

Minutes of Woore Parish Council Meeting

Monday 12th July 2021, 7.30pm, Victory Hall, Woore



PRESENT:

Cllr M. Cowey (Chairman), Cllr K. Davies (Vice Chairman), Cllr C. Hamilton, Cllr D. Beeston, Cllr G. Daville, Cllr M. Blake & Cllr M. Carter.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs H. Jackson, Clerk to the Council.

PUBLIC:

Ms C. Bedson and Ms. S. Tyson were in attendance (Tree & Footpath Wardens) and Mr Gath (resident).

21038 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent

Cllr Cowey welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting apologies from Cllr J. Higgin due to personal commitments and Cllr R. Aldcroft for reasons unstated. It was unanimously **resolved** to accept apologies.

21039 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or any other interests

No declarations were received.

21040 Open Forum – to last no longer than 15 minutes.

A member of the public expressed concern regarding 2no cases of planning developments where hedges were removed unlawfully, noting that often planning drawings do not show accurately the impact on hedgerows and stating the importance of preserving the rural character of the parish. The chair responded to explain that action had been taken in both instances by the Parish Council to notify the appropriate parties at Shropshire Council and explained that any concerns should be communicated to the Police Wildlife Crime Officer and the SC Ecology/Environment Officer directly, including evidence where possible.

Cllr Daville raised the issue of a broken bin on the Village Green which the Clerk confirmed had been reported to Shropshire Council, awaiting response.

The Chairman thanked those involved in the repair of the Church Clock, noting how lovely it is to have it back in operation.

The Chairman congratulated Woore Fruit Farm on being named as one of the top 10 fruit farms in the UK in recent coverage in the Guardian.

The Chairman noted the upcoming Woore & District Produce Show, Saturday 4th September 3-5pm at the Victory Hall and thanked the organisers for their commitment to the event.

21041 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th June 2021

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the minutes of remote meeting 14th June 2021, noting the amendment as follows; 'The Chairman confirmed that this land is designated sensitive gap and in accordance with the Neighbourhood Plan 2018 is protected from development until 2036.', page 21009. Minutes previously referred to this area being infill and not sensitive gap.

21042 Matters arising: to cover any matters arising from Minutes referred to in 21041.

The Chairman provided an update on the ongoing flooding issues experienced at Flash Farm, noting that Cheshire East's response seemed positive and the same can not be said for SC, where it was not being treated as a priority.

On 24th June the issue of raw sewerage was reported again in Pipe Gate. Seven Trent continue to investigate. It was noted that Pipe Gate drainage systems have been reported as being at full capacity for some time and that SC are not prioritising these concerns.

The Chairman reported that there was no response from SC on the request for evidenced ownership of the manor bed in Woore; a priority given HS2's plans to remove the bed as part of the road modifications.

The Chairman reported that there was no response from SC Outdoor Reach in relation to concerns regarding the condition of the public footpath through the Churchyard.

It was noted that lack of response from SC would be covered on the agenda for the meeting with the Leader and Deputy on 22nd July.

21043 Committee and Representatives Reports: for Councillors/representatives to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

Paths & Trees – The tree warden reported an issue concerning the Bridleway on Dorrington Lane where a section was missing from the map and requires urgent attention, noting that the land in question was agreed but not finalised. The Chairman agreed to support the wardens where required with this.

The Clerk referred to the growing number of complaints regarding overgrown hedges on the A51. It was explained that unless there is a safety concern, the parish council is unable to cut hedges until 31st August. If the hedge is outside of the Parish Council's responsibility, then it will write to landowners and request action be taken. In the case of the A51, as these border a main road they can be cut out of season and the Clerk reported that this would be reported to SC urgently.

Cllr Hamilton reported overgrown hedges covering the 30mph sign on entrance to the Parish on the A51 from Nantwich. It was agreed that this would be reported to Steve Brown at SC Highways.

MVAS & CSW – Cllr Blake confirmed that data had been circulated prior to the meeting showing less than 1% of those travelling at prosecutable speeds were in fact prosecuted. Much discussion took place. It was noted that PCC John Campion and Inspector Claire Greenaway of West Mercia Police would be attending Woore on 15th July to meet with the Parish Council in response to correspondence regarding lack of progress with the Community Speed Watch (CSW). It was agreed that the agenda for the meeting would focus on speeding and lack of support from the Safer Roads Partnership to tackle the issue.

