

Minutes of Woore Parish Council Meeting

Monday 12th October 2020, 7.30pm

Remote meeting ID 163 495 4134



PRESENT:

Cllr M. Cowey (Chairman), Cllr. G. Irwin (Vice Chairman), Cllr A. Allison, Cllr K. Davies, Cllr J. Clarke, Cllr. M. Blake, Cllr J. Higgin.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr Roy Aldcroft, Shropshire Council, Ms S. Tyson, Tree and Footpath Warden and Mrs H. Jackson, Clerk to the Council.

PUBLIC:

Helen Lightfoot was in virtual attendance.

20076 Apologies for absence

Cllr K. Chell had sent apologies for absence, which were due to illness. It was unanimously **resolved** to accept the apologies. Cllr M. Carter was absent and apologies were received after the meeting, stating work commitments.

20077 Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

No Councillor declared a pecuniary interest.

20078 Open Forum – To last no longer than 15 minutes

None of the members of Public in attendance wished to raise any matters in the Open Forum.

No Councillors raised any matters.

20079 To approve and sign Minutes of Remote Meeting held on 21st September 2020

The resolution to accept the minutes of 21st September 2020 was passed by the majority, with Cllr Higgin abstaining due to absence at the 21st September 2020 meeting. Cllr Blake abstained due to not being present during agenda item 20067.

20080 Matters Arising

The Chairman advised that no response had been received from Richard Knight following correspondence from the Clerk to advise of concerns regarding the condition of the footpath adjacent to the Bowling Club and that this would be followed up.

20081 Representatives Reports

To receive reports concerning the following matters:

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

The Chairman advised that a meeting with Jason Hughes, Shropshire Council, had taken place with himself and the Clerk where it was agreed that Shropshire Council would supply data for the VAS on Newcastle Road 4 x yearly. Information to be circulated on receipt.

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

No report was received.

(c) Shropshire – Councillor Mr R. Aldcroft

Cllr Aldcroft had provided the following report to the Chairman and Clerk, prior to the meeting.

Transfer of Highways Development Control to Planning from October 2020 now Becomes Highways Development, Planning and Economic Growth.

Community Tree Scheme – information available on shropshire.gov.uk/environment/trees-woodlands-and-hedges/Shropshire-council-community-tree-scheme-202021/. These are free of charge to the Parish Council.

Clive of India Statue WILL remain in Shrewsbury when Shirehall office is sold/demolished.

Both Shirehall and Market Drayton will be holding Virtual Remembrance Services this year and those wishing to lay a wreath must book via the British Legion. There will be a flyover at 11.00am.

Cllr Allison questioned Cllr Aldcroft on Shropshire Councils planned response to central governments' intention to override decisions locally, in reference to planning. Cllr Allison expressed deep concern that the plans will destroy the Neighbourhood Plan and show total disregard for the time and cost associated with implementing these. Cllr Allison requested to understand how Shropshire Council planned to respond, remarking that Councillors should be representing the voice of the people who voted for them and not working solely to champion government policy. Cllr Allison reminded Councillors that Shropshire Council have, to date, shown a lack of interest in the Parish of Woore and asked if Shropshire Council were prepared to stand up and be counted when it comes to representing the residents. Discussion took place and most Councillors supported Cllr Allison's concerns.

Cllr Aldcroft informed Councillors that the Consultation process for this was designed for capturing the feedback from Parish and Town Councils and that following two planned briefing sessions for Shropshire Council Councillors, he would report back to WPC with further comment.

Cllr Blake commented that WPC had already provided feedback in the form of the Neighbourhood Plan and that a referendum had taken place to allow residents to express their views within this. He advised that this remains the position of WPC.

(d) Village Hall – Chairman

To appoint Parish Council representative to replace Cllr H. Blake following resignation.

It was unanimously **resolved** to appoint Cllr Higgin as interim representative and agreed that the Clerk would manage the process of handover for the role.

(e) SALC/North Shropshire Area Committee – Cllr J. Higgin

The Chairman thanked Cllr Higgin for attending the meeting 15th September and the circulating minutes to all Councillors. No further discussions took place.

20082 Planning

- (a) To consider and, if appropriate, to resolve on a response to the following planning applications;

- (1) 20/03698/VAR dated 22nd September 2020, the Variation of Condition No. 5 attached to planning permission 14/01692/OUT dated 15th October 2015 at Maple House, London road, Woore, CW3 9RG. Withdrawn – further updated to be provided.

It was advised that an extension had been granted for comments due to the withdrawal of this application (variance) and subsequent new application (full). The new planning application,

20/03698/FUL will be deferred until the November Parish Council meeting with a deadline of 11th November 2020 for WPC comment.

- (2) Erection of single storey oak framed extension and new chimney 20/03717/FUL dated 23rd September 2020 at Bank Top House, Gravenhunger Lane, Woore, CW3 9RF.

