

# **Minutes of Woore Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting**

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

**Held Remotely**

## **PRESENT:**

Cllr M. Cowey (Chairman), Cllr A. Allison, Cllr M. Carter, Cllr K. Davies, Cllr J. Higgin, Cllr K. Chell. Cllr J. Clarke

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs H. Jackson, Clerk to the Council.

## **PUBLIC:**

Melissa Morton was in virtual attendance.

## **20047 Apologies for absence.**

Cllrs H. Blake, M. Blake and G. Irwin (Vice Chairman) had sent their apologies for absence, which were due to personal commitments. It was unanimously **resolved** to accept the apologies. No apologies had been received from Cllr R. Aldcroft, Shropshire Council.

## **20048 Declarations of Pecuniary Interests.**

No Councillor declared a pecuniary interest. Cllr Allison requested that she be muted during discussions for agenda item 20052(a2).

## **20049 Open Forum – To last no longer than 15 minutes.**

No members of the public wished to raise any matters in the Open Forum.

Cllr Carter requested that there be a discussion regarding the removal of the football nets at St. Leonards Play Area. Cllr Cowey assured Cllr. Carter that an update would be provided in Clerks Correspondence, 20056.

## **20050 To approve and sign the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020.**

The resolution to accept the minutes was passed by the majority, with Cllr Clarke abstaining due to absence at the previous meeting.

## **20051 Matters Arising**

No Councillors wished to raise any matters in the meeting.

## **20052 Planning**

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

- (1) Application for erection of part single storey and two storey side and rear extensions and internal alterations 20/02927/FUL dated 27<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 2 and 3 Bearstone Cottages, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 4HG.

Cllr Davies had circulated a report to all Councillors prior to the meeting and gave a summary of that report. Cllr Davies informed Councillors that an anonymous call from a neighbour had alerted him to a concern regarding the impact on the existing 50-year-old hedgerows that are currently active with nesting wildlife and Cllr Davies pointed out the farm's significant newt population in this case. Cllr Davies stated that although the application does not detail the removal of any bordering hedgerows, the footprint of the building does go right up to the borders and this is therefore a risk. It was noted that the application states there are no trees and hedges on or adjacent to the site, when there are, accepting that this must be an error.

Cllr Davies proposed that the development is sympathetic to its surroundings and Woore Parish Council should support the application, subject to the Applicant meeting the requirements of Shropshire Council and its consultees and also, to the detail of the ecology report, specifically, that all bordering hedgerows are retained and undisturbed.

The resolution to accept was passed by the majority of Councillors.

- (2) Application for erection of one self-build dwelling 20/02976/FUL dated 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 28 Grove Crescent, Woore, CW3 9SX.

Cllr Allison left the meeting at this point.

Cllr Higgin had circulated a report to all Councillors prior to the meeting and gave a summary of that report. Discussion took place regarding the historical applications relating to this site. Cllr Higgin explained that whilst there was support for the current application from neighbours, this was in the main due to the fact that they had purchased those houses in the belief that the pending application would be approved, when in fact, the land should remain for recreational use and should be maintained by the Applicant for that purpose, which was the reason for previous applications being denied.

Cllr Higgin expressed concern regarding the footprint of the proposed dwelling, as it is far larger than that of the existing barn which is a single storey dwelling. Additionally, the ecology report proposes the use of Laurel as a hedgerow plant which will border the fields. Laurel is an urban plant as is not in-keeping with the surroundings.

The resolution to object was passed by the majority of Cllrs and it was agreed to include all the content of previous objection, reaffirming the views of the Parish Council. (See end of the minutes for voting and appendix 1.0 for full objection).

Cllr Allison re-joined the Meeting.

### **20053 HS2**

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

Cllr Cowey referred to the most recent Traffic Calming Mitigations document circulated to all Councillors and requested comment. Cllr Allison expressed concern that the suggestion to put railings on the opposite side of the road to compensate for the narrow and dangerous stretch of pavement linking the school with the Falcon is absurd. Additionally, there are red marks against many items that were put forward by the House of Commons. Cllr Alison stated that there was too much focus on the 'junction' and reminded all Councillors that this affects all the Parish, not just Woore. Cllr Chell commented that the continuous path through the Parish was hugely important.

