



Minutes of Woore Parish Council Meeting

Monday 14th September 2026, 7.30pm, The Victory Hall, Woore

PRESENT:

Cllr R. Goodman (Chair), Cllr M. Austin, Cllr J. Higgin, Cllr H. Sweeney, Cllr A. Gath, Cllr A. Morrall, Cllr S. Connor and Cllr J. McDouall

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs H. Jackson (Clerk to the Council)

PUBLIC:

There were 10-12 members of the public present.

26042 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent

Apologies were received from Cllr M. Carter due to a clash with the monthly NSAC meeting, and Cllr Tom Dainty with no reason given. It was unanimously **resolved** to accept the apologies.

26043 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).

Cllr A. Gath, Cllr S. Conner and Cllr J. McDouall all disclosed an interest re. item 26050i. It was agreed that they would remove themselves from the meeting during the discussion.

The Chair encouraged Cllr Sweeney to return her online DPI form.

26044 Appointment of New Clerk

The Chair confirmed the appointment of Helen Jackson as Clerk and thanked Chelsea Burnard for her services, wishing her well for the future. It was noted that a handover was underway and the Chair requested patience whilst Helen settles into the role. It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the appointment.

26045 Open Forum: to last no longer than 15 minutes.

It was noted that no representative from Woore CBS Company was in attendance.

A resident noted concern over the erection of fencing around ancient woodland on Dorrington Lane. The industrial style fencing is 6ft in height, requiring planning permission (no planning application has been submitted), and is encroaching on the verges which are not land purchased in the recent sale of the woodland. The fence is approximately 100 ft long and restricts access to the driveway of Dorrington Hall Farm. The resident, and others, have reported the issue to Shropshire Council enforcement with no response. The Chair committed to doing the same and to include Cllr Dainty in correspondence.

A resident requested confirmation of adoption of Grove Crescent by the management company, noting that this was previously confirmed in meeting minutes July 2021 but is currently under disagreement. The chair agreed to confirm this is writing to the resident.

A resident requested a response to an enquiry regarding ownership of the land adjacent to Grove Crescent, to which the Chair noted that she believed it to be with the land registry and committed to respond in full via email.

A resident queried if the Parish Council has a plan to protect the parish from any potential migrant accommodation plan enforced by central/local government. The Chair confirmed that this is not something in place currently and that the council will seek advice from County level.

A resident reported a dying Sycamore tree on Audlem Road. The Chair confirmed that Shropshire Council has visited the Parish recently, reporting several issues to local residents. The Chair committed to reporting this issue.

Cllr Connor noted the overhanging trees on Candle Lane/Moat Lane remain a concern given their proximity to the chimney of one of the houses. The Chair agreed to chase this issue with Shropshire Council.

The Chair provided the following update on items actioned since the July meeting;



- Openreach works for Full Fibre now complete
- BT digital switch over – 2/3 households require intervention. A BT employee living in the parish will reach out directly to provide support to those residents.
- No littering signs have been placed on litterbins around the parish and all bins were emptied and refurbished by The Chair.
- The glass screen on the parish noticeboard is broken. The Chair has sought a quote for a £190 perspex replacement. Cllrs agreed for the Chair/Clerk to progress this work.
- Parish Council archives at Woore Victory Hall now sorted and stored. Will require a more permanent storage solution for community preserves (e.g. photos, documents dating back decades).
- Equipment has been purchased for the litter picking volunteers, to be expensed by the Chair.
- Produce Show celebrates its 60th year - the Chair congratulated all involved for their hard work.
- Congratulations to the Methodist Church, celebrating its 150th year on 19th September.
- Cllr Carter and Cllr Connor committed to review and circulate comments regarding the Local Plan: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping Report, ahead of the October consultation deadline.

26046 Approval of the Minutes of the meetings held on 13th July 2026 (Local Government Act 1972, s12p41(1))

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

26047 Matters arising: to cover any matters arising from Minutes referred to in 26046.

The Chair noted that Florets has confirmed that the sale of The Cooper's Arms is progressing.

