

Minutes of Woore Annual Parish Council Meeting

Monday 9th September 2024, 7.30pm, The Victory Hall, Woore



PRESENT:

Cllr M. Cowey (Chairman), Cllr R. Goodman (Vice Chair), Cllr M. Carter, Cllr C. Hamilton, Cllr J. Higgin, 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, one of whom was co-opted as a Parish Councillor in agenda item 24056.

24050 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent

Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr M. Blake due to illness.

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

24051 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.

24052 Requests for Dispensations of DPIs None received.

24053 Open Forum: to last no longer than 15 minutes

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

No Councillors had any matters to discuss.

The Chair thanked the Woore & District Produce Show Committee and attendees held at the start of September. It was well attended and is a great village event.

The Chair informed Councillors that the defibs are now on an annual maintenance plan so will be maintained regularly.

24054 Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th July 2024 (Local Government Act 1972, s12p41(1)).

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held 8th July 2024.

24055 Matters arising: to cover any matters arising from Minutes referred to in 24054.

The Chair updated Councillors that he is still to receive a response from Shropshire Council regarding the flooding on Dorrington Lane. Cllr R. Aldcroft will provide the Chair with a new contact.

The Chair has received a response from the Outdoor Partnership team that due to budget constraints and colleague illnesses, they are experiencing delays, but they assured him that the paths within the parish are still on the departments to do list.

The upgraded puffin crossing outside the school is fantastic and The Chair hopes it will improve safety for the residents. The school is to hold a session to teach their children how to use it.

The public footpath 0236361 which was blocked by the growing of maize in the field has been resolved.

The parish notice board by St Leonards play area is being adopted by the Clerk who will manage the displaying of community notices. She will purchase a laminator instead of a new plastic covering and promote things of interest to the community.

The fibre broadband upgrade is on track and is going to be available to premises in late October/November. Robert Rowan from Openreach will be attending our Parish meeting in December to update in person.

24056 Co-Option of new Councillor – Maddie Austin

It was unanimously resolved to approve the co-option of Madaline Austin.

The 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' form was duly read out and signed by Cllr. M Austin and The Clerk. The Clerk will submit all additional paperwork required.

24057 Shropshire Council Representative Report: for Cllr R. Aldcroft to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

Due to the month holiday undertaken by councils in August, there was not much to update Councillors on. Cllr R. Aldcroft did inform councillors that the new on demand bus scheme trialled in Shropshire is going well and he is continuing to request an on-demand bus service between Norton-on-Hales, Woore and Market Drayton.

The new bin charges are coming into force from 1st October alongside the new booking system to use the local recycling centres. Residents will now need to book a slot when they wish to visit the recycling centre. This will allow Shropshire Council to manage staffing levels and opening times - saving money.

Shropshire Council will be reviewing the resources they keep in storage for local schools (books and visual aids) in the hopes of moving them to a smaller premises.

The County Councils main focus remains on making savings. The council has made £32 million in saving but another £62 million is needed.

The sector costing the most is adult and child social care which currently costs £130million and £52 million respectively which is an increase of 83% in childcare costs since 2020.

If the savings are not made by the council themselves, His Majesty's Government will be appointed and will cut all services that the Council is not legally obligated to maintain so it's vital that residents support Shropshire during this time when measures like the recycling centres booking slots come into force.

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 Chair reminded Cllr R. Aldcroft about the missing 30mph sign on Newcastle Road.

There is still no programme available for the roadworks taking place on the A51 and A525. The proposed road closure at Irelands Cross for three weeks is now on hold.

The extension of the 40mph zone to include the new housing development at Irelands Cross is not getting any responses from Shropshire Council.

The Chair has once again written to Shropshire Council about the CIL money for the development on London Road. The automated response said the department is very busy and will respond within 21 days however it has been 35 days. The Chair asked Cllr R. Aldcroft to follow up on all these matters.

Cllr J. Higgin asked Cllr R. Aldcroft about the Manor Bed and whether we have any authority over this as it is impacting on the public footpath. The Chair informed Cllr R. Aldcroft that the land is owned by Shropshire Council however the fence which needs repairing is privately owned.

A resident quickly raised a point that a bus to Madeley from Woore (not the school bus) would be useful because people can get a bus from Madeley into Newcastle if needed.

23058 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: 24/03014/FUL

(Validated 13th August 2024)
Crewe.

Address: Wisteria Cottage, 1 Newcastle Road, Woore,

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

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

b) **Decisions:** to acknowledge all planning decisions made between 11th June and 8th July 2024.

i) Reference: 24/02495/FUL

Address: Woore Cricket Club, London Road, Woore, Shropshire

Proposal: Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension

Decision: **Permission Granted**

ii) Reference: 24/02523/FUL

Address: Budleigh Cottage, Gravenhunger Lane, Woore, Shropshire, CW3 9RF

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

Decision: **Permission Granted**

The Chair added that the Shropshire Street naming team have decided on the naming of the new development on London Road.

