

Minutes of Woore Annual Parish Council Meeting



Monday 8th June 2026, 7.30pm, The Victory Hall, Woore

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms C. Burnard (Clerk to the Council), Cllr Tom Dainty (Shropshire Council)

PUBLIC:

There were one member of the public present.

26019 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent

Apologies were received from Cllr J. Higgin due to prior commitments, Cllr C. Hamilton and Cllr A. Morrall due to holidays and Sally Tyson (Tree and Path Warden) due to illness.

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

26020 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 formally received however due to the planning appeal 25/0345/OUT to be discussed in Agenda item 26026; it was noted that numerous Councillors will be disclosing pecuniary interests should this need to be discussed.

26021 Open Forum: to last no longer than 15 minutes.

A resident asked if they could please help with the watering of the village planters. The Chair was delighted they have come forward and will pass on their contact details to Cllr J. Higgin.

Cllr M. Austin asked the Clerk if she was booked onto the planning course this month as she had not received confirmation. The Clerk replied that this is normal and confirmed she is booked on. The Chair then asked if any other Councillors wish to attend - Cllr H. Sweeney, Cllr J. McDouall and Cllr S. Connor expressed an interest. The Clerk will book them onto the course if there are still places.

26022 Approval of the Minutes of the meetings held on 13th May 2026 (Local Government Act 1972, s12p41(1))

Cllr J. McDouall raised a mistake in the minutes. It incorrectly stated Audlem Road instead of Irelands Cross when referencing the Irelands Cross development.

The Minutes have been amended to say – "Cllr M. Carter asked if the new properties on Market Drayon Road (Irelands Cross Development) will be paying CIL money to the Parish Council."

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

26023 Matters arising: to cover any matters arising from Minutes referred to in 26022.

Cllr M. Carter asked if the shop had agreed to move the stock trolley's they keep blocking the defib machine with as this is concerning should the defibs ever be needed in an emergency. The Chair replied that they have moved them slightly, so the defibs are more visible. The Clerk added that on the defib monitoring website (the Circuit) there is a comment informing the ambulance staff that the defib is behind the crates

which is no greater an issue than having a defib in a telephone box. The main concern is making sure the paramedics know where to look.

The Chair has emailed Shropshire regarding the overhanging trees mentioned last month. They are sending a team out to look at a number of issues within the parish. The Chair will update all when applicable.

Cllr M. Carter asked about the potholes on Audlem Road and why they hadn't been sprayed in white like the other ones at the junction. The Chair was unsure why these weren't being repaired so suggested that Councillors and residents report them to Fix my Street.

No updates have been received for the Coopers Arms.

The Chair informed all Councillors that Woore Parish Council now has access to online banking. The plan is to set the Clerk up as a payment viewer and Cllr A. Gath as a payment controller now the Chair and Cllr M. Austin are set up as payment controllers.

26024 Shropshire Council Representative Report: for Cllr T. Dainty to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

Simon D'Vali - Executive Manager for Strategic Transport at Shropshire Council - is going to be visiting Woore in the coming weeks with the view of seeing the potential impact of the 20mph limit outside the school, the 40mph alongside the Irelands Cross development and the works needed at the Audlem road/Coopers Arms junction. Tom Dainty hopes that seeing the issues will help Simon formulate a plan of how to get the changes implemented.

The Chair will forward Cllr Tom Dainty the latest MVAS speed data in time for Simon's visit to help the case of the speed reduction to 20mph.

Central Government has allocated Shropshire Council £200,000 less in real terms this financial year than previous years. This is a 63% reduction in total transport services for Shropshire, much higher than the 19% national reduction. The good news is that some of the bus companies that have expressed an interest in tendering for Shropshire's new bus contract are based in Stoke. If one of these win the contract, it makes sense for them to stop in Woore on their way to Shrewsbury. However, this is still not an ideal situation, and nothing is confirmed. The Chair said this could work because in the past, the bus that serviced Woore was a Staffordshire funded bus that came from Stoke to Newcastle and then onto Knighton via Woore. Woore has never had a Shropshire funded bus.

Cllr H. Sweeney asked about how the £200,000 reduction gets spread across the county. Cllr Tom Dainty replied that it'll be spread fairly based on which routes are used the least or which routes can be shortened or economised. It won't be based on area; it'll be based on routes.

Shropshire Council continues to try and shift as much spending as possible from reactive spending to proactive spending. It plans to resurface 162 stretches of road before potholes become dangerous as well as recruiting 4 extra pothole teams to help fix the existing potholes. Last week alone Shropshire Council repaired 1,300 potholes.