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. No further discussions took place and it was unanimously **resolved** to support the application subject to it meeting the requirements of Shropshire Council as well as comments/observations of the Consultees.

- (3) Detached residential annexe 20/03838/FUL dated 29th September at 4 Westfields Rise, Woore, CW3 9SY.

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Some Councillors expressed alarm that Lead Councillors had met with the applicant and discussion took place as to the correct procedure for reviewing planning applications. Lead Councillors assured the Parish Council that discussions with the applicant were only to answer specific queries relating to the build. Most Councillors offered an opinion. Points raised in support of WPC not meeting with applicants or neighbours in person were that it could present a risk to Councillors and the Parish Council as a Corporate body if it were perceived to be offering advice or comment. It was suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan should be used as the framework for reviewing applications and comments outside of appropriate signage, notifying neighbours and reviewing documentation should not be made by Councillors.

The Chairman advised that planning application procedure would be addressed on the agenda for the November Parish Council meeting and that this had already been circulated to Councillors in June 2020 for comment.

In the absence of Lead Councillor, Cllr. Chell, it was unanimously **resolved** to accept Cllr Irwin's proposal that Woore Parish Council support the application subject to it meeting the requirements of Shropshire Council as well as comments/observations of the Consultees.

20083 HS2

- (1) To receive an update from the Chairman on Traffic Calming/Mitigation next steps and communication to residents

The Chairman reminded Councillors of the opportunity to attend remote HS2 briefing sessions for skills, education, business and employment opportunities and for community and environmental funding. Information had been sent to Councillors via the Clerk.

The Chairman advised of correspondence from Andy Moreton expressing concern that WPC had not requested further discussions on traffic calming/mitigation next steps.

Discussion took place as to the pros and cons of pursuing conversations prior to receipt of a response from the HoL Select Committee. Points in favour were that it could take 6-9 months to push mitigations through and that the Parish could be left vulnerable when trucks begin to roll. Arguments against were that making agreements with Shropshire Council could undermine any response from the Select Committee.

Councillors were reminded that the upgrade from a Pelican to a Puffin crossing and the '20 is plenty' signage outside of the school were already agreed by Shropshire Council as safety features for the children of the school and that these were not part of the HS2 mitigations. It was noted that they had only become part of these discussions once Shropshire Council thought that HS2 may pick up the cost but in fact funding had already been ringfenced by Shropshire Council for these.

It was proposed that The Chairman and Vice Chairman, as members of the working party, engage with Shropshire Council to pursue discussions around some of the mitigations requiring only

Shropshire Council agreement. The resolution to accept this proposal was passed by the majority with Cllr Allison objecting due to the risk that this would have on any impending recommendations to be made by the Select Committee.

- (1) To receive an update from the Vice Chairman following discussions with Yarnfield.

The Vice Chairman has circulated slides prior to the meeting. The Vice Chair advised that Yarnfield had delivered a good presentation to the working party and in summary, the proposal is that the Rail head move from Yarnfield to Aldersey's Rough, via Keele, saving over £600m in construction costs. The working party expressed concern that this proposal would not entirely remove construction traffic through the Parish of Woore and that it would require experts to confirm. Additionally, that although the proposal is comprehensive, the question is if anyone is prepared to listen to it.

The Vice Chairman agreed that the working party would continue to liaise with Yarnfield but no specific action would take place at this time.

- (2) To receive an update from the working party on the House of Lords Select Committee

Councillors were advised that the working party still await receipt of the full transcript from the HoL petition and a full response could take up to 2/3 months.

Councillors were advised that a HS2 update had been printed for residents and that circulation of this was currently underway.

The working party advised that a letter would be sent on behalf of WPC to Owen Patterson MP, to update him of the Parish Council's current position regarding HS2 after receiving confirmation of his return to work.

20084 Local Plan

To receive an update from the Chairman and to resolve to adopt the WPC submission for the Local Plan Consultation.

It was unanimously **resolved** to accept the proposal that the Parish Council adopt the submission made by the Chairman on 25th September 2020 regarding Policy S.11.4, Paragraph 5.160, stating, "A Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for the Woore, Irelands Cross and Pipe Gate area. This Neighbourhood Plan establishes the long-term delivery strategy for the linked communities with strategically important gaps between them, as defined by the development boundary".

20085 St. Leonards Play Area

To receive a report concerning next steps for community engagement.

Councillors were in agreement that a communication advising residents of the formation of the working party should be sent by the Clerk via social media and the website, specifically those residents who had actively voiced support for the campaign to save the football net at St. Leonards play area.

Councillors were reminded that an objective of the working party was to include representation from outside of the Parish Council and that recommendations for individuals who may be interested should be made direct to the Clerk for approach.

20086 Village Green

To receive an update from the Chairman.

This item was deferred until the November meeting due to lack of an update.

20087 COVID-19 Awards

To approve Cllr. Chell's proposal for award expenditure.