They have concluded that the development, thanks to the suggestion from the Parish Council, will be Weston Way. The Chair thanked Peter Roberts for his research.

24059 Committee and Representatives Reports: for Councillors/representatives to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

a) All reports as required;

Cllr R. Goodmand sent the following report - "*September 2024:*

Bookings continue to be stable and regular hirers have been maintained. As usual there has been a dip in August bookings.

Films – 14th September, 12th October, 9th November, 11th January 2025, 8th Feb, 8th March.

Café – 27 September, 25th October, 22 November, 24th January 2025, 21 Feb, 21 March.

Christmas Quiz – 7th December 2024

Barn Dance – 12th April 2025

LED lighting was installed in June, the committee are grateful to the Parish Council for the quick payment from CIL funds.

During the summer quieter period, a number of maintenance jobs have been completed by volunteers including painting, car park vegetation clearing and brass polishing. We have a volunteer from the community doing their DofE."

Cllr C. Hamilton updated Councillors on the Community Speed Watch.

The team has been out and were joined by the Police.

Newcastle Road remains the worst place for speeders. The team have also been in Pipe Gate however no speeders were caught.

The Chair is pleased that West Mercia Police are supporting the Speed Watch team.

The Chairman's meeting was held on 24th July 2024. The next meeting is the 18th of September however The Chair will be on holiday and requested Cllr R. Goodman take his place. She agreed.

The Chair informed Councillors that the Parish council has applied for 420 saplings from The Woodland Trust. If successful, these will be planted throughout the parish. They will be sent out in March 2025 and residents will be consulted once the application is progressed.

A number of residents have tackled their overgrown hedges in response to the letters sent out from the Parish Council. However, there is still a few of concern.

Cllr R. Goodman has taken on a project to produce a notice board/map showing where the Parish's popular footpaths are. It is believed this will help residents new and old to explore the Parish.

24060 British Legion Donation to be agreed.

The Chair has ordered the usual order number of five wreaths for the Parish to celebrate Remembrance Day. Last year the Parish Council donated £150 for these wreaths however the British Legion now has to charge VAT on its products and therefore The Chair suggested the Parish increase their donation to £150 plus VAT (£180 inclusive) to cover this cost as we can reclaim VAT so it won't affect our finances. It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the expenditure of £180.00

24061 WI bench request to be discussed

Cllr R. Goodman informed councillors that the Woore WI wants to purchase a bench for the Village Green. The WI will cover the cost of the bench and the installation of it however as it is Parish Council land, they need permission.

The Woore WI will consult with residents before final plans are submitted. It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the bench.

24062 Winter Planting Proposal by Cllr. J Higgin

The main focus are the planters at the entrance to Woore on the A51 from Ireland's Cross that were smashed during the road closure. This needs to be fixed however a resident has suggested pots instead and offered to maintain them.

Cllr J. Higgin suggested putting two planters at the Woore/Market Drayton turning however she would need to find a volunteer to look after them. Councillors would not object to more planters as there is scope in the budget but do not want them dying and going to waste.

Cllr J. Higgin is to organise the planting with expenditure within budget approved.

24063 Christmas Tree Proposal and Arrangement

Cllr J. Higgin proposed a 10ft Christmas tree to be erected towards the end of November. Final costs will be shared once received but initial quotes were very reasonable.

However, there is still an issue regarding the electrics and the Christmas tree lights.

Cllr J. Higgin is to get the Parish Lengthsman to check the connection for the lights in September to ensure it works and is health and safety compliant.

The Chair proposed that as long as the expenditure is within budget (£400) Cllr J. Higgin can spend what she needs to ensure a good Christmas display.

24064 Campaign to Protect Rural England Membership Request

The Chair informed Councillors that this was a charity organisation that can help communities to protect their rural places. They help by offering legal advice on planning applications, by lobbying local MP's and by providing residents with information about the benefits of their rural spaces. They also help to ensure new developments have green credentials.

The price of membership (which is a charity donation) is £60 per year and could be invaluable given the changes in planning law due to come in in the future and Shropshire's Neighbourhood Plan.

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the annual membership for Woore Parish Council for one year and to review the usefulness of the membership in 2025.

24065 Cllr. R Goodman to inform Councillors of the gov.uk Domain Change

As the first layer of Government, the Parish Council should really have domains of Gov.uk for websites and emails, however this has never been enforced. The Gov.co.uk domains are managed by the Government so can not be purchased by any organisation like other domains (including the current .Org) and all the data is stored in line with all Government data so would be compliant with data protection and accessibility requirements.

