Minutes of Woore Parish Council Meeting

Monday 12th October 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, Cllr M. Carter and Cllr J. McDouall

IN ATTENDANCE:
Cllr T. Dainty (Shropshire Council), Mrs H. Jackson (Clerk to the Council)

PUBLIC:
There were 9 members of the public present.

26055 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent
Apologies were received from Cllr C. Hamilton due to illness. It was unanimously **resolved** to accept the apologies.

26056 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 Sweeney confirmed the return of her online DPI form.

26057 Open Forum: to last no longer than 15 minutes.
A resident noted a visit from the Shropshire Council Enforcement team regarding the fence on Rookery Wood, which the resident estimated is 90% on highways land. Cllr Dainty noted recruitment into the enforcement team and access to land registry information that is not available to the public.

A resident raised speeding, specifically in the 40mph stretch in Irelands Cross to Pipe Gate. Cllr McDouall provided an explanation of the information available from the MVAS data and reassurance that she will answer any direct resident enquiries related to this, noting that from 12th October data is available on the Parish Council website.

A resident reported that bulbs are out above the highway's signs on both sides of the road heading to Woore from Pipe Gate. Cllr Connor to report on FMS.

A resident reported the grids in Pipe Gate are full of litter and weeds. It was noted that these are already reported on FMS and would be chased. Cllr Dainty noted that the Shropshire Council gully teams have relaunched and are now facing a backlog following the period they were paused as it was previously determined to be non-essential maintenance.

A resident noted the state of the pavements all the way through the parish, heading from Woore to Pipe Gate, including very high grass, weeds and covered paths. It was noted that this would be reported on FMS. The Chair agreed to look into the issue to determine if there is anything the Parish groundsman or lengthsman can support, noting that this is the responsibility of Shropshire Council and the need to be mindful of health and safety.

A resident reported two signs have fallen in the verge / vegetation in Pipe Gate. Cllr Connor to report on FMS.

A resident reported a broken base on the fire hydrant on the slip road in Pipe Gate. Cllr Connor to report on FMS.

A resident addressed the recent activity on social media related to a resident's proposal for the Coopers Arms to become a community run pub. They clarified that the proposal had derived from a genuine desire to ensure the building remains an asset for the community and that the speculation that it is a scam is false. The Chair clarified that the Parish Council is unable to get involved with the project at this stage but would follow the matter with interest.

26058 Approval of the Minutes of the meetings held on 14th September 2026 (Local Government Act 1972, s12p41(1))

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the minutes for the meeting, noting Cllr McDouall to replace Cllr Goodman in relation to the reporting of the Sycamore tree on Audlem road. Also, Cllr Goodman to replace Cllr Austin in reporting of the trees on Newcastle road.

26059 Matters arising: to cover any matters arising from Minutes referred to in 26058.

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

- Dorrington Lane Fence: To be covered later in the meeting, item 26062d.
- Grove Crescent: The Chair received confirmation from Shropshire Council's Developing Highways Manager, that phase 2 of Grove Crescent (the "Evens" side) is adopted, and they have confirmed this in writing to the resident. The other matter regarding the adjacent land, Land Registry information has been communicated to the resident by email.
- Migrant strategy: The Chair sought information about what other Town / Parish councils had in place as regards a migrant plan and received responses from Stoke-on-Tern and Crowborough Town Council, who have developed a "Community Impact Assessment". This will be communicated to Shropshire Council and SALC, through Stoke-on-Tern PC, to form subsequent advice to all Councils via the usual channels.
- Woore Manor House: Email from our HS2 Technical Engagement Manager on 17/09/2026 stated that they do not own the property.
- Trees: The Chair has contacted Trees@ Shropshire Council and has yet to receive a reply. She requested that Cllr Connor check FMS for an update.
- Full Fibre: The Chair has facilitated communication between OpenReach, BT and a resident, where there have been issues with installation.
- BT Digital Switchover: all properties have now been contacted and have a plan in place to meet the January 2027 deadline; no further action is required from us.
- SEA Scoping report: Draft response from Cllr Connor being reviewed with Cllr Carter. Final proposed response to be circulated outside this meeting under delegated powers.
- Coopers Arms: here appears to have been some activity with enquiries from other groups and Cllr Carter has spoken to Fleurets. The position at the moment remains as reported in September's meeting.
- Shropshire Transport Consultation: Consultation has now been issued, with a deadline on 16th November, circulated to Cllrs Carter and McDouall. Cllr Carter noted his dissatisfaction that the online meeting access was so poorly handled. Proposed this is reviewed with an agreed response from the PC as an agenda item in November's meeting.
- Clerk's pension: Actions completed with Shropshire Council pension team, awaiting response from actuary to do the calculations. Council to note there would be a fee in the order of £2,500, should we change our mind or move schemes in the future, this seems highly unlikely given the complications involved.