21044 Shropshire Council Representative Report: for Cllr R. Aldcroft to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

No report was provided in advance of the meeting.

21045 Community Speed Watch Initiative: to resolve to adopt the community speed watch scheme and agree next step actions.

It was noted that a meeting is scheduled for 16th July with Mark Booth of West Mercia Police, to review the CSW areas identified by the Parish Council, with Cllr Hamilton and the Clerk in attendance. Following correspondence from WPC to express concern at the lack of support from the Police for the CSW, West Mercia Safer Roads Partnership have given their approval for the

CSW and Cllr Hamilton will lead the initiative moving forward and report to full Council in due course.

6no volunteers have now agreed their participation; training will be provided by the Safer Roads Partnership in due course. Possible locations for the CSW were discussed and suggestions made for further investigation. It was noted that adoption of a CSW will prevent attendance from the mobile speed van. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the forthcoming meeting with PCC John Campion and Inspector Greenaway on 15th July. A decision to formally adopt the CSW was deferred until such time when answers to all questions raised by the Parish Council were provided. It was agreed that Cllr Hamilton should persevere with discussions in the meantime.

21046 Planning

a) Applications:

- i. To adopt comments to be submitted in response to the following applications, as circulated to Councillors prior to meeting;

21/02533/FUL (9th June 2021)

Address: 49 St Leonards Way, Woore, CW3 9SS

Proposal: Erection of single storey extensions and ground floor remodelling

The Lead Councillor referred to a report circulated prior to the meeting. It was unanimously **resolved** to support the application subject to consultee/statutory comments and requirements.

- ii. To adopt comments to be submitted in response to the following applications, as circulated to Councillors prior to meeting;

21/02985/REM (1st July 2021)

Address: Proposed Residential Development Land to the South of Audlem Road, Woore

Proposal: Approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to outline permission 20/05302/OUT comprising 4no detached dwellings.

The Lead Councillor noted that despite the validation date being 2 weeks prior to receipt of the notification, the Parish Council were denied an extension for comment. Reference was made to a report circulated prior to the meeting. It was unanimously **resolved** to object to the application as per comments included within Appendix 1.0.

- iii. To acknowledge receipt of the following application (discussion only; no action required);

21/01418/SCR (18th May 2021)

Address: Syllenhurst Farm, Nantwich Road, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire

Proposal: The proposal will be seeking Outline Planning Permission (some matters reserved) for a mixed residential development for up to 150 dwellings, including Open Market, Affordable and Retirement Age Related. Consideration for a Dual Registered Nursing Care Home with Specialist Dementia care facilities, a GP Surgery, Health Visitor facility and Pharmacy is also included.

It was noted that there was much controversy related to this application on social media. Councillors noted receiving correspondence encouraging residents say no to the application. The Chair commented that SC's response to the screening application seemed reasonable and that this currently falls outside of the boundary for the Neighbourhood Plan. He noted that clearly the applicant had sight of the Neighbourhood Plan from the detail included within the application and that the Parish Council should expect more applications of this nature with the impending construction of HS2 making the area appealing to developers. It was explained that as a screening (speculative) application, the Parish Council are not required to comment at this stage through

consultation, but that appropriate action will be taken if/when the application progresses. The Chairman reminded Councillors that the current Neighbourhood Plan is effective until 2036 and that by supporting it in referendum, residents showed their objections to this type of development. The clerk noted that an explanation of the screening process was provided in response to social media discussions.

- b) Decisions: to acknowledge all planning decisions made between 14th June 2021 and 12th July 2021.

No planning decisions were reported.

The Chairman noted that the Parish Council await a response from SC on CIL figures from years 19/20 and 20/21 since this information had been requested multiple times. Discussion took place. The question of where the £40million investment in Highways, (as referred to in recent correspondence from Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Highways), would come from was raised and it was agreed that this would be posed to the Leader on the meeting 22nd July for clarification; specifically that CIL money would not be used as part of this budget.

21047 HS2: to receive an update from the Chairman on Traffic Calming/Mitigation discussions/next steps and HS2 Consultation.

The Chairman provided a report noting that the Minister for HS2, Andrew Stephenson, had published his response to the Phase 2a Consultation, stating several inaccuracies. It was questioned whether the report was in fact written by HS2. The Chairman commented that Rt Hon Owen Paterson had contacted the working party following this report and a response was discussed, with Mr Paterson being offered an 'open door' to respond following the recent meeting with the Minister. The report highlighted the total cost of assurances as £540,000. It was reported that this detail had been shared with residents via the website and social media, along with further details of the HS2 Community funding schemes and associated events.

