photos were taken and sent to him, he could escalate it internally.

It was decided that the Chair would be lead councillor on the following planning application.

i) Reference: 25/04458/VAR

Address: Weston Way, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire CW3 9FT

Proposal: Variation of condition no.3 (external materials) attached to planning permission 22/03559/FUL to approve a different facing brick for plots 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,9 and 10

ii) Reference: 25/04792/REM

Address: Station Yard, Pipe Gate, Market Drayton, Shropshire, .

Proposal: Approval of reserved matters (appearance, layout and scale) pursuant to planning permission 22/01789/OUT for the erection of 4No dwellings.

Cllr M. Austin will be working with the chair on this application due to her assisting on the previous application.

b) Decisions: to acknowledge all planning decisions made between 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 to 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

No decisions to report however The Clerk noted that the planning application 25/00963/FUL, Land north West of Brookside Farm, Dorrington Lane Woore for the erection of three bedroom affordable dwelling has gone to appeal.

#### **25107 Padlock for St Leonards Play Area to be discussed**

The Chair is proposing that the Parish Council upgrade the current lock on the gates on St Leonards to a combination lock. As it stands, only the Clerk and the Chair have a key, and it is felt it would be easier for all if it was unlocked via a code that could be shared to anyone needing it over the phone.

All Councillors were in agreement.

#### **25108 Parish Council Meeting Dates fir 2026 to be agreed**

The Chair has shared the proposed meeting dates for 2026 with councillors prior to the meeting. No Councillors had any issues so the below dates were unanimously approved.

2026 -

12th Jan, 9th Feb, 9th March, 13th April (Annual Parish Meeting), 11th May, 8th June, 6th July, 10th Aug (TBC), 14<sup>th</sup> Sept, 12th Oct, 9th Nov, 14th Dec

2027 -

11th Jan, 8th Feb, 8th March, 12th April (probably the Annual Parish Meeting).

#### **25109 Gov.uk Email and Website Progress**

The old website is still live but all the pages have been hidden, and it displays a link to the new website.

This means the Clerk does not need to update all the policies just yet nor keep updating both websites.

The new emails are functioning well although two councillors are still working on migrating across.

The Chair will circulate information about how to archive the old emails shortly however she has advised that Councillors back up their old emails externally as well. It was decided that Cllr M Cowey's emails would be backed up externally too.

#### **25110 Finance**

i) 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
12.01.2026	Chelsea Burnard	Clerk Salary (Dec) PAYE Deduction  Expenses - Milk Tea Bags Biscuits Printer Ink		£631.20 -£126.40  £1.20 £1.89 3.35 16.23  <u>£527.47</u>	- -  -	LGA 1972 s. 112 (2) LGA 1972 s. 112 (2)  LGA1980 s.96
12.01.2026	Cllr R Goodman	HugoFox Monthly Charge		£11.99	£0.00	LGA 1972 s. 111
12.01.2026	Woore Victory Hall	Room Hire 2025 Q4	PAID	£104.00	£0.00	HA 1980 s. 96
12.01.2026	Woore Methodist Church	Donation for Electric Used	PAID	£50.00	£00.00	LGA 1972 s. 137
12.01.2026	Gary Cooper	Lenghtsman Duties	PAID	£147.00	£0.00	HA 1972 s. 96
12.01.2026	Jardin Villar	Christmas Tree		£120.00	£0.00	LG 1980 s.96
12.01.2026	PKF LittleJohn	AGAR 2024/2025		£315.00	£63.00	LGA 1972 s. 111
12.01.2026	Jardin Villar	Christmas Tree Labour		£160.00	£48.60	LG 1980 s. 96

The Chair wished to add a cheque for Wilcox Landscapes as this invoice relates to the new steps on Gravenhunger lane and she wished for them to be paid promptly.  
It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the payments for January 2026 including the additional cheque.

ii) Councillors to receive bank reconciliation up to month end December 2025

<b>Closing Bank Balance at 31st December 2025</b>			
Current Account	100.00		
Business Reserve Account	204,671.21	<b>204,771.21</b>	
Less unrepresented Cheques			
Cheque 002054		(455.00)	
Cheque 002055		(80.00)	
Cheque 002057		(612.00)	
Cheque 002058		(50.00)	
Cheque 002060		(147.00)	
		<b>203,427.21</b>	
<b>Split as follows</b>			
<b>Closing Balances</b>			
CIL Neighbourhood Fund	114,807.35		
General Fund	88,619.86	<b>203,427.21</b>	-

iii) Bank Signatories Update

The Chair informed Councillors that there are now only two signatories for the Woore Parish Council. She asked if Cllr M. Austin and Cllr. A Gath would be willing to be added to the approved signatory list. All were in agreement so the Chair will speak to the bank to organise this.

iv) 2025/26 Budget Confirmation

The Chair wished to remind Councillors that the precept request has been submitted for the same amount as previous year as per the budget circulated in December.

**25111 Clerk's Report and Correspondence**

The Chair and Clerk attended a cross boundary Parish meeting in Stoke-on-Tern in December to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that Woore Parish Council has signed. This MOU refers to local parishes grouping together to save costs on duties that Shropshire Council once fulfilled. It seems that all local parishes were confused as to what exactly they were signing and all wished for better communication from Shropshire Council.

The next meeting is in February and The Chair, Clerk and Cllr A. Gath will be attending.

The Chair reminded the Clerk that they need to start organising the invitees to the Annual Parish meeting in April. The Clerk will start work on this before the Feb meeting.

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The meeting closed at 9pm.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
9<sup>th</sup> February 2026