26060 Shropshire Council Representative Report: for Cllr T. Dainty to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

Cllr Tom Dainty provided the following report;

- CIPFA report: The council's Cabinet formally accepted the findings of the CIPFA report in September, with Cllr Dainty noting recognition of areas of overspend and revived funding into highways maintenance (25%) with the winding down of national contracts to support in-house/local teams. Cllr Carter noted in response, the poor quality of the highway's maintenance work undertaken on Audlem Road and advised Cllr Dainty visit to take a look.

  For reference: Shropshire Council was one of a number of local authorities to request Exceptional Financial Support for the financial year 2026-27. The government agreed to the support, conditional on an external assurance review. CIPFA's external assurance review sets out detailed findings, including conclusions, evidence and methodology used, and includes recommendations for the future. The review was undertaken in May 2026, and its content is based on the fieldwork completed within this timeframe.

- Bus petition: Returned surveys currently at Nottingham Royal Mail sorting office. Awaiting update but initial feedback is that it has been a positive response in terms of numbers.
- Road adoptions plans: Shropshire Council is reviewing its position on the adoption of roads, considering the financial gain from funding in each case. Previously, road adoption has been rare.
- Grit bins: Proposed new approach to winter gritting in rural areas, including working with parish councils to identify unrecorded yellow grit bins, particularly on unadopted estates. In the proposal, Shropshire Council will continue to maintain and refill its network of yellow grit bins used on highways not covered by gritting vehicles, while also introducing new community grit bins in a different colour. Parish councils will be able to

arrange refilling of their own bins to provide greater flexibility, following issues last winter with yellow bins being emptied through use on private driveways. The Council also intends to increase its capacity to replenish the yellow grit bins for which it is responsible. More information to follow should it become policy.

26061 Committee and Representatives Reports: for Councillors/representatives to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

Cllr Sweeney, Cllr Higgin and Cllr Morral recorded nothing to report.

Cllr McDouall referred to the MVAS report circulated prior to the meeting, noting that a graphic representation of the data is now available on the Parish Council website for viewing. Irelands Cross records fewer cars speeding, possibly due to 40-mph limit. Recent community speed watch sessions recorded total 37 cars at speed within the bracket of enforceable action. Cllr McDouall noted a resident query over ownership/permission to use the land on Newcastle Road for speed monitoring, which has been escalated to the Police team for advice.

Cllr Goodman noted an increase in bookings at the village hall for the winter season.

Cllr Goodman noted attendance at the Chairman's meeting 30th September, with nothing to report.

Cllr Connor referred to the FMS report, noting a driveway flooding issue that had been escalated to Cllr Dainty for intervention. The Clerk noted an issue with water pooling on a bend on Audlem Road that was causing a resident distress and requested Cllr Dainty take a look on is next visit to the Parish.

Cllr Gath noted that despite his attendance, the planned in-person meeting 6th October did not take place due to hall access issues and will be rescheduled.

Cllr Carter noted Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Scoping report is due consultation comments by 21st October. Cllr Connor has provided comments for Cllr Carter to review.

Cllr Austin noted the Clerk had shared dates for upcoming Nature Recovery Conferences.