The Chairman referred to the completed Safety Audit report received in June from SC, noting that although it should have been carried out by an independent party, it was in fact undertaken by the Manchester Office of a current SC contractor. The report highlighted the Pedestrian Crossings on the A51 and Guard rails outside of the school, both of which Rt Hon Owen Paterson is championing. The report and subsequent response from SC on 6th July stated that the speed limit of 40mph prevents the crossings from being installed and that the guard rails are not in accordance with national guidance. The working party assured Councillors that there would be a response to this report. The crossings gained support of the Select Committee and as such HS2 were reminded in correspondence from the Parish Council that the Local Authority will face Corporate Manslaughter charges should anyone be killed.

It was reported that Rt Hon Owen Paterson is to Chair monthly meetings with the working party, HS2 and SC to work through the remaining mitigations.

There has been no formal confirmation of whether or not SC have agreed to be a consultee of Staffordshire Council on schedule 17 and the Parish Council await a response from Ian Kilby.

21048 Woore Place Plan: to receive an update from the Chairman and Clerk on the proposed Place Plan and resolve to approve the final version for submission to Shropshire Council.

The Clerk provided an explanation of the Place Plan and an update on recent activity to update this, with reference to the final draft circulated prior to the meeting. Discussion took place and most

Councillors made comment. It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the Place Plan subject to amendments pending from community organisations including the cricket and tennis club.

21049 Streetlight Ownership: to receive an update from the Chairman and Clerk on action taken regarding disputed ownership of streetlights within the Parish.

The Clerk referred to correspondence circulated prior to the meeting. All Councillors supported the action to write to the SC legal team requesting evidence of ownership of streetlights within the Parish. It was noted that no response had been received to date and that the matter would be raised with SC Leader and Deputy on 22nd July.

21050 Environmental Maintenance Grant: to resolve to accept the grant application as presented by the Clerk, for 3 years match funding to the value of £4,305.00 (£1,435.00 per annum) for ground maintenance and Lengthsman duties falling within grant criteria.

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the EMG grant to the value of £4,305.00 (£1,435.00 per annum) for ground maintenance and Lengthsman duties falling within grant criteria.

21051 Finance:

i) 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
12.07.21	Helen Jackson	Clerk Salary (June): Gross Pay Holiday Pay NI deduction Income Tax deduction Expenses Sundry	1800	£838.46 £0.00 £4.97 -£41.80 £45.42 £74.89 <u>£1,009.54</u>	£13.94	LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LG (FP)A 1963 s.5 LG (FP)A 1973 s.5 LG A 1972 s.111 LGA 1972 s.137
24.06.21	Richard White	Lengthsman	1801	£30.00	£0.00	HA 1980 s.96(5)
02.06.21	SSE	Streetlight energy supply	D/D (Paid)	£46.00	£2.89	PCA 157 ss.3(1) & 7, HA 1980 s.301

Date	Payee	Reason for Payment	Cheque Number	Net Amount	VAT Amount	Power of Expenditure
23.06.21	Natwest	Credit for poor service	n/a	£250.00	£0.00	n/a

ii) Bank reconciliation: for the Council to receive and accept the month end bank reconciliation

The Clerk provided a report as follows;

Current Account: £100.00

Reserve Account: £120,616.27

Unpresented cheques: £1051.31

Balance 6th July 21: £119,684.96

*Note £20 difference applies to overpayment identified from previous month, yet to be adjusted

*All expenditure from the General fund only.

- iii) To receive an update on the online banking application and resolve to accept next steps to progress.

A report was provided by the Clerk and discussion took place. It was confirmed that no solution has yet been found and that the issues have been escalated to the complaints team.

21052 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

To receive a summary of Reports and Correspondence for the period from 14th June 2021 to 6th July 2021.

- It was reported that flooding issues on the Bearstone Road and Dorrington Lane/Watery Lane junction had both been escalated due to lack of response from SC within a 4 month period. Repairs of the potholes on Bearstone Road were also being escalated as this is a cross-county issue.

The meeting closed at 9.39pm.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

9th August 2021, 7.30pm and 13th September 2021, 7.30pm

Signed.....(Chair)

Dated 9th August 2021