The fundamental changes happening at Shropshire Council since the election are beginning to have an effect on the county.

The Road Warden Scheme piloted recently which sees residents and Parish Councillors trained and equipped by Shropshire Council to be able to repair their own roads and pavements has been deemed a success and will be spread out over a few more parishes shortly. Rural parishes have reported being very happy to have some autonomy in their repairs.

The work on the new local plan continues and Cllr Tom Dainty will keep Councillors updated. He warned Councillors not to worry if they see the call for sites data that is circulating on social media. This is outdated data and not all the land deemed fit for development is correct. The work on the new Local plan will take 18 months to complete so Woore Parish is in no rush to update their version.

26025 Committee and Representatives Reports: for Councillors/representatives to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

The quarterly SALC meeting now clashes with Woore's monthly council meetings so unfortunately Cllr M. Carter has been unable to attend tonight. The Chair has emailed and they have confirmed they have recently changed the dates. It is hoped they will be able to revert them back.

Cllr R. Goodman reported that the Village Hall has recently had their AGM and she is still working on quotes

for the new roof.

The Chair has purchased some more OS maps for parishioners to use. Some maps show the whole parish while others are more honed to show routes to Bridgemere Garden Centre and Dorothy Clive.

Cllr S. Connor shared an update on HS2 after a meeting with Trever, an independent campaigner. Trever has made Cllr S. Connor aware that the HS2 reset scheme is underway. The Government has confirmed that HS2 will run from the West Midlands to London and, at present, there are no plans to run the tracks to Crewe or further north. This cancelled phase two will not see a hub at Crewe station.

However the plan to use the tracks in Handsacre near Lichfield to link HS2 to the original mainline will remain part of the project. Commitment to Northern Powerhouse Rail was restated however no timeline nor route suggestions were put forward. Cllr S. Connor confirmed there were no updates affecting Shropshire or the surrounding areas.

Cllr J. McDouall asked the Chair about the Manor House. The Chair replied that she had not received any updates however there was a memo recently from Helen Morgan on this matter. This article is in the public domain.

Cllr J. McDouall informed Councillors she was now fully trained as a speed watch volunteer and Cllr S. Connor shared, he had returned his completed forms and hopes to progress with his application.

26026 Planning:

- a) to agree on the comments for the following planning applications.
- i) Reference: 26/01639/FUL
Address: Proposed Agricultural Storage Building Nantwich Road Woore Shropshire
Proposal: Erection of agricultural storage building and alterations to access

Comments were submitted as follows -

"Woore Parish Council OBJECTS to this application.

Whilst the Woore Neighbourhood Plan supports the rural economy, the development of the outbuilding is outside of the Development boundary and ECON1 b states that proposals will only be supported where they contribute positively to the environment, it is unclear how this proposal will do this.

It should also be pointed out that the new entrance has already been made and is in use, prior to any application being made. There is a small outbuilding also in place, therefore works have already started (the application states it has not).

The SC Ecologist has commented that Biodiversity Net Gain must be demonstrated - no such submission has been provided. From the looking at the planning application, the reasons given for the exemption to the biodiversity net gain requirement of the de minimus exemption is in contradiction to the application. From <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/biodiversity-net-gain> -

"The de minimis exemption only applies to development if the following two conditions are met:

the development must not impact on any onsite priority habitat; and

if there is an impact on other onsite habitat, that impact must be on less than 25 square metres (e.g. less than a 5m-by-5m square) of onsite habitat with a biodiversity value greater than zero and on less than 5 metres of onsite linear habitat (such as a hedgerow)

Onsite habitat is impacted by the development if it is lost or degraded such that there is a decrease in the biodiversity value of that habitat (as determined by the statutory biodiversity metric). A decrease in biodiversity value occurs where there is a change in habitat type, extent, or condition which results in a negative unit score."

The planning application states that the size of their site is "Over 25 square metres" not less than 25 square metres. It is unclear how much hedgerow has been removed as this has already been removed.

A very serious concern we have is the access on the very busy and fast A51, it is across the border in Cheshire, but Bridgemere Garden World is very close and brings a huge amount of traffic. There is an existing access to the site which does not appear to be used now the new one has been created. The new entrance is on a low visibility stretch of road where the speed limit is the national speed limit and the

vehicles emerging from this field will be slow moving farm vehicles possibly pulling trailers. No demonstration of swept path analysis/safe use for the proposed access has demonstrated. At the time of this comment, no comment from SC Highways was received, and we feel this is essential.”