Cllr Carter noted Shropshire Council has formally commenced preparation of the next Shropshire Local Plan through Gateway 1, marking the start of the new 30-month plan-making process. The Chairman advised that she is also monitoring progress along with Cllr McDouall and expects to make comment for discussion soon.

For reference: The Local Plan is the key planning document that will guide future housing, employment, infrastructure and land-use development across Shropshire. The initial scoping consultation has concluded, with over 800 responses received, and these are now being assessed to help inform the next stage of the plan-making process.

26062 Planning:

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

i) Reference: **26/03244/FUL**
Address: Bearstone Manor, Bearstone, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 4HG.
Proposal: Conversion of barn into residential annexe ancillary to main dwelling

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

Support: Following a review of the documents submitted as part of the proposed planning application 26/03244/FUL, at the time of writing on 29th September 2026, two consultees have been contacted and the BPA consultee has responded. No response appears to have yet been received from SC Conservation (Historic Environment). The Parish Council is not aware if SC has consulted with their drainage department regarding the submitted application. The PC observes a preliminary ecological appraisal has been submitted and a bat activity report - Bearstone Manor and it is understood as noted above SC Conservation (Historic Environment) have yet to respond as a consultee.

Taking cognisant of the above, the Parish Council would propose to support the application, if the SC consultees support the application and the applicant complies with any conditions should they be required by the SC consultees. The Parish Council assumes there will need to be a formal response from SC Conservation (Historic Environment) and SC drainage department to the submitted application.

All comments are subject to consultee comments. Woore Parish Council request that it is notified of all

changes to planning conditions relating to this planning application and subsequent applications relating to it.

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.

Appeal hearing was held on 6th & 7th October in Shrewsbury. The Hearing was attended on 6th October by Cllr. Goodman (as Woore Parish Council Chair) and 3 residents as 'interested parties' (including Cllr McDouall, as a resident not as a Councillor) and Cllr. Dainty as Ward Councillor. The 7th October agenda concerned technical matters, and the site visit to Woore in the late afternoon, after the hearing was closed. The inspector said she had visited Woore and walked around the village on the 5th October. On the 7th October site visit she was accompanied by the Shropshire Senior Planning Officer (who was at the hearing) and a member of the Appellant's team. They looked at the site and walked down Audlem Rd towards the Village.

The main issues the inspector wished to discuss with the appellant and Shropshire Council representatives, in relation for the refusal reasons and if this should be upheld were:

1. *Suitability of the location having regard to the local development strategy & national policy*
2. *The effect on the character and appearance of the area*
3. *Whether the proposal makes adequate provision for education and community facilities arising from the development*
4. *Other matters such as infrastructure and agricultural land*

Item 1 included questions about the Woore Neighbourhood Plan, where the Chair was permitted to speak and was able to answer questions from the Planning Inspector about the reasoning behind the development boundary, the relevance of the Plan today and the views of the community regarding the development. Also discussed were the number of houses already built and with planning permission within the lifetime of the Woore Neighbour Plan. The other items involved fewer questions to the Chair and interested parties and concentrated on the appellant and Shropshire Council. The Chair and interested parties were able to freely provide their views on multiple aspects under discussion.

The attendee residents, including the Chair, reported their frustration in the apparent lack of ability of Shropshire Council representatives to adequately defend their refusal reasoning, the lack of Consultee response / supporting evidence, their lack of local knowledge, particularly about the NHP, transport (lack of) and geography of the Parish and finally their awareness of the specific educational, healthcare and other issues arising from our proximity to Cheshire and Staffordshire.

The Chair proposed and it was unanimously **resolved**, that the Council formally minutes its disappointment in the performance of Shropshire Council and that it writes an open letter, delivered via email, to Shropshire Council and the relevant persons, outlining its poor preparation and performance at the appeal and in the protection of the community of the Parish of Woore and surrounding areas, in relation to this planning proposal and Shropshire Council's opportunity to defend it's position of refusal of planning.

c) Decisions: to acknowledge all planning decisions made between 14th September and 11th October 2026.

No applications were noted.

d) **Enforcement:** to acknowledge all enforcement matters arising between 14th September and 11th October 2026.

