

Minutes of Woore Parish Council Meeting



Monday 9th March 2026, 7.30pm, The Victory Hall, Woore

PRESENT:

Cllr R. Goodman (Chair), Cllr C. Hamilton, Cllr M. Austin, Cllr A. Gath, Cllr J. Higgin, Cllr M. Carter and Cllr A. Morrall.

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

PUBLIC:

There were two members of the public present.

25122 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent

Apologies were received from Cllr H. Sweeney due to illness.

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

25123 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.

25124 Open Forum: to last no longer than 15 minutes.

Cllr J. Higgin asked the Chair if the Parish Council could look into purchasing an artificial Christmas tree for Christmas 2026 instead of a real tree that just goes into landfill once the period is over. She suggested the Parish use the large, planted tree in St Leonard Churchyard and put lights on that and then erect the artificial tree every year instead at the Methodist Church. The Chair replied it was certainly something to look into and saw the benefits of a one-off purchase.

Cllr A. Morrall wished to point out to the Chair that he is receiving a large number of spam emails into his new .gov.uk email inbox. All other Councillors agreed they were also receiving a lot. The Chair said that this was unfortunate but very common place when email addresses are in the public domain. She reminded all Councillors to be mindful of any odd requests from her email address and said to always reach out via phone if in doubt.

25125 Approval of the Minutes of the meetings held on 9th February 2026 (Local Government Act 1972, s12p41(1))

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

25126 Matters arising: to cover any matters arising from Minutes referred to in 25125.

The Chair informed Councillors that there are no updates on the sale of the Coopers Arms so believes the purchase is still progressing. She followed up by saying that the Parish Council were putting things in place should the Falcon Inn find its way onto the market, they are ready to submit a business case for buying it as a community asset in the form of a pub allowing residents to use its carpark. Once the Coopers Arms has completed, the Chair will consider contacting the owners of the Falcon Inn directly to bring up the idea of the Parish Council purchasing it.

The Chair is still in the process of getting the three parcels of Parish Council owned land correspondence addresses updated to the village hall in a pursuit of future proofing.

There are no updates on the fibre broadband upgrade. The Chair believes the parish is slowly being upgraded based on reports from residents but can't say which area will be next. She will continue to chase Openreach.

No updates on the purchase of the Manor House to HS2.

All Councillors are now using their new emails without issues. The Clerk is still to archive the old inboxes but will work with the Chair over the coming weeks to do this.

The Chair confirmed that Cllr M. Austin had had communications from NatWest but Cllr A. Gath had not. She will phone NatWest again to try and update the bank signatories.

25127 Shropshire Council Representative Report: for Cllr T. Dainty to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

Cllr T. Dainty was pleased to inform Councillors that Shropshire Council has received £190million from central government to help with the day-to-day operations. This is an overdraft facility and not a loan meaning Shropshire Council will only need to borrow and repay what they need. Cllr M. Carter asked what the interest rate on this overdraft is and Cllr Tom Dainty replied that it will be the Bank of England base rate at time of signing the contract. He added that unfortunately a provision of having access to this money is that Shropshire Council raises council tax by 8.99%. This was not a decision Shropshire Council has taken lightly, and letters have gone out to residents.

Cllr M. Carter reminded Cllr Tom Dainty that the Parish Council has kept its precept the same again this year as it has done the previous six years. Cllr Tom Dainty replied that in previous years, Shropshire Council hasn't raised it that much which is partly why the council is in the financial situation it is in, and he hopes that Shropshire Council will not need to raise it by anywhere near this much again.

Cllr Tom Dainty informed Councillors that while most of this additional funding will be spent on adult social care, a lot will be spent on road repairs and county improvements and he looks forward to seeing the improvements Shropshire Council make.

In terms of Woore specific news, Cllr Tom Dainty informed Councillors that the 20mph speed limit reduction outside of Woore school is still being worked on but he reassured Councillors that it is still going to happen and hopes it will be within the next 12 months. Cllr Tom Dainty is speaking to Simon D'Vali at Shropshire Council and hopes he will be able to provide a more accurate time frame.