Cllr Allison expressed concern that continuing with the mitigations poses great risk in relation to the impending House of Lords petition on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020. Cllr Alison warned that the Parish Council should not be keen to accept what they are offering as it could undermine the petition and remove the Parish Councils ability to argue against the route, stating that the current plans are 'inhumane' and that HS2 lack transparency and are not trustworthy. Cllr Allison stated that the mitigations will not address many implications for Parishioners of HS2 adopting the planned route, such as the need to sell.

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' and will face a timely process to push any mitigations through once work has begun. Cllr Cowey suggested that Councillors may want to bear in mind that 'playing ball' with the mitigations and keeping the pressure on may be necessary to provide the Parishioners with a backup plan.

Cllr Cowey remarked that there was a surprising lack of interest from Shropshire Council regarding the mitigations and Councillors agreed that Shropshire Council are likely to 'rubber stamp' HS2 and residents will be left 'up in arms'. Cllr Davies posed the question of the likelihood of the petition being successful, to which Councillors did not comment. Cllr Cowey reassured Councillors that the petition has the full support of the Parish Council but reminded Councillors that the House of Lords were not able to make any Additional Provisions and questioned whether an alternative route may be viewed as this.

It was **resolved** to take no further action with the mitigations at this time so as not to risk the success of the petition and agreed that Cllr Cowey would deliver this communication on behalf of the Parish Council. All Councillors were in favour.

(2) To receive an update from the Vice Chairman.

No additional updates were provided as Cllr Irwin was absent from the meeting.

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

Cllr Allison confirmed that there have been and will continue to be meetings including all representatives of the petition. Cllr Allison summarised that the petition would force the agenda that Woore Parish Council have been disenfranchised from the process from the beginning and this continues due to non-disclosure agreements. The petition will display the inhumanity of what is being imposed on this Parish. Cllr Allison expressed that this has never been about saying no to HS2 but instead, the need to address that what is being imposed is impractical and threatens the health, both physical and mental, of the Parishioners. Cllr Allison reminded Councillors of the likelihood that HS2 figures are misleading as numbers have been omitted and that HS2 reserve the right to increase hours and days of work whenever they wish.

Cllr Allison committed to providing full names and contact details for all presenters to the Clerk, for a response to be sent to David Walker and that evidence would be supplied to the Clerk prior to the deadline.

### **20054 Land at Newcastle Road**

To receive an update from the Chairman.

Cllr Cowey referred to a report sent to Councillors prior to the meeting in which the approval of Shropshire Council CIL Local Funding of £24,000 is provided. Cllr Cowey requested that Councillors approve a contribution of £5,802 plus VAT from the CIL Neighbourhood Fund to complete the work, totalling £29,802 plus VAT. Cllr Cowey agreed to contact the sub-contractor to provide a start date for the work.

Cllr. Allison thanked Cllr. Cowey for his dedication and hard work for seeing this through to competition. Cllr Cowey acknowledged Cllr Chell's assistance with this.

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the CIL Neighbourhood Fund contribution of £5,802 plus VAT.

### **20055 Movable & Stationary Vehicle Activated Sign Repairs**

To receive and update/proposal from Cllr M. Blake.

In Cllr M. Blakes absence, Cllr Cowey referred to a report sent to all Councillors prior to the meeting in which Cllr M. Blake presented the costs for repairing the MVAS as £490 plus delivery and VAT.

In the report, Cllr M. Blake also advises that a Traffic Counter will be installed on loan for a 4-week period to assist with a more accurate reading of road traffic flow. The report proposes that Councillors consider authorising the spend of £900 plus VAT for the purchase of the counter. Cllr. Cowey advised that the Traffic Counter may prove valuable if HS2 was to be confirmed. As the installation of the Traffic Counter was delayed by a week giving time prior the next PC Meeting for information to be provided from the trial, it could be discussed then if the PC goes ahead with the purchase.

It was **resolved** to accept the proposal to fund the repairs of the MVAS at £490 plus delivery and VAT.

Cllr. Chell give her apologies at this point and left the Meeting

### **20056 Clerks Reports and Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that all the correspondence received for the period from 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020 to 17<sup>th</sup> August 2020 had been forwarded to Councillors.

