

Minutes of Woore Parish Council Meeting

Monday 13th July 2020

Held Remotely

PRESENT:

Cllr M. Cowey (Chairman), Cllr A. Allison, Cllr H. Blake, Cllr M. Blake, Cllr M. Carter, Cllr K. Chell, Cllr K. Davies, Cllr G. Irwin.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs S.Tyson (part) and Mrs H.Jackson, Clerk to the Council.

PUBLIC:

Gary Beff, Gez Willard, Jane Ellsmoor, Steve Ellsmoor, Tony Lightfoot, Helen Lightfoot, Len Shenton and Ann Holland were in virtual attendance.

20034 Apologies for absence.

Cllrs Clarke and Higgin had sent their apologies for absence, which were due to personal and business commitments respectively. It was unanimously **resolved** to accept the apologies. No apologies (at the time of the meeting) had been received from Cllr. Aldcroft.

20035 Declarations of Pecuniary Interests and HS2 Dispensation.

No Councillor declared a pecuniary interest. The Clerk reported that all HS2 Dispensations from Cllrs had been received and actioned.

20036 Open Forum – To last no longer than 15 minutes.

Jane Ellsmoor read a letter addressed to the Parish Council, from Mr & Mrs Ellsmoor, as follows;

‘We wish to complain about Woore Parish Council’s handling of the planning matters of Helen and Tony Lightfoot, particularly with regard to planning ref 20/01173/FUL, on the land on what was part of the old Phoenix site and now owned by them.

Helen and Tony are longstanding members of the village, key health workers and well respected in our community.

We have been following their planning applications over the years and it seems to us that everyone has been subjected to unnecessary pettiness leading to a negative outcome for the Lightfoots.

Jane remembers speaking at a council meeting a couple of years ago saying that enough is enough and that a line should be drawn under all this and Helen and Tony left in peace to enjoy their land.

Since then it seems that certain members of the council have become even more aggressive towards the Lightfoots using the platform of the council to pursue personal agendas and, it appears to us, bringing the council into disrepute.

Surely, we should be able to trust members to act in a fair and impartial manner towards all applications? Sadly, this does not seem to be the case here when comments from out of the parish and out of the country seem to carry weight.

Could we ask for a full explanation of this matter and please do not deny that hostility does not exist. It clearly does and is known to others in the village'

We would like this letter to be published in the minutes.'

Cllr Cowey confirmed that the letter would be included in the minutes.

No Councillors wished to raise any matters in the Open Forum.

20037 To approve and sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th June 2020.

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

20038 Matters Arising

Cllr Irwin wanted to acknowledge correspondence received from Helen & Tony Lightfoot to all Cllrs dated 10th and 11th July. Cllr Cowey confirmed that following guidance from NALC, this would not be discussed in detail during the meeting due to the possible implications.

Cllr Cowey wanted to express his disappointment at the news that geraniums have been stolen from a planter in the village, after all the hard work that went into their maintenance by members of the Parish.

20039 Planning

a) To consider proposed Policy/Procedure for future applications (Planning Sub-Group).

Cllr Cowey confirmed that this agenda item will be deferred due to time constraints.

b) To consider and, if appropriate, to resolve on a response to the following planning applications:

- 1) Application for Lawful Development Certificate for an existing use or operation: the permitted development was lawfully implemented and that the existing development is lawful 20/02244/CPE dated 10th June 2020 at Proposed Residential Development Land West Of, London Road, Woore,

Cllr Cowey commented that as there is a legal dispute concerning this application, and therefore proposed not making a comment. It was unanimously **resolved** to take no action regarding this planning application.

- 2) Outline application for the erection of up to ten dwellings (all matters reserved) 20/02060/OUT dated 29th May 2020 at Land West London Road Irelands Cross Woore Shropshire.

Cllr Cowey informed Cllrs that a sub-group of Cllrs including Cllr Cowey, Cllr Allison and Cllr Blake had been set up to review this application. Cllr Allison had circulated the sub-group review of the planning application to all members prior to the meeting and read the report in full. Discussions were held around this report. Cllr Allison proposed that in conclusion, the development, which could not be refused originally because of central government policy on housing at the time, is not needed any longer to provide sufficient housing for the Parish. In particular, the size and type of house proposed. Cllr Irwin questioned the implications of refusing a plan that has subsequently been part of the Neighbourhood plan. Cllr Cowey reminded Cllrs that this development was included in the 'cross over' of the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Allison reminded Cllrs that despite planning permission being granted originally, no houses have been built in the past 7 years as part of this application. Cllr Davies commented that regardless of previous applications, this is a new application and they must go through the cycle.

The resolution to object was passed by the majority of Cllrs and it was agreed to include all the content of the sub-group report in the Parish Councils response to the application. (See end of the minutes for voting and appendix 1.0 for full report.)