The planning enforcement issues at the Irelands Cross development are being taken seriously. A case is being built and Cllr Tom Dainty hopes action will be taken shortly. He encourages residents to continue sending him their photos and evidence, especially of parking offences. Dave Walker at Shropshire Council is aware of the issues.

The blue badge policy at Shropshire Council has been changed to allow more time for holders to renew their badges as well as granting them a 12-week grace period after their current badge has expired. Shropshire Council have also hired an additional person to work on the backlog.

The Chair thanked Cllr Tom Dainty for his work of getting the parish grit bins filled up during the snow a few months ago.

25128 Committee and Representatives Reports: for Councillors/representatives to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

Cllr A. Gath, Cllr M. Austin and Cllr C. Hamilton took part in planting a vast quantity of the tree saplings, which had been delivered to the Chair, on the parish council owned land on Newcastle Road. These saplings were planted in the hope some would take root and survive. There are still a lot of saplings to be planned but some planning will be needed before these can be planted as the Parish Council hope the land

will be used in the near future by residents but are unsure for what purpose. There were quite a few oak tree saplings which were donated to Dorothy Clive as it was felt they would grow too big for the land.

Cllr C. Hamilton has not been out with the community speed watch recently due to the weather, but he hopes to be out soon. He has sent the Chair the data collected from the MVAS's, and this will form part of the next parish Council newsletter.

He believes there is still an issue with the Cherry Tree Lane MVAS so will follow that up with the supplier.

The next Chairmans meeting is the 25th March so there are no updates yet.

No activity or issues have been raised about the parish footpaths or PROW. The Chair has received a few requests for maps from parishioners and has now got less than 10 left which she will bring to the APM in April.

Woore Victory Hall side roofs are in need of significant repair following the winter storms (The servery is in need of refurbishment, and the rear fire door has recently been replaced. (see agenda item ref 25130 - CIL funding)

The regular Village Hall events are taking place as follows:

Film nights -

11th April – The Salt Path

9th May – A Royal Night Out

6th June – Heretic

Coffee afternoons -

20th March (Village Hall Week), 17th April, 22nd May and 19th June.

The Hall AGM is on 18th May.

25129 Woore & District Horticultural Society (The Produce Show) Grant Application

The Woore Produce show has applied for £300 to help them host their 2026 show. This money would go towards items like tablecloths, labels and room hire

The Chair could not vote due to invested interest as she volunteers at the produce show however all other Councillors **were in agreement** that £300 be granted to The Woore Produce show.

25130 Woore Victory Hall CIL Funding Application (Place Plan 2281)

The Chair informed Councillors that the roof of the village hall has been leaking recently due to the heavy rain and the flat roof.

The Village Hall have not formally submitted an application yet but will be in the near future. The Chair wanted to make all Councillors aware of this. This application is on Woore's place plan so has been preapproved as expenditure from the CIL pot.

Cllr M. Carter asked how much the application will be for and the Chair replied that the quotes have not come back yet however it is believed that the roof joins, flashing, and beams all need replacing as well as some additional roof lights installing.

The Chair asked if all Councillors were happy with this grant being submitted in the near future for review. All **were in agreement**.

25131 Woore Bowls Club Grant Application

Woore Bowls club has submitted an application for £10,434 for a new bowls green automated irrigation system to allow for a better quality green that will survive the summer droughts.

A discussion was had and although this application is for CIL funds and is on the place plan, it was felt that given the lack of matched funds sought and the fact that the CIL finds might be needed elsewhere and be of more benefit for more of the community, the Chair suggested the Parish Council fund half of the applied for

grant. She will communicate with the Bowls club over the coming weeks and keep Councillors updated.

25132 Planning:

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

The Chair updated Councillors that there was only one application that the Parish Council had responded to in the last month which was 26/00251/REM - Approval of reserved matters (appearance, layout and scale) - Phase 2b Station Yard Pipe Gate. It was agreed that the Parish Council would object to Phase 2A in February's meeting. As Phase 2B has actioned the concerns raised in the objection the Chair felt like we couldn't object again so it was approved to be a neutral submission.

