

Minutes of Woore Parish Council Meeting



Monday 8th September 2025, 7.30pm, The Victory Hall, Woore

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms C. Burnard (Clerk to the Council), Mrs Sally Tyson (Tree and Path Warden) and Cllr Tom Dainty (Shropshire Council)

PUBLIC:

There were no members of the public present.

25037 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent

Apologies were received from Cllr M. Carter due to illness.

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

25038 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.

25039 Open Forum: to last no longer than 15 minutes

As there were no residents in attendance, the Chair opened the meeting up to Councillors. No Councillors had anything to add.

The Chair informed Councillors that Helen Morgan MP had visited the parish on 27th August. He was pleased to see there was a large turn out and Helen took on resident's concerns and questions well. The most common concerns were speeding, lack of bus services and pothole repairs and the Chair hopes to see some action from these in the near future.

The Chair attended the Methodist Chapel Thanksgiving Service on 20th July during which the Parish Council received thanks from the Chapel for the donation given for their new heating system and decoration costs.

25040 Approval of the Minutes of the meetings held on 14th July 2025 (Local Government Act 1972, s12p41(1))

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Parish meeting held 14th July 2025.

25041 Matters arising: to cover any matters arising from Minutes referred to in 25040.

The Chair asked for an update on the Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest forms for the remaining Councillors as Woore Parish Council are still having difficulties completing them online. The Clerk handed out some printed versions to three of the Councillors and requested them be completed and returned so they could be filed electronically.

The Chair provided an update on the Coppers Arms sale. He has been in contact with the selling agents,

and the sale is still progressing however no pre-planning or planning application have been received. He has not received any indication of who the buyer is nor what they intend to do with the premises.

The Chair has been struggling to get a firm update from OpenReach regarding the Fibre broadband upgrade however the below was received prior to the meeting -

“Build is progressing and we hope to have the vast majority of the remaining Shropshire premises (Audlem Road, Candle Lane, Mucklestone Road, Nantwich Road, and Newcastle Road) live by the end of September. The team are in the area (Bearstone Road, Mucklestone Road, Knighton and Staffordshire) this week undertaking build work.

In terms of the properties in vicinity of Brooklands, these premises are served from the same network build as those in Weymouth. We have a number of permits submitted and granted by Staffordshire County Council which are planned for September so once the work has been undertaken, we'll know more in terms of timescales.

We are hoping they will be live by the end of September or early October.”

The Chair hopes that by the October meeting all pledged properties will be connected.

Cllr A. Gath asked in the July meeting if the Parish Council could use their CIL funding to fund the update to the Neighbourhood Plan. The Chair has investigated this but unfortunately CIL funds can not be used for this purpose. However, the Chair is going to challenge this because the update needs funding and there are now no longer any Government subsidies.

The Chair is still awaiting an update on when the Manor House sale to HS2 will be completed. The last update received stated they were still doing due diligence, but completion should take place before the end of the year. As soon as this sale is complete, work on the Manor Bed will be able to start.

The Chair has received disappointing news that the 20mph limit outside the primary school is still at the bottom of the list at Shropshire Council in terms of implementation timelines. The Chair asked Cllr Tom Dainty to get further information as to what exactly the criteria is for moving up the priority list. This urgency comes after a parent of a school child was clipped by a moving vehicle on London Road. The parent did not suffer any life-threatening injuries but this incident could have been very different had it been a child that had been hit so the Chair is determined to get the speed limit reduced.

25042 Shropshire Council Representative Report: for Cllr T. Dainty to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

Cllr Tom Dainty informed Councilors that Shropshire Council has officially declared a state of emergency regarding the finances. They need to find £900,000 over the next few months otherwise they will have to issue a Section 104 Notice and Central Government will have to take over the running of the council's essential services. Shropshire Council are confident they can make the necessary savings.

In terms of Woore Parish specific issues, Cllr Tom Dainty has been looking into adding a bus service for the area. There are two opinions being explored, one is expanding the 85 from Newcastle to Madeley and the other is expanding the 53 from Nantwich to Audlem. The 85 bus runs a lot more frequently which would be preferable to the residents but requires a much longer detour from the existing route so would be more expensive. Both of these services are run by D&G Buses, so Cllr Tom Dainty is hoping to set up a meeting with them soon to discuss. It was suggested putting both options to residents to ask which bus they would prefer to come into Woore.