It was confirmed that the footpath joining Nantwich Road and Audlem Road is now open, noting that Shropshire Council confirmed it safe, with a revisit to take place to check the wall again in the future.

Shropshire Transport Consultation meeting attendance thwarted by failed meeting link. Follow up information will be shared in due course.

Cllr Austin confirmed works on Newcastle Road land to trim and mow now complete, and trees arriving soon ready for planting.

The Chair reported that the lengthsman had undertaken the strimming of weeds on the path from Newcastle Road into the Church yard. The Chair also confirmed that the Parish Council writes to residents yearly to encourage maintenance of the overhanging trees along the Swan to Audlem Road footpath

The Chair confirmed that an historic metal road sign, donated to the Parish Council by a resident, has been collected and will be moved to Woore Victory Hall for safe keeping.

26048 Shropshire Council Representative Report: for Cllr T. Dainty to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

Cllr Tom Dainty provided the following report via the Chair;

1. Bus surveys distributed across the parish and are now being returned. Will provide an update in due course.
2. Cllr Dainty plans to attend the Planning Hearing at the beginning of October for the Land South of Audlem Road.

26049 Committee and Representatives Reports: for Councillors/representatives to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

Cllr Austin reported that the trees planted on Newcastle Road land continue to thrive and that to support nature recovery, planting some native wildflowers was recommended. Cllrs shared no objection to this suggestion.

Cllr Morrall reported having done a full walk of all footpaths in the parish, making 5 reports to Shropshire Council for required works and 1 further report via social media. He noted that making a request in the Parish magazine for people to reach out with any concerns may be advisable. It was reported that the path joining the Swan apartments and Audlem Road needs work and that the lengthsman could be instructed to take a look.

Cllr McDouall referred to the MVAS data report shared ahead of the meeting, reporting an increase in traffic to circa 8000 cars on days when the M6 is closed. Furthermore, speeds between 70-80mph were recorded on the MVAS outside of the school.

Cllr Hamilton confirmed he will resume responsibility for the MVAS battery charging with immediate effect and thanked Cllrs for their support whilst he had been unwell.



Cllr Connor referred to the Fix My Street report shared ahead of the meeting, noting 10no drainage and flooding issues (many caused by weeds in grids), litter bins overflowing and pot holes as the primary concerns.

The Chair noted that the Woore Victory Hall film and café afternoons have resumed and that the work undertaken over the summer on the kitchen and roof were successful, with thanks to the Parish Council grant.

The Chair confirmed that the next SALC Chairman's Network meeting will take place 30th September.

The Clerk confirmed the notice for works on Audlem Road had been shared on social media.

26050 Planning:

a) to adopt comments in response to the following applications, as circulated to Councillors prior to meeting;

- i) Reference: 26/02788/FUL
Address: Woore County Primary School, London Road, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire CW3 9SQ
Proposal: Nursery extension to east facing elevation

It was unanimously **resolved** to accept the comments made via delegated powers, prior to the meeting, as follows.

Neutral: Woore Parish Council welcome the development of Woore Primary school for nursery provision and support this growth overall. However, we note the objection by a resident about the specific location of the development on the site which has not been addressed in the proposal by Woore Primary School.

The Chair noted that the application decision was published 14th September 2026: Decision: Grant Permission

b) To discuss Planning Appeal;

- i) Reference: 26/03487/REF (Planning reference: 25/03245/OUT)
Address: Land South Audlem Road, Woore, Shropshire,
Proposal: Outline Application for 65No. dwellings to include means of access Outline Application for 65No. dwellings to include means of access | Land South Audlem Road Woore Shropshire

Cllr Gath, Cllr Conner and Cllr McDouall left the meeting at this stage due to disclosed pecuniary interests, rejoining at the end of the discussion.

The Chair noted her intention to attend the planning hearing alongside Cllr Dainty and asked Councillors to comment on any specific points that they felt should be noted on behalf of the Parish Council (recognising that the Parish Council's objection to the application would be the basis of the report). Councillors felt an emphasis on the lack of infrastructure, transport and amenities were a significant point, alongside the lack of adherence to the Woore Neighbourhood Plan.

c) Decisions: to acknowledge all planning decisions made between 14th July and 10th September 2026

No applications were noted, except for that in item 26050i.