Residents and Councillors have been made aware that the previously refused planning application 25/0345/OUT has gone to appeal. This is a major concern for all in objection. This application will now be reviewed by the Planning Inspectorate, based in Slough who are unlikely to know about Woore and its unique village character.

Cllr M. Austin asked if Woore Parish Council could send a representative to the committee hearing. The Chair replied that they could, but only if invited. Cllr Tom Dainty will do his best to ensure that someone from Shropshire gets an invite.

The Chair encouraged everyone who has received the appeal letter to make a comment. The deadline is 10th July 2026. Cllr M. Carter asked if people could comment via the Shropshire Planning Portal. The Chair replied that as this is now out of Shropshire Councils hands, the comments must be sent via the appeal process. Woore Parish Council will be submitting their comment in due course.

- b) Decisions: to acknowledge all planning decisions made between 13th May to 8th June 2026.
 Reference – 26/01288/FUL
 Address – The Gables, Nantwich Road, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire
 Proposal – Erection of a detached single garage
 Decision - Granted

26027 Committee reps / projects / policies Update

No further updates since the previous meeting in May 2026.

26028 Christmas 2026 to be discussed.

A discussion was held regarding artificial Christmas trees but due to Cllr J. Higgin being absence, it was agreed that the Chair would contact St Leonards and the Methodist Chapel to seek their views and requirements and that the matter will be picked up at a later meeting.

Cllr S. Connor mentioned he would reach out to a friend regarding a donation of a small tree that could possibly be planted on the land on Newcastle Road and decorated each year.

26029 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
08.06.2026	Chelsea Burnard	Clerk Salary (May) - Gross Pay Income Tax deduction Expenses - Milk Biscuits <u>Total</u>		£631.0 -£126.0 £1.20 £3.20 <u>£509.25</u>	- - - 	LGA 1972 s. 112 (2) LGA 1972 s. 112 (2) LGA 1980 s. 96 LGA 1980 s. 96
08.06.2026	Rachel Goodman	Ordnance Survey Maps		£199.75	£0.00	LGA 1980 s. 96
08.06.2026	Parish Oline	Website Service 13 th May 26 – 13 th May 27		£350.00	£70.00	LGA 1972 s. 111
08.06.2026	Woore Bowls Club	Grant Application for Green Irrigation	PAID	£2,500.00	£0.00	HA 1972 s.137

The Clerk mentioned there were some additional cheques. Tony Seabridge has sent his invoice in for the work since March 2026 which she would like to pay. The invoice is for £630.00. Also Gary Cooper, the parish lengthsman has sent in his latest invoice for £160.00 for the work carried out in May 2026.

It was unanimously resolved to approve the payments for June 2026.

ii) Councillors to receive bank reconciliation for May 2026

Closing Bank Balance at 31st May 2026			
Current Account	100.00		
Business Reserve Account	224,819.46	224,919.46	
Less unrepresented Cheques			
		224,919.46	
Split as follows			
Closing Balances			
CIL Neighbourhood Fund	114,845.52		
General Fund	110,073.94	224,919.46	-

iii) Clerk to discuss and finalise audit figures.

The Clerk confirmed that the internal auditor has returned his completed audit report which can now be sent to PKF LittleJohn.

The Clerk informed Councillors that the opening bank balance in April 2025 was £185,000. Precept and CIL payments were received throughout the year along with £3,700 in interest and other small rebates/grants. The expenditure for the year was £51,000 which includes the new MVAS's. This leaves a closing bank balance in March 2026 of £172,000.

The Clerk also confirmed that the AGAR Exercise of Public Rights have been displayed on the Notice board since the 20th of April 2026. She will leave it displayed until the middle of July once the accounts have been sent to the external auditors. To date, no members of the public have wished to inspect the accounts.

The Clerk informed Councillors that she will ask Cllr C. Hamilton and Cllr J. Higgin to arrive early for the July meeting so the scrutineering can be completed.

26030 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

To receive a summary of Reports and Correspondence for the period from 13th May to 8th June 2026.

The Clerk reported had received some phone calls recently regarding the overflowing rubbish bin outside the shop in the village. She has informed residents that, at the moment, this is under Shropshire Councils remit and should be reported on Fix my Street.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
13th July 2026 and 10th August 2026 (Provisional)