Cllr Tom Dainty brought up the 20mph speed reduction outside the school. He has spoken to Rob Wilson (Cabinet Member for Transport), and he said it is unlikely Woore will move up the priority list however he did disclose that they are looking at updating the policy on speed limits. So rather than having a section of road outside of schools at 20mph, they are hoping to have whole parishes at 20mph with support from the Parish Councils, so it would bypass County Councils completely. Woore Parish Council would fully support this.

The reason for this is because studies have shown that drivers are much more likely to obey the speed limit if its for a whole section of road rather than just a small section where they can already see the end of the 20mph zone when they enter it.

The Chair hopes for some progress soon as the Parish Council started campaigning for this in 2016. Cllr Tom Dainty agrees that its taken too long.

Cllr Tom Dainty also hopes the white lines will be refreshed outside the school in the meantime.

The numerous potholes in the parish are all on Shropshire Councils list to be repaired but he could not give a date of when this will happen.

One final note was that with Shropshire Council putting more emphasis on town and parish councils, he will be attending the parish council meeting for Norton-in-Hales on Wednesday and he asked if Woore Parish Council could think of anywhere that costs could be saved if shared with Norton-in-Hales Parish like lengthsman duties or admin, The Chair thought this would be a fantastic opportunity and our Councillors would have a think and report back.

The Chair reminded Cllr Tom Dainty about the flooding issue at Flash Farm. Cllr Tom Dainty confirmed that it needs addressing and he has spoken to Shropshire Highways who have said they will weed it and start to maintain the culvert while they look for a long-term solution. The Chair added that the drains also need cleaning in the short term. Cllr Tom Dainty and the Chair will keep the resident updated on progress.

25043 Committee and Representatives Reports: for Councillors/representatives to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

Cllr C. Hamilton confirmed that he continues to change the batteries in the Speed Indicator devices around the parish every 2 weeks. Him and Cllr R. Goodman have got into a good routine now to ensure the batteries don't go flat and data is not lost.

The Chair chased up if Cllr C. Hamilton had worked out the cost of charging the batteries. He said he was still working on it.

The Community Speed Watch have not been out recently due to holidays but they hope to be out soon.

Cllr J. Higgin wished to thank all the volunteer waterers in the parish as they did a fantastic job keeping the flowers thriving over the very dry summer.

The next North Shropshire Area Committee meeting is being held on Monday the 15th September. Cllr M. Carter hopes to attend and will circulate notes in due course. The Chair added that the North Shropshire Area Committee AGM is in October in Shrewsbury. He hopes Woore will have a representative present.

Cllr R. Goodman is attending the Woore Victory Hall monthly meeting on the 9th September so is unable to provide any updates. However, the hall's 75th anniversary party is taking place over the weekend of 31st October. Residents are being encouraged to make bunting to display and there will be refreshments served in the hall as well as some interesting archive material from throughout the hall's history.

The Chair informed Councillors that the parish council has committed to providing some personalised bunting which Cllr R. Goodman is organising. All were in agreement this was a nice idea.

Cllr R. Goodman has also been working on the new regulation of .gov.uk domains for Parish Councils.

Woore Parish Council's new domain is up and running as well as the new email addresses. The old domains will remain in place until everything is fully switched at which point people will be auto forwarded.

Cllr R. Goodman will be going through the material on the old website as quite a lot of it is out of date now. In the meantime, the Clerk will need to keep the old and new websites updated while Cllr R. Goodman and Cllr M. Austin continue to work on switching over the email inboxes.

One final update from Cllr R Goodman is that the footpath project is still being worked on.

The following report was received prior to the meeting –

"We had a very good visit and long walk with the Shropshire Council enforcement person a few weeks ago. He informed us of the following statistics:

The Public Rights of Way in our parish total 17.6 miles (or 28,329 meters) as follows:

- *Public Footpath: 21,404m*
- *Public Bridleway: 4,192m*
- *Restricted Byway: 2,734m*
- *Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT): 0m*
- *Total: 28,329m (17.6miles)*

In terms of specific paths, we have the following updates:

- *Cherry Tree lane seems to have improved in terms of obstacles so hopefully this will remain the case*
- *The path from the A51 by Warren Heights through to Dorrington has been cut back and now seems passable.*
- *The short path by the Swan going to the Village Green has had to be temporarily closed due to a dangerous wall and discussions are ongoing with SC and the owner of the wall.*