26051 Christmas – Sub Committee

It was unanimously **resolved** to make available the option of a up to £750 Christmas grant, to aid the erection of a Christmas tree and decorations outside Woore Methodist and St. Leonards Church, with no need for a sub-committee. The Chair agreed to contact both Church groups, to encourage an application ahead of the November meeting. It was noted that this would replace the Parish Council sourcing and erecting the Christmas tree in future.

26052 Social Media Policy – Agree or Defer to Sub-Committee

The Chair referred to the draft social media policy shared ahead of the meeting. Discussion took place, with all Councillors making comment. It was suggested that the policy include that if any Councillor should become aware of inappropriate behaviour/comments made online by any fellow Councillor, the concern should be reported to the Chair and Clerk immediately for appropriate action to be taken in line with the Code of Conduct. It was agreed that



the Clerk would review the draft policy prior to adoption and the item deferred to the October meeting, with a preference for no sub-committee.

26053 Finance

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

Date	Recipient	Reason for Payment	Cheque /Online ID #	Net Amount	VAT Amount	Power of Expenditure
10.09.2026	Chelsea Burnard	Clerk Salary (July) PAYE Deduction Clerk Salary (August) PAYE Deduction Expenses – Stamps	PAID 1488398897 £1,018.36	£631.84 -£126.40 £631.84 -£126.20 £7.28 <u>£1,018.36</u>	- - - - £0.00	LGA 1972 s. 112 (2) LGA 1972 s. 112 (2) LGA 1972 s. 112 (2) LGA 1972 s. 112 (2) LGA 1980 s. 96
10.09.2026	Woore Methodist Chapel	CIL Funding Application – Baby and Toddler Group	PAID 1476212420 £500.00	£500.00	£0.00	LGA 1972 s.137
10.09.2026	Zurich Insurance	Insurance May 26 –April 27 – Cheque cancelled to be reissued/paid online	PAID 1485754041 £649.67	£649.67	£0.00	L23GA 1972 s.143
10.09.2026	Rachel Goodman	Expenses Ladder (MVAS) Stationery & Signs Archive boxes	PAID 1476212952 £206.49	£75.00 £10.77 £62.30 £24.16	£15.00 £2.16 £12.27 £4.83	LGA 1980 s.96
10.09.2026	G Cooper Garden Care Services	Lengthsman duties (July)	PAID 1474499193 £410.00	£410.00	£0.00	LGA 1972 s.111
16.09.2026	G Cooper Garden Care Services	Lengthsman duties (August)	PAID 1487385389 £160.00	£160.00	£0.00	LGA 1972 s.111
16.09.2026	Woore Victory Hall	Room hire 2026 Q3 June, Aug(2no), Sept Storage Apr,May,Jun	PAID 1487385949 £154.00	£154.00	£0.00	HA 1972 s.96

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve all the payments above.

ii) Councillors to confirm CIL funding Application for Methodist Chapel Baby & Toddler Group as circulated prior to the meeting.

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve a CIL Funded grant of £500 for the Methodist Chapel Baby & Toddler Group, as circulated prior to the meeting. The grant is match funded a project identified in the place plan. It was



noted that the payment was made via online banking, prior to the meeting, following unanimous agreement of all Councillors via email.

iii) Councillors to receive bank reconciliation to date / last statement

The Chair noted that the newly appointed Clerk does not yet have online banking access and that bank reconciliation would be reported at the October meeting.

iv) Clerk & RFO Pension - to resolve to offer LGPS membership to the Clerk & RFO (Helen Jackson).

It was unanimously **resolved** that the Parish Council, as a Designating Body under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations, designates the post of Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer as eligible for membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme with effect from 7th September and that the Clerk be authorised to notify the administering authority and complete the necessary documentation.

The Clerk agreed to take the appropriate steps to administer the pension.

26054 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

The Clerk confirmed that due to change of Clerk, all correspondence for the period 14th July to 10th September had been handled by the Chair and covered in earlier reports.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING(S)
12th October 2026 and 9th November 2026