



Minutes of Woore Monthly Parish Council Meeting

Monday 12th February 2024, 7.30pm, The Victory Hall, Woore

PRESENT:

Cllr M. Cowey (Chairman), Cllr C. Hamilton, Cllr M. Carter

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms C Burnard, Clerk to the Council

PUBLIC:

There was one member of the public present with the Tree and Path Warden; Sally Tyson attending briefly to contribute when necessary due to work commitments.

23114 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent

The Chair welcomed councillors to February's Parish meeting.

Apologies were received from Cllr M. Blake due to illness.

Apologies were received from Cllr R. Goodman and Cllr J. Higgin due to work commitments.

Apologies were received from Cllr R. Aldcroft due to Shropshire Council duties.

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

The Chair stated that numbers were low this evening. He added he had phoned SALC [Shropshire Association of Local Councils] that morning to ensure the evenings meeting was at quorum. Shropshire Council confirmed it was, but these numbers are the minimum. The Parish Council are to look into ensuring the Parish Council increase numbers so they can continue to operate and not be absorbed into the County Council.

Some suggestions put forward include moving the meeting from Monday night to an evening more accessible, holding recruitment afternoons, pub visits post meeting and making sure potential Councillors know the workload can be as much or as little as they want.

23115 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).

No declarations were received.

23116 Requests for Dispensations of DPI's

No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared.

23117 Open Forum: to last no longer than 15 minutes

The Chair opened the meeting up to the resident who voiced their concerns on the potholes in the area especially the large pothole outside the White Lion. The Chair pointed out that this is Staffordshire Council, so the Parish Council are unable to act on this, however he informed the resident to report this on Staffordshire's 'Fix my Street' portal.

The resident expressed their interest in becoming a Parish Councillor in order to ensure the Parish Council remains sustainable. Their main concerns preventing them from fully committing is the

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workload. The Chair promised that the workload is completely manageable and is a case of self-government of how much work you wish to take on. Further discussion took place, and the resident was eager to hear more and the Chair will forward them a full information pack for their review. Cllr M. Carter added that the Councillors work really well as a team and if it's a case of a new Councillor not wanting to do the planning applications, for example, other Councillors will be more than happy to make sure they don't have to.

The Chair followed up with a point of the more Councillors we have, the less the workload is.

The Chair stated that Woore Primary School's extension is officially opening on 23rd February at 11.30AM. Helen Morgan is doing the opening ceremony and hopefully the Shropshire Star will be running an article on the occasion.

The Defib at the Chetwode Arms is no longer operational. The Clerk is to work with the Chair to source a repair and a service plan to prevent this from happening in the future.

The Chair briefly spoke to Sally Tyson regarding the application for a bridleway A525 to Cheshire East border, Woore.

The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council has submitted its comments in support of the application as stated in his footpaths report included in these minutes.

The Chair asked the Clerk to chase up the Lenghtsman to ensure the work requested will be completed.

The Chair pointed out to Councillors that the Parish Council is undertaking training of Martyn's Law. The Clerk is to undertake formal training on this matter and share the information with Councillors.

23118 Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8th January 2024 (Local Government Act 1972, s12p41(1)).

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the minutes of meeting 8th January 2024.

23119 Matters arising: to cover any matters arising from Minutes referred to in 23118.

The Chair updated Councillors on the Openreach Fibre Broadband project. The number of pledges is now over 60% however the uptake is starting to slow down. The Chair has been in communication with a resident from Knighton who is keen for this project to be successful. The Chair will be attending Loggerheads Parish Council Meeting on 19th February 2024 to try and encourage residents there to pledge. Sam Patal who attended Woore Parish Council's Meeting in January 2024 will also be in attendance.

The Chair pointed out that there needs to be another big push from Openreach if this is to be successful, ideally in the form of posters displayed in the village and Openreach's attendance in Woore to help residents less technically minded pledging.

The Chair updated Councillors on the Village Green. The tress have now been removed.

The space is looking great and he hopes residents will all be happy.

There is some additional tidying up work to do including levelling the newly exposed area which will be completely shortly, weather permitting, including the additional fencing.

It was unanimously resolved to **approve** the expenditure for the tidying up.

The Chair added that the streetlight is not the Parish Councils responsibility and if residents are concerned with this, they need to contact Permission Homes.

23120 Shropshire Council Representative Report for Cllr R. Aldcroft to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

No report submitted due to absence.

The Chair added that Cllr R. Aldcroft has informed him that no response has been received on the 20MPH zone outside the school or the new school crossing.

23121 Land on Newcastle Road Arrangement complete with contractual formalities.

The Chair informed Councillors that he was approached by a local resident requesting extra space for their sheep to graze upon. The Parish Council were more than happy to allow the resident to use the land to raise their sheep and lambs.

The contract has been signed by the new tenants for use of the land until January 2025, the nominal amount the Parish council has charged for the use of the land has been cashed and all parties are happy with the arrangement.

23122 Manor Bed Fencing Update

The Chair decided to defer this matter to the March 2024 meeting as the two councillors monitoring this situation are absent.

23123 Planning

a) Applications: to adopt comments submitted via delegated powers in response to the following applications and as approved by Councillors prior to the meeting

- i. Reference: 24/00155/FUL (validated 15th January 2024)
Address: The Orchard Northlands Woore Crewe Shropshire CW3 9SH
Proposal: Erection of a single storey annex extension

It was unanimously **resolved to support** the application with comments submitted via the Clerk as below –

“Woore Parish Council SUPPORTS this 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) Decisions: to acknowledge all planning decisions made between 9th January 2024 and 11th February 2024.

- i. Reference: 23/05104/FUL (validated 1st December 2023)
Address – Penrhyn, London Road, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire, CW3 9SQ
Proposal - Two Storey Side Extension and Removal of Existing Carport.
Decision: Permission Granted

The Chair added that new regulation from Shropshire Council has now stated that any Planning Applications undergoing Planning Enforcement must NOT be discussed at Parish Council Meetings.

23124 Committee and Representatives Reports: for Councillors/representatives to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

Cllr C. Hamilton updated the Councillors on recent Community Speed Watch.

The volunteers have been out conducting speed monitoring. Numerous speeding motorists were caught, and Cllr C. Hamilton is certain that their presence does slow motorists down as they warn each other.

West Mercia Police have also been in the village conducting speed enforcement which is greatly appreciated.

The Chair provided a report on HS2

WPC Working Party have been invited to attend the remote Town & Parish HS2 Phase 2a Highways Subgroup Extraordinary Annual Meeting on Monday 26th February at 11am.

Rules of engagement are that all questions are to be generic.

*Agenda items or specific questions are to be submitted by the district, borough, and parish councils to HS2 Ltd at least two weeks before the meeting, so please submit by **Friday 9th February**.*

Agenda items are to be route-wide common interest matters and not site-specific matters. Site specific matters should be raised as a part of on-going bilateral engagement activities between HS2 and its contractors and local district, borough, and parish councils. All questions will be dealt with under the one agenda item.

Cllr. Goodman and Chair have liaised and the following questions have been submitted on behalf of Woore Parish Council:

Q1.

HS2 Ltd and The Dept. of Transport gave a number of Undertakings & Assurances to Town and Parish Councils that would be provided for the disruption generated by the Construction of HS2 Phase 2a. Some Local Authorities of the Town & Parish Councils had already some of these Undertakings & Assurances in either Budgets or Planned Works, due to these been included by both HS2 Ltd. and The Dept. of Transport, the Local Authorities cancelled them from their own schedules. A number of these were committed to back to 2016/17 by the Local Authorities and now due to "lack of funds" will now not take place. Can HS2 Ltd and the Dept of Transport please confirm that they will still carry out the Undertakings and Assurances that are applicable and not put the Towns and Parishes now at a disadvantage, through no fault of their own.

Q2.

Town and Parish Councils during the process of Consultations and Meetings for HS2 Phase 2a spent considerable amounts of time and local Precept Tax monies that had to be generated by increased Precept amounts to local residents to ensure Health, Safety and Wellbeing. Can HS2 Ltd and the Dept. of Transport provide compensation for the Town and Parish Councils who were involved in these incremental costs.

Q3.

Local Highway Authorities (Staffordshire, Cheshire East, and Shropshire) were allocated by the Dept. of Transport a Road Safety Fund for improvements and safety modifications during the construction of HS2 Phase 2a, is this money still available, as the commitment was given, or as it already been allocated to the Local Authorities.

Q4.

Parish/Town Councils along with Community Organisations were in the process of submitting CEF & BLEF Grant Funding with Groundworks when the process was halted. They had in some cases incurred costs as part of the requirements for their submission, will this be compensated by refund to the organisations by HS2 Ltd., or will they be allowed to continue with the application.

Contact as also take place with Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council as well as SRCG regarding questions to be raised.

The Chair shared that there has been no issues reported regarding Tree and Hedges since the Parish Council Meeting held in January 2024.

The Chair shared a report from The Shropshire Chairmans Network Meeting held on 9th January 2024.

There were 27no in attendance.

- *Presentation by Helen Ball in preparation of Martyn's Law that will become Legislation shortly. This new Legislation came out of the Manchester Bombings and will impact all Town/ Parish Councils in ensuring that all Venues in the Parish are complying once it becomes Law. (They will function as the Monitoring/Policing the Legislation.) There will be an invite sent to all Clerk's advising/requesting they attend the meetings/training required in the next few weeks.*
- *Discussion took place regarding Emergency Planning Measures, all were advised that Weymouth Town Council have the "Best Demonstrated" Plan currently and again Clerk's of Town & Parish Councils encouraged to review this Plan in preparation for Training Courses that will be set up shortly.*
- *Road Diversion issues was raised, and representation will be made to Shropshire Council Highways to ensure that future Road Diversions include HGVs, as currently diversions are routing all traffic on unsuitable roads.*
- *A reminder will be sent to all Clerks ensure that The SALC Monthly Bulletin is circulated, especially to Chairpersons as this includes dates/times as well as login details for future Meetings.*

The Chair provided an update on Footpaths-

There has been no further correspondence received from the Shropshire Council Rights of Way Officer regards 0236/36/1 (Irelands Cross – Dorrington). Also, Outdoor Partnerships have not advised on any progress regarding the number of reported issues reported several months ago, this will be followed up prior the next PC Meeting.

WPC received notification of a Consultation - Public rights of way application for addition of a bridleway A525 to Cheshire East border, Woore, details attached. Spoke with our Path Warden who advises that North Staffs Bridleways are supportive of the proposal. WPC have had historic issues with the current Public Footpath and propose the following response on behalf of Woore Parish Council:

*Woore Parish Council **SUPPORTS** the addition of the bridleway between the A525, Audlem Road to Public Footpath 21 in the parish of Buerton in Cheshire East.*

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23125 Finance

a) 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
12/02/2024	Chelsea Burnard	Clerk Salary (Jan month): Gross Pay - NI deduction Income Tax deduction Expenses - Paper WooreParishCouncil.org Domain	001954	£530.64 £0.00 -£106.20 £15.82 £69.95	 £3.17 £14.00	LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LG (FP)A 1963 s.5 LG (FP)A 1973 s.5 LG A 1972 s.111
12/02/2024	Access2Trees	Village Green Tree Maintenance	001955	£4,990.00	£998.00	HA 1980 s.96

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

b. Bank Reconciliation completed to January month end (including cheque cashed in January but not represented until February 2024).

Closing Bank Balance at 01 February 2024			
Current Account	100.00		
Business Reserve Account	143,923.97	144,023.97	
Less unrepresented Cheques			
Cheque 001950	50.00	-	
Cheque 001952	50.00		
		(100.00)	
		143,923.97	
Split as follows			
Closing Balances			
Recreational fund	10,106.00		
CIL Neighbourhood Fund	69,456.84		
General Fund	64,461.13	144,023.97	0.00

No errors nor comments were received.

The Chair informed Councillors that the CIL payment to be paid in May 2024 which will cover 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023 will be £50,123.51.

The Chair encouraged Councillors to put forward ideas for how to spend the CIL money during the next financial year for any infrastructure projects including the movement of the community gym equipment, new speed monitoring devices and works like the village green.

23126 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

No correspondence to share that has not already been dealt with by Councillors from the Clerk.

Meeting Closed 10pm

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