

Minutes of Woore Parish Council Meeting

Monday 11th January 2021, 7.30pm

Remote meeting ID 175 619 5654



PRESENT:

Cllr M. Cowey (Chairman), Cllr. G. Irwin (Vice Chairman), Cllr K. Davies, Cllr J. Clarke, Cllr. M. Blake, Cllr J. Higgin, Cllr M. Carter, Cllr C. Hamilton. Cllr D. Beeston joined the meeting late due to technical difficulties.

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

PUBLIC:

No members of the public were in attendance.

The Chairman opened the meeting by wishing all Councillors a very Happy New Year.

20123 Apologies for absence

No Councillors were absent from the meeting.

20124 Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

Cllr K. Davies requested to be muted during discussions relating to 20130 Planning (aii).

Cllr G. Irwin requested to be muted during discussions relating to 20130 Planning (b).

20125 Open Forum – To last no longer than 15 minutes

No members of the public were present and no Councillors wished to raise any matters.

20126 To approve and sign Minutes of Remote Meeting held on 14th December 2020

The resolution to accept the minutes of 14th December 2020 was passed by majority.

20127 Matters Arising

The Chairman referred to correspondence received from a Shropshire Council Representative in response to agenda item 20119. This was received only hours before the meeting and provided incomplete information. It was **resolved** by majority that the Clerk would respond requesting further information before the request for an Extraordinary meeting can be progressed.

The Chairman referred to agenda item 20120, streetlighting. It was reported that Shropshire Council allegedly adopted the streetlighting on the Grove Development at the end of November 2020. The Chairman confirmed that he has taken steps to clarify this and will provide an update at the next meeting. The concern is that this contradicts Shropshire Council's stance to date, that these would not be adopted as the site is incomplete and therefore raises questions over the wider project to review streetlight ownership. The Clerk confirmed that the new contract for electricity supply had been agreed with SSE and an outstanding invoice remained from Npower.

20128 Representatives Reports

Cllr Beeston joined the meeting at this point.

To receive reports concerning the following matters:

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

Cllr Blake advised that the MVAS data continued to be circulated to all parties fortnightly. There had been technical issues with the MVAS which would delay the reports by one week. It was agreed that during COVID restrictions, the MVAS would be left in situ and data extracted/battery changed only.

Discussion was held regarding the effectiveness of the MVAS and other speeding initiatives.

The Chair referred to recent advice from West Mercia Police that the Parish Council should look at SNAP (dashcam recordings), which has seen success and can be used for prosecuting, in cases of speeding. It was noted that the Parish Council is keen for volunteers/residents to contact the Clerk with an aim to progressing the speed gun scheme and that progress was being made, particularly regarding recent correspondence with the Road Safety Team and the support of local Police representatives.

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

It was reported that there had been reports of a gate locked across a public footpath and that this would be investigated by Wardens, in line with social distancing guidelines. It was noted that there were increasing concerns about residents not adhering to guidance for the use of public footpaths and cases of people walking through fields with livestock. It was agreed that the Clerk use social media and the website to promote the importance of residents following guidance provided on the Woore Parish Council website.

It was acknowledged that the Parish Council had still received no response to concerns raised with Richard Knight, Shropshire Council, in regard to the footpath bordering the Bowling Green and that this would be progressed.

(c) Village Hall – Cllr J. Higgin

There are no meetings during the current restrictions and the Hall remains closed, with all groups/classes ceased for the time being. It was noted that the Hall could potentially be used as a hub for COVID vaccinations and any update regarding this would be reported in due course.

(d) Shropshire – Councillor Mr R. Aldcroft

Cllr Aldcroft referred to a report provided to the Clerk.

The council started back last week after the Christmas break but most of the time was spent chasing the CCG and NHS to get Covid vaccines more widely available. I have a meeting tomorrow trying to ensure elderly and vulnerable do not have to travel for too long or out of the local area to get their vaccination. There are areas of the county where things are a little patchy, which is mainly down to the local GPs ability to store vaccine at the right temperature. Everyone is confident that all main groups of vulnerable people will get the vaccine by the middle of February. It is now said that over 9,000 residents in Shropshire have been vaccinated.

Options for the Shirehall site to be redeveloped along with adjoining car parks are being looked at by Shirehall Council. Money from the sale will fund the move of the Shropshire Council to a more eco-friendly & practical town centre location.

HS2 meetings with Owen Paterson representatives of Shropshire Council and the HS2 team will take place later this month. This should be one of the final meetings to agree how HS2 will mitigate the potential damage to the parish that 500 HGV's travelling from Stone to Onneley along the A51 and A525. This work will last for seven years affecting major commuter junctions at the A53.

Possible wobble on National, local, City Mayors & Police and crime commissioner's elections in May 2021.

The Chairman raised concerns regarding the planned meeting of the Northern Planning Committee, 12th January, specifically in relation to a planning application, to which to Parish Council recently objected. It was noted that although the Parish Council had submitted comment within the timeframe given, that this timeframe was unrealistic and unfair. The Chair questioned Shropshire Council planners understanding of the Neighbourhood Plan and the weight this carries in planning law. Occasions where the Neighbourhood Plan is being overlooked are increasing which is the cause of grave concern to the Parish Council. Cllr Aldcroft agreed that this concern would be fed back to the Committee.

It was noted that comments submitted on behalf of Woore Parish Council, to the Northern Planning Committee, would be included as an Appendix (1.0) in the minutes and it was unanimously **resolved** to include this for all cases moving forward.

20129 Appointment of Representatives

To appoint representatives for the following positions;

- (a) Village Hall

It was unanimously **resolved** to appoint Cllr Beeston as representative, to replace Cllr Higgin.

- (b) Trees & Pathways - Chair to continue covering the 2-person role temporarily.

It was noted that the Chairman would continue in the representative role and the appointment of a second representative would be deferred until after the elections in May.

- (c) Woore United Charities

It was noted that the Cllr Higgin would continue in the representative role and the appointment of a second representative would be deferred until after the elections in May.

- (d) Old Woore School Trust

It was unanimously **resolved** to appoint Cllr Beeston as representative.

20130 Planning

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

- i. 20/04932/FUL dated 4th December 2020 for the erection of a storage shed at TT Pumps, Onneley Works, Newcastle Road, Woore, CW3 9RU.

The Lead Councillor referred to a report circulated prior to the meeting and