- 3) Conversion of agricultural buildings to 1 No dwelling, erection of connecting extension 20/01861/FUL dated 19th June 2020 at Ivy House Farm, Newcastle Road, Woore, Shropshire.

Cllr Cowey circulated a report prior to the meeting, based on the information provided by Cllr Higgin who had been Lead Councillor for the review but was absent due to business commitments. Cllr Cowey summarised that the conversion of the agricultural building meets criteria within the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Irwin queried the use of ECON1 as a criterion for reviewing this, due to its application to Business and Enterprises rather than residential.

It was proposed that as the development is sympathetic to its surroundings, Woore Parish Council supports the application, subject to the Applicant meeting the requirement of SC and its consultees. It was unanimously **resolved** to accept the application.

20040 Representatives' Reports

To receive reports concerning the following matters:

(a) Movable and Stationary Vehicle Activated Signs – Cllr M. Blake

Cllr M. Blake confirmed that MVAS data had been circulated to all Cllrs. Discussion was held around the response from Inspector Ryan of the Safer Neighbourhood Team in correspondence to the Chairman of only 55 NIPS (Notice of intended prosecution) containing the number of possible prosecutions made, based on this data. Cllr M. Blake expressed concern that the numbers only reflected 0.25% of potential prosecutions according to the 15,706 speeding violations recorded during the last 12 months. Discussions were held around this point, with Cllr Carter, Cllr Cowey and Cllr Davies contributing. Cllr Cowey proposed that Cllr M. Blake respond to Inspector Tracy Ryan's offer to forward any findings to her colleague in the SRP. It was **resolved** that Cllr M. Blake would provide the content for this correspondence to the Clerk to send, with all in favour.

(b) Tree and Path Wardens – Ms S. Tyson & Ms C. Bedson.

Nothing was reported.

(c) Shropshire – Councillor Mr R Aldcroft

Cllr Aldcroft was not in attendance.

(d) Village Hall – Cllr H.Blake

Cllr H. Blake informed Cllrs that the village hall is currently undergoing decorating works and is hoping to re-open for 1st Sept 2020 subject to government guidance and risk assessment. She agreed to keep all Cllrs informed of any developments.

20041 HS2

(1) To receive an update from the Chairman (updated Summary Report on Traffic Calming/Mitigations following Meeting with Shropshire Council.)

Cllr. Cowey reminded all Cllrs that there is considerable work still to cover off and expressed concern that if nothing is gained from the House of Lords petition, the Parish Council run the risk of 'coming away with nothing', based on previous experience. No Cllrs wished to make any comments.

Cllr. Cowey referred all Cllrs to correspondence shared prior to the meeting from Sir Mark Worthington, where he was requesting a meeting following the report from Simon Wright of HS2. Discussion was held as to whether this was still necessary, with Cllr Irwin commenting that the impending House of Lords petition may be a more beneficial use of time. Cllr Carter questioned whether refusing this meeting could be deemed as a failure to exhaust all avenues. Cllr Allison commented that the Parish Council still await a response as to why this is HS2's preferred route and that the Commissioner should be contacted to address the lack of response to important questions such as this. It was **resolved** that a letter be sent to Sir Mark Worthington, from Cllr Cowey, acknowledging the need for ongoing discussions and

stating that it is preferred that the meeting include MP Owen Patterson and as such, we await a time when this is possible given his current personal circumstances. All Cllrs were in favour.

Cllr Cowey informed Cllrs that he has engaged in further communication with the HS2 Engagement Officer who has made him aware of a series of presentations they are invited to join online, where specialists can be heard speaking about a range of topics. These are not an opportunity to air any petition issues. Cllr Cowey confirmed that there is no date for the HS2 drop-in sessions due to the closure of the village hall but agreed to keep Cllrs informed when the situation changes. He concluded that this is important to keep the residents updated with developments.

(2) To receive an update from the Vice Chairman.
No additional updates were provided.

(3) To receive an update from Chairman & Vice Chairman on the House of Lords Select Committee.

Cllr Irwin confirmed that HS2 have notified the Parish Council that there will be a petition hearing in September 2020, date to be confirmed. All representatives have confirmed they will attend in person with Cllr Irwin attending remotely. Those attending via video link will be heard in July, with the others heard in September. Cllr Irwin expressed concern that this could all change depending on the COVID situation closer to the time. HS2 expect to have Royal Ascent by Oct/Nov 2020, with the trucks beginning to roll in May. Cllr Irwin expressed concern that the delays due to Brexit/COVID could mean a 'ramp up' in the number of trucks to make up for lost time. Cllr Irwin confirmed her response to David Walker regarding attendance at the petition but agreed to send this information to the Clerk for a formal response as per the correct procedure. Cllr Cowey queried whether the response prepared for the petition has been circulated to all Cllrs and Cllr Allison and Cllr Irwin confirmed that this was completed and that all Cllrs have had visibility.