- *There are some issues with the path from the side of Snapes Bakery going towards Dorrington Lane (primarily on the Dorrington side) with unmarked electric fences, unclear directions and some furniture issues, these are being addressed by the enforcement officer.*
- *Similar for the path from the south of the Chetwode Arms through to Gravenhunger particularly the A51 end*
- *Similar for the Priory Gardens path*

We are hoping for a repeat visit and more walking in the next couple of months, so I'll let you know and of any other updates as they arise. We will then look to publish some of the routes hopefully by the spring. As always please let me know of any issues (new or old) and we can then try and keep on top of them. The next plan is to move further out to the less walked, longer instance paths, however they all will cross into Cheshire and / or Staffordshire."

Shropshire's enforcement Officer is aware of the footpaths with issues and will hopefully resolve. Building on what Cllr Tom Dainty said about cross boundary partnerships with Parish Councils, Cllr R. Goodman wondered if Norton-In-Hales could benefit from our work on the footpath mapping as a lot of the footpaths marry up. Cllr Tom Dainty agreed.

The Chair has circulated the notes from the Chairmans meeting held on the 10th July. The main points of concern were the increase in solar farms within Shropshire and the 'Call for Sites' invitation. Both of which have been discussed previously.

One other thing the Chair wished to remind Councillors of is the Parish Councils social media policy. He asked if all Councillors could refrain from commenting on social media in their capacity as a councillor.

While this is not an issue within Woore Parish, it has been in other parishes.

The next Chairmans meeting is Wednesday the 10th September and the Chair will update all during the October Parish Council meeting.

The Chair reminded all Councillors that if they spot any trees in need of attention whether protected or not, to let him know.

Following recent action from the Parish Councillors, all residents with over grown hedges have cut them back to safe and legal sizes. The Chair wishes to thank all residents/landowners who have done this for their work.

25044 Woore Place Plan Update

The Chair, Cllr R Goodman and the Clerk are having a meeting with Lucy Roberts, the Place Plan Officer from Shropshire Council on the 9th September to discuss the current projects as well as requesting some more be added. The Bowls Club, Cricket Club, Victory Hall and the Parish Council have all got projects to add.

Cllr J. Higgin asked about the land on Newcastle Road which is a current project so CIL funding will be available for this once Councillors and residents have decided what the best use of the land will be.

Cllr C. Hamilton asked about some sort of road furniture to slow down speeders on Newcastle Road.

This idea will be discussed with Lucy Roberts and the Chair will report back.

25045 Appointment of Parish Lengthsman

Upon receipt of Mr Gary Cooper's public liability insurance, Woore Parish Council are pleased to hire him on the basis of 2 hours paid labour per week to work through the back log of tasks. The Chair asked that if anyone has any more jobs they think should be done, to please send them to him for review and not to Gary Cooper directly.

The Chair is very pleased with the work that has been carried out so far.

25046 Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) to be discussed

The Chair has put forward the land owned by the parish council on Newcastle work to be included in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy programme. As this is agricultural land, the council is heavily restricted about what they can do with the land.

A discussion was had and the Chair reminded Councillors that in 2020 the Parish Council were successful in using £24k of CIL monies to fence and carry out some drainage works on the land. Due to the HS2

Project taking so much time of the Councillors, as well as not having the full Councillor numbers, a decision was taken to “park” any further work until such times commitment could be given. The infrastructure project for the CIL monies was to develop the agricultural land into public open space

Currently the Parish Council is considering planting trees and bushes to create an open space environment for the residents to walk and relax.

The LNRS committee is holding a conference on the 3rd October where more information in the strategy will be developed. Cllr M. Austn agreed to attend the conference and report back.

25047 Council Partnerships – A New way of Working together to be discussed

The Councillors received a document in early September detailing a new framework for collaborative working between Parish Councils in Shropshire. The Chair is asking if, as a Parish Council, we would be willing to express our interest in this. At this stage, the Chair feels it would be prudent to understand it a bit better.