Cllr R. Goodman will continue to research and get prices but all Councillors agreed this is a good change and worth investing time into to ensure its done correctly and with the Governments support. The Clerk will purchase on the Councils behalf.

24066 Councillors to discuss and agree Village Green.

Cllr M. Carter asked whether there was any possibility to increase the grass cutting on the Village Green and maintain the hedges more. The Chair informed him that two cuttings per year is sufficient especially as it is new grass around the edge however it can be included in the budget for FY 2024/25 for another additional grass and hedge cut at the start of spring as long as the Contractor be mindful of nesting birds.

The Clerk is to source somebody to paint the Village Green shelter and possibly the two benches on London Road before winter.

24067 Place Plan Update including new MVAS's.

The Chair informed Councillors that after a meeting held with himself, the Clerk and Cllr R. Goodman we now have reference numbers for all our projects.

Residents can view all of Woore Parish Council submitted place plan projects here - <https://next.shropshire.gov.uk/place-plans/place-plans/>

Now these have been approved, Woore Parish Council can use the money that has been sitting in the CIL Neighbourhood fund (see below Bank Rec – Agenda item 24068) to pay for larger projects around the Parish, including new LED lights at the village Hall and the new Speed Indicator Devices.

The Chair has applied to use the CIL funding to purchase initially 3 MVAS's which are to be located at the “hot spots” of where speeding is currently occurring and monitor these prior any further expenditure. The locations are:

- Entrance to Parish (Cherry Tree Lane) only entrance not covered currently.
- On the A525 Newcastle Road close to St Leonards Estate entrance and facing traffic leaving Woore.
- One on the A51 northwards on approach to Woore School. The Speed Signs will, where possible, be solar powered.

The estimated cost will be circa £6,000 each including delivery.

These MVAS's are included on the Woore Parish Place Plan (Ref Item 1324) and in a recent remote meeting with the Place Plan Officer of SC are eligible for funding from CIL monies current included in the Parish Council Neighbourhood CIL Fund.

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the expenditure from the CIL fund for the new MVAS's.

24068 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
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09.08.2024	Chelsea Burnard	Clerk Salary (July month): Gross Pay - Income Tax deduction Expenses - Biscuits and Milk	PAID 1979	£530.64 -£106.20 <u>£5.56</u> <u>£430.00</u>	- - 	LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2)
09.08.2024	Bernard Townson	Internal Audit for 2023/2024	PAID 1980	£200.00	£0.00	LGA 1972 s.111
09.08.2024	Tony Seabridge	Grass Cutting May – July 2024	PAID 1981	£640.00	£128.00	HA 1980 s. 96
09.08.2024	Shaping Cloud	Microsoft 365 Standard 12 Month Subscription	PAID 1982	£535.20	£107.04	LGA 1972 s.111
09.08.2024	Commercial Play LTD	Completion of Gym Equipment Move	PAID 1983	£2,950.50	£642.60	HA 1980 s.96
09.09.2024	Fresh Air Fitness	Outdoor Gym Equipment Repair	PAID 1984	£212.70	£42.54	HA 1980 s.96
09.09.2024	Chelsea Burnard	Clerk Salary (Aug month): Gross Pay - Income Tax deduction	PAID 1985	£530.64 -£106.20 <u>£424.44</u>	- - 	LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2)
09.09.2024	Woore Victory Hall	Room Hire 2024 Q3	PAID 1986	£104.00	£0.00	LGA 1972 s.134 (4)
09.09.2024	Defib4Life	Maintenance Check	PAID 1987	£150.00	£30.00	HA 1980 s.96

b) Bank reconciliation:

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

Closing Bank Balance at 31st August 2024			
Current Account	100.00		
Business Reserve Account	198,042.81	198,142.81	
Less unpresented Cheques			
Cheque 001959		(200.00)	
Cheque 001972		(270.00)	
Cheque 001982		(642.24)	
		197,030.57	
Split as follows			
Closing Balances			
Recreational fund	216.75		
CIL Neighbourhood Fund	119,583.35		
General Fund	77,230.47	197,030.57	-

24069 Clerk's Report and Correspondence: To receive a summary of Reports and Correspondence for the period from 9th July 2024 to 9th September 2024.

The Clerk updated the Councillors that the external audit is progressing, and queries are being dealt with promptly when received. The deadline for final accounts sign off is 30th September so by the next meeting, there will be a formal report to share.

The Clerk will produce a full 6-month summary of accounts to the Councillors for October's meeting showing the half year position.

The Clerk informed Councillors that the interest rate on our bank account will be reducing in October 2024. The Chair stated that we are still happy with the rate so would not be worth switching. However, he reminded The Clerk that online banking still needs resolving to give us access.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Parish Council Meeting 14th October 2024, 7.30pm.

Signed.....(Chair)