Cllr Irwin is also attending a Parish Council Forum/HS2 meeting later this month but is awaiting confirmation.

20042 St Leonards Play Area

To receive an update on the proposal for reopening and the outstanding maintenance requirement.

Cllr Cowey referred to the proposal circulated by the Clerk prior to the meeting and stated that there have been complaints from residents on social media regarding the closure but emphasised the importance of compliance to guidelines for the safe reopening. Cllr Cowey provided an update on the process followed to provide the Council with a proposal to reopen the play area, including a full risk assessment. It was unanimously **resolved** to carry out the actions as defined in the risk assessment

and proposal. The outstanding maintenance was deferred awaiting quotations to the Clerk.

20043 Land at Newcastle Road

To receive an update from the Chairman.

Cllr Cowey advised that it is expected that funding will be received by the end of July but that without a meeting in August, this would delay any works commencing until later than planned. Cllr Cowey suggested that discussions commence again once the money has been received.

20044 Village Green

Cllr Allison referred to her report circulated to all Cllrs prior to the meeting. The background to the project was explained and discussion was held around this. Cllr Allison advised that professional advice has been sought from Ann Holland for the planning and design proposal for this area and requested agreement in principle for the budget of up to £20,000 as per the report, with 20% of this being professional fees. Most Cllrs offered an opinion. Cllr Cater expressed concern that this area is currently used for outdoor activities including sports and that any change of use should be voted on by parishioners. Cllr Carter also suggested that no works be started until the Newcastle Rd development is completed for this reason. Cllr Allison reminded Cllrs that the proposed development of the Village Green was a direct response to Parishioners comments in the Neighbourhood Plan and that budget for picnic tables and benches has already been ring fenced. Cllr Allison stated that there were discussions taking place as to the funding/sponsorship initiatives that could be sourced to support this project. Cllr Carter expressed concern that the professional fees for the project were too high. Cllr M. Blake suggested that avenues for funding/sponsorship be explored prior to project sign-off.

It was **resolved** to endorse the proposal and concept outlined in the report, including the monies required for the project, by a majority of Cllrs. See end of minutes for voting.

20045 Clerks Reports and Correspondence

The Clerk reported that all the correspondence received for the period from 9th June 2020 to 13th July 2020 had been forwarded to Councillors.

The Clerk acknowledged receipt of correspondence from Mr & Mrs Ellsmoor and from Mr & Mrs Lightfoot that had also been received by all Cllrs. It was explained that following NALC guidance, no further discussion would take place at the meeting regarding these matters.

20046 Payment of Accounts

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the following items for payment:

1.	H.M.Jackson (June)	
	i Salary	£248.04
	ii Expenses (phone, paper, ink)	£23.58
	iii Mileage	£0.00
	Iv Sundry	£0.00
	TOTAL	£271.62
2.	H. Martin (Internal Audit) (Paid)	£100.00
3.	Westholmes (13 large planters)	£325.00
4.	Westholmes (11 small planters)	£220.00
5.	K. Chell (Printer Cartridge)	£16.50
6.	T. Seabridge (Erection of Fence at St Leonards Play Area)	£342.00
7.	T. Seabridge (Grasscutting, 2 months - 04/05/20-03/07/2020)	£900.00
8.	M. Cowey (Cisco Webex annual subscription)	£106.92
9.	M. Cowey (St Leonards padlock)	£14.00
10.	SALC (Fundamentals for Councillors - 28th May 2020 Delegate: Cllr Julian Clarke)	£30.00
11.	R.White (Lengthsman)	£30.00

The meeting closed at 9:53pm.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

14th September 2020 and 12th October 2020 (both @ 7.30pm)

Signed.....(Chair)

Dated 14th September 2020

FOR THOSE ITEMS THAT THE VOTING WAS SPLIT

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
20039 b.2 Prop: Allison, A. Second: Blake, M.	Outline Planning Application for up to 10 dwellings 20/02060/OUT Land West London Road Ireland's Cross Woore.	Blake M	X		
		Allison	X		
		Blake H	X		
		Chell			X
		Cowey	X		
		Davies	X		
		Carter	X		
		Irwin			X

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
20044 Prop: Allison, A. Second: Cowey, M.	That the proposal and concept for Village Green outlined in the report be endorsed, including the monies required for the project.	Blake M		X	
		Allison	X		
		Blake H	X		
		Chell			X
		Cowey	X		
		Davies		X	
		Carter		X	
		Irwin	X		