The main aim of the new framework states *“This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made between Shropshire Council and the Local Council to establish a framework for improved collaborative working on service delivery, to explore the potential for the Local Council to take on additional responsibilities in response to budgetary pressures faced by Shropshire Council and to recognise that such services may often be effectively delivered by the organisation with strong understanding of local needs. This is a non-legally binding arrangement with a mutually agreed approach, ensuring flexibility in alignment with evolving local government structures.”*

Cllr Tom Dainty confirmed that Shropshire Council has written to all Parish Councils and 90 have already confirmed they are interested in signing or have signed.

All Councillors were in agreement that the memorandum of understanding should be signed.

25048 Planning:

a) to adopt already submitted response to the following application, as circulated to Councillors prior to meeting;

None received

b) Decisions: to acknowledge all planning decisions made between 14th July and 8th September 2025.

i) Reference: 25/00752/FUL

Address: Sandyford Farm, Audlem Road, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire

Proposal: Erection of an agricultural roundhouse livestock building

Decision: Permission Granted.

The Chair added that the bungalow development on Irelands Cross is due to have Ireland Cross crossroads temporarily closed. The Chair has pushed back and refuted this. This matter has been going back and forth for several months now. These road works will be commencing in late September using traffic lights and only a single lane closed.

The scope of this road closure includes:

- New pavement along London Road
- Cul-de-sac entrance
- Streetlighting
- Pavement/access crossings
- Road markings
- Final resurfacing

The Chair can also confirm that the Section 106 agreement reducing the speed limit to 40mph alongside this new development is being discussed by Shropshire Council. It is also being considered, by way of public consultation making the speed limit 30mph from Ireland Cross to the Knighton Bridge but this is still very early stages.

25049 Grant Application for Additional MSID Sign

The Chair saw information about a grant from the Police and Crime Commissioner for new MSID's (Mobile Speed Indicator Device) and submitted an application suggesting 50/50 funding for the new signs.

The Chair is delighted that the Police and Crime Commissioner agreed to match the funds paid out from the Parish Council's CIL fund and the new signs should be arriving soon.

The site for the new sign have already been agreed and the Chair hopes installation will be prompt.

25035 Finance

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

ii) Date	Recipient	Reason for Payment	Cheque Number	Net Amount	VAT Amount	Power of Expenditure
08.09.2025	Chelsea Burnard	Clerk Salary (July) PAYE Deduction Clerk Salary (Aug) PAYE Deduction Back Dated Pay Rise Back Dated PAYE		£543.84 -£108.80 £631.40 -£126.32 £350.24 -£70.08 £1,220.28	- - - - -	LGA 1972 s. 112 (2) LGA 1972 s. 112 (2) LGA 1972 s. 112 (2) LGA 1972 s. 112 (2) LGA 1972 s. 112 (2) LGA 1972 s. 112 (2)
08.09.2025	Cllr R Goodman	HugoFox Monthly Charge		£23.98	£0.00	LGA 1972 s. 111
08.09.2025	Gary Cooper	Lenghtman Duties	PAID	£240.00	£0.00	HA 1980 s.96
08.09.2025	SALC	Fundamental for Cllr Training Course		£40.00	£0.00	LGA 1972 s.111
08.09.2025	Cllr R Goodman	Storage boxes and stationery		£73.34	£8.33	LGA 1972 s.111
08.09.2025	Gary Cooper	Lengthman Duties		£143.00	£0.00	HA 1980 s.96

Date	Sender	Reason for Receipt	Reference Number	Net Amount	VAT Amount	Power of Expenditure
25.08.2025	Shropshire Council	Environmental Maintenance Grant	3722758	£750.00	£0.00	Local Government Act 1972, s.41 (4) LG Finance Act 1992 s.39

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the payments for September 2025.

b) Councillors to receive bank reconciliation up to month end August 2025.

Closing Bank Balance at 31st August 2025			
Current Account		100.00	
Business Reserve Account	207,712.95		<u>207,812.95</u>

25036 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

To receive a summary of Reports and Correspondence for the period from 14th July to 8th September 2025.

The Clerk has received a 'Town and Parish Council' survey from West Mercia Police and as speeding is considered the top priority in the parish, it was agreed that Cllr C. Hamilton would complete the survey.

An email was received from a broadband provider asking for contacts of people who might want assistance connecting themselves up to fibre. The Chair is aware that he has contacted a few community organisations already as well as Helen Morgan MP so it was felt that the parish council could not offer anything further to him at this stage.

The meeting closed at 10pm.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
13th October 2025

Signed.....(Chair)