The Clerk noted receipt of one enforcement case, which the Council will monitor due to growing concerns of residents.

Date Received: 25/09/2026
Reference: **26/11139/ENF**
Status: Pending Consideration
Address: Rookery Wood, Dorrington Lane, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire, CW3 9RS
Description of Issue: Alleged breach of planning control in relation to the erection of a fence and potential development of land without planning permission.

26063 Winter Planting: to resolve to continue the winter planting programme in line with the 2026/27 budget.

It was unanimously **resolved** to continue the winter planting programme in line with the 2026/27 budget as below;

Summer planting: £1080
Winter planting: £920 (inc. VAT)

26064 Remembrance Sunday: to resolve to support the St. Leonards Church Service and provide a donation of £180 to Market Drayton Royal British Legion, for the provision of 5 wreaths.

It was unanimously **resolved** to support the St. Leonards Church Service and provide a donation of £180 to Market Drayton Royal British Legion, for the provision of 5 wreaths. The Chair agreed to action.

26065 Village Green Boundary Bollards: to resolve to support the provision and installation of 2 bollards at the boundary of the Village Green (Audlem Road), at the cost of £1152.00 inc. VAT, to be funded by CIL.

It was unanimously **resolved** to support the provision and installation of 2 bollards at the boundary of the Village Green (Audlem Road), at the cost of £1152.00 inc. VAT, to be funded by CIL. The Chair agreed to action.

26066 Social Media Policy: to resolve to approve and adopt the social media policy, as circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting.

It was unanimously **resolved** to adopt the social media policy, as circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk agreed to action.

26067 Councillor Expenses Form: to resolve to adopt a Councillor Expenses Form for the submission of all expenses incurred by Councillors, as circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting.

It was unanimously **resolved** to adopt a Councillor Expense Form for the submission of out of pocket expenses. The Clerk agreed to action.

26068 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
12.10.2026	Helen Jackson	Clerk Salary (Sep) PAYE Deduction	PAID 611042163398170 00N	£514.56 -£102.80 Total: £411.76 £67.99	- - £13.60	LGA 1972 s. 112 (2) LGA 1972 s. 112 (2)

		Expenses M365 23-26 (42 months @ £1.99)		Total (Inc. VAT): £81.59 Total to pay: £493.35		LGA 1972.s 111
12.10.2026	Rachel Goodman	Chair Expenses: Bin liners Grabbers Clerk laptop Clerk printer Clerk printer ink M365 1 year license	PAID 241040364510850 00N	 £16.65 £10.41 £266.66 £40.82 £22.82 £70.83 £428.19 Total (Inc. VAT): £513.83	 £3.33 £2.08 £53.33 £8.17 £4.57 £14.16 £85.64	 LGA 1972s. 137 LGA 1972s. 137 LGA 1972s. 111 LGA 1972s. 111 LGA 1972s. 111 LGA 1972s. 111

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

i) **NatWest Debit Card Application:** to resolve to apply for a debit card for the NatWest current account ending 8674, to be held by the Clerk, and for the purpose of online order/subscriptions (in line with financial regulations).

The Clerk explained the requirements for a debit card. It was unanimously **resolved** to support the application under the Chair's name as signatory. The Clerk agreed to provide an update in due course.

ii) **Bank Reconciliation:** to receive bank reconciliation to date / last statement.

The Clerk recorded the bank balance as follows;

Bank Balance at 12th October

Current Account	£100.00
Business Reserve Account	£203,073.14

iii) **Clerk & RFO Pension:** to acknowledge actions relating to the LGPS pension scheme provided for the Clerk.

The Clerk referred to the Chair's report in item 26059. Council acknowledged the fee of £2,500, should the Parish Council, as employer, request to cancel or move schemes in the future. The Clerk agreed to provide an update on calculations in due course.

26069 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

The Clerk confirmed that due to change of Clerk, all correspondence for the period 14th September to 11th October 2026 had been circulated.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING(S)

9th November 2026 and 14th December 2026