Comments were submitted as below -

"Woore Parish Council welcome the addition of 2 bedroom properties to phase 2b of this development, as well as maintaining some of the 3 bedroom properties as planned in 22/01789/OUT. Our comments to phase 2a stand and we note the comments of SC affordable housing team for both applications. The Parish is in need of more affordable housing as identified in our Neighbourhood Plan Big Questionnaire results and today this is even more the case.

We also note the request to change the public open space (POS) contribution to an offsite contribution, our preference would be option A (on the adjacent housing site off Priory Manor) in line with our Neighbourhood Plan policies COM1 and COM2. If such provision could require maintenance of and access to the PROW to the rear of the Station Yard development it would be welcomed.

We request that our comments for both phase 2a and 2 b be considered together."

b) Decisions: to acknowledge all planning decisions made between 9th February and 8th March 2026.
None

25133 Shropshire Council potential devolved services list to be discussed

Cllr A. Gath and the Clerk attended a meeting in February regarding the Memorandum of Understanding that Woore Parish Council signed in the hopes of being given further information about the devolved services from Shropshire Council. A number of local parishes have been meeting up to discuss and gain contacts with the view they could gain economies of scale when it comes to hiring tradespeople and equipment.

Cllr A. Gath summarised the meeting by saying that not of the parishes, whether they have signed or not, really understand what is being asked of them.

The collective have decided to complete a form detailing what services Shropshire Council currently do in their parishes and what they wish Shropshire Council did in their parishes. Once all the local parishes have completed this, it is thought that we could present it to Shropshire Council, along with estimates of pricing and possibly request a grant or additional funding to be able to continue to carry out the work at less expense to Shropshire Council.

The Clerk will complete and return the form and keep Councillors updated on any progress.

25134 Committee reps, Projects and Policies Update/Review for 2026/27

The Chair has produced a list of all the committees and their council representatives and circulated it to all Councillors. The aim of this is to give Councillors a chance to volunteer to committees, especially the new Councillors.

Cllr M. Carter suggested having an annual meet up going forward to make sure all policies are up to date and councillors are happy being representatives. The Chair thought this was a good idea.

25135 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
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09.02.2026	Chelsea Burnard	Clerk Salary (Feb) PAYE Deduction		£631.20 -£126.20	- -	LGA 1972 s. 112 (2) LGA 1972 s. 112 (2)
		Expenses – Milk – Milage –		£1.20 £8.10 <u>£514.30</u>	£0.00	LGA 1980 s. 96 LGA 1980 s. 96
09.02.2026	Woore Victory Hall	Room Hire 2026 Q1		£184.00	£0.00	HA 1980 s. 96

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the payments for March 2026 as well as the additional cheque for Woore produce show of £300 as agreed earlier in the meeting.

The Chair also asked if Councillors would be happy paying the Parish lenthmans, so he doesn't have to wait until May. His invoice for March is £160. All **were in agreement**.

ii) Councillors to receive bank reconciliation up to month end February 2026.

Closing Bank Balance at 28th February 2026			
Current Account	100.00		
Business Reserve Account	201,681.28	201,781.28	
Less unpresented Cheques			
Cheque 002092	(11.99)		
Cheque 002097	(506.20)		
Cheque 002099	(193.80)		
Cheque 002100	(240.00)		
Cheque 002101	(19,377.72)		
Cheque 002102	(1,161.41)		
Cheque 002104	(7,176.00)		
Cheque 002105	(420.00)		
	172,694.16		
Split as follows			
Closing Balances			
CIL Neighbourhood Fund	89,391.83		
General Fund	83,302.33	172,694.16	-

25136 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

The Clerk informed Councillors that she has received a few complaints recently from residents regarding pavement parking. She has posted on social media reminding residents that, if parking on the pavement, a wheelchair or double pushchair must be able to get past without dropping onto the road.

Cllr Tom Dainty stated that illegal parking is a police issue. If drivers do not take note, it might be worth forwarding the photos and emails over to West Mercia Police.

The meeting closed at 9pm.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

13th April 2026 (Annual Parish Meeting) and 11th May 2026 (Annual Council Meeting)