Cllr Chell had circulated a proposal prior to the meeting and in her absence, Cllr Higgin proposed that this be adopted. It was unanimously **resolved** that a plaque be purchased to recognise the County Stores Workforce and Volunteers to the cost of £75.00 plus the cost of fitting.

20088 Remembrance Sunday

To consider the Parish's preparations for Remembrance Sunday.

The Clerk advised that the Church has confirmed that the service this year will only be held outside. It will begin at 10.45am and last 25 minutes, with social distancing and face coverings advised.

It was unanimously **resolved** that the Clerk would order a wreath from the British Legion (cost around £50) and that The Chairman and Cllr Higgin would confirm whether Mr Higgin and Mr Chell would act as Marshalls on the day. The Chairman advised that he will supply the Police Slow signs for the day.

It was unanimously **resolved** that the mugs purchased to commemorate VE Day would be gifted to the children of the school, via the Chairman.

20089 RFO Report

- (a) To resolve to adopt a cheque signatory following the resignation of Cllr H. Blake

It was unanimously **resolved** to appoint Cllr Davies as WPC signatory with immediate effect.

- (b) To receive an update on the Annual Governance and Accounting Return

Councillors were informed that the Annual Governance and Accounting Return has been approved and notice has been presented on the WPC website.

- (c) To receive a financial update

It was unanimously **resolved** to adopt the Woore Parish Council Financial Regulations 2020, circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. This document governs conduct for financial management by the Parish Council. The final copy will be available on the WPC website.

The Clerk reported the following financial update;

Current bank balance: £110,365, split as follows;

Recreational fund: £11,436

CIL fund: £52,303

General balance: £46,626

Anticipated bank balance at 31/10/20 £107,121

VAT Claim to be made for Q1/Q2 circa £1000

Councillors were reminded that the November meeting would include budget discussions and that Councillors should be prepared to present ideas/plans accordingly prior to that meeting for discussion.

20090 Clerks Reports and Correspondence

The Clerk reported that all correspondence for the period from 21st September 2020 to 12th October 2020 had been circulated to Councillors. Additionally,

- a) Planning application 20/03846/FUL received, dated 6th October 2020. An extension has been granted by Planning Officer Sue Collins, due to timeframe of consultation and Parish Council meeting dates. Lead Councillor to be assigned for submission of report prior to November meeting and comment by 11th November 2020.
- b) Councillors will be aware that correspondence from Mr & Mrs Lightfoot, dated 24th September, was circulated prior to this meeting. The correspondence is in reference to planning application 20/01173/FUL and specifically refers to discussions documented in the Minutes of Parish Council meeting 8th June 2020, agenda item 20025. After seeking advice from SALC, I responded as Clerk, on behalf of WPC on 7th October 2020. That response has also been circulated to all Councillors prior to this meeting. The basis of that response notes that discussions took place based on information believed to be accurate at that point in time. The correspondence acknowledges the comments of the Planning Officer Report dated 7th July 2020, section 6.1.3 and that the application has now been granted with conditions.

20091 Payment of Accounts

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

The Chairman referred to the increase in Clerk hours and explained that this was due to the volume of work currently. No Councillors offered any comment.

Date	Recipient & Purpose	Amount	Power of Expenditure
12.10.20	H.M.Jackson (September)		
	i Salary	£917.67	LGA 1972 s112(2)
	iii Expenses	£45.42	LG (FP)A 1963 s5
	iv Mileage	£0.00	
	v Sundry	£35.60	LG(FP)A 1963 s5 LG A 1972 s 111
	TOTAL	£998.69	
05.10.20	T.Seabridge (Grounds maintenance 10.08.20 – 2.10.20)	£540.00	LG (MP) A 1976 s19 (3)
16.09.20	R.White (Lengthsman duties)	£30.00	LG (MP) A 1976 s19 (3)
23.09.20	PKF Littlejohn (AGAR services)	£240.00	LGA 1972 s111
12.09.20	M.Cowey (Barrier tape outdoor gym)	£3.29	LG (MP)A 1976 s19(3)
01.10.20	Keele Printing (HS2 update leaflet for residents)	£31.98	LGA 1972 s142(1A)

The meeting closed at 9.08pm.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

9th November 2020 and 14th December 2020 (both @ 7.30pm)

Signed.....(Chair)

Dated 9th November 2020

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
20079 Prop: Davies, K. Second: Cowey, M.	To approve the Minutes of Remote Meeting held on 21 st September 2020.	Cowey	X		
		Irwin	X		
		Davies	X		
		Blake, M			X
		Higgin, J			X
		Clarke	X		
		Allison	X		

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
20083 (1) Prop: Cowey, M. Second: Davies, K.	The Chairman and Vice Chairman, as members of the working party, engage with Shropshire Council to pursue discussions around some of the mitigations requiring only Shropshire Council agreement.	Cowey	X		
		Irwin	X		
		Davies	X		
		Blake, M	X		
		Higgin, J	X		
		Clarke	X		
		Allison		X	