The Clerk provided an update on the following items;

#### **Streetlights**

The Clerk confirmed that this was initially actioned by the previous Clerk earlier in the year and is now with the current Clerk. For the benefit of all Councillors, it was explained that a decision was taken at the end of 2019 to halt all payments to NPower until it could be confirmed which streetlights fall within the 'unmetered' accounts, following concern that Woore Parish Council are paying for streetlights that are not WPC responsibility. Shropshire Council have been little help to date. The Clerk advised that fresh contact has been made with Shropshire Council, NPower and Resolve Energy, a third party who reviewed WPC contracts in 2018, to try and move this forward.

#### **St. Leonard Park**

The Clerk reminded all Councillors that Parishioners have been advised that the football net at St. Leonards Play Area will be removed following the advice of a ROSPA Inspection and visit from Shropshire Council. The decision has been met

with much dislike by residents on social media. The Clerk reminded Councillors that WPC are bound by health and safety regulations and compliance guidelines in this case. The Clerk requested that a working group be established to conduct a review of the playground equipment as an outcome of the most recent ROSPA inspection. This will include Councillors, residents and children; to which no Councillors commented.

The Clerk advised that quotes for the replacement of the football net and other ROSPA inspection recommendations would be sought and an update would be provided prior to the September meeting. Cllr Davies made Councillors aware of remarks on Social Media about residents funding a replacement net themselves. The Clerk agreed to respond on behalf of WPC to inform residents that any equipment placed on the park would be removed, with an explanation as to why. Councillors were reminded not to engage in conversation on social media and that this was to be handled by the Clerk, as per the Social Media Policy.

### **Footpaths**

The Clerk advised that full reports would be available at the September meeting but that several complaints regarding overgrown hedgerows and pathways have been received from residents. The Clerk advised that there will be a review of the contract and job schedule with Tony Seabridge as a priority to identify any additional works that need including or referring to SC and/or landowners.

### **Complaints Policy**

The Clerk advised Councillors that a WPC Complaints Policy will be circulated to Councillors prior to Septembers' meeting for comment.

### **Standing Orders**

The Clerk advised Councillors that following receipt of the latest guidance on financial regulations, amendments to the standing orders must be made and that this will be circulated prior to Septembers' meeting for approval.

### **Village Green**

The Clerk advised that WPC have taken advice from NALC to secure details regarding the ownership of the land and that is now the priority before any further work on the project continues. An update will be provided at the September meeting.

### **20057 Payment of Accounts**

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

1.	H. M. Jackson (July) (Paid)	
	i Salary	£771.61
	ii Expenses (phone, paper, ink)	£45.42

	iii Mileage	£0.00
	iv Sundry	£42.89
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£859.92</b>
2.	R. White (Lengthsman)	£30.00
3.	B. Morris (WPC Expenses Email subscription)	£57.46
4.	T. Seabridge (Grasscutting)	£822.00
5.	Sibaxo (St.Leonards Deep Clean) (Paid)	£650.00
6.	Sibaxo (10x week sanitisation) (Paid)	£720.00

The meeting closed at 9.17pm.

## DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020 (both @ 7.30pm)

Signed.....(Chair)

Dated 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### FOR THOSE ITEMS THAT THE VOTING WAS SPLIT

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
<b>20050</b>	To approve the Minutes of the Meeting held 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2020.	Cowey	X		
		Allison	X		
<b>Prop: Davies, K.  Second: Cowey, M.</b>		Davies	X		
		Chell	X		
		Carter	X		
		Clarke			X
		Higgin	X		

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
<b>20052 a.1</b>	Application for erection of part single storey and two storey side and rear extensions and internal alterations 20/02927/FUL dated 27 <sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 2 and 3 Bearstone Cottages, Market Drayton, Shropshire, TF9 4HG.	Cowey	X		
		Allison	X		
<b>Prop: Davies, K.  Second: Cowey, M.</b>		Davies	X		
		Chell	X		
		Carter		X	
		Clarke			X
		Higgin	X		

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
<b>20052 a.2</b>	Application for erection of one self-build dwelling 20/02976/FUL dated 4 <sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 28 Grove Crescent, Woore, CW3 9SX.	Cowey	X		
		Allison			X
<b>Prop: Higgin, J.  Second: Carter, M.</b>		Davies	X		
		Chell	X		
		Carter	X		
		Clarke			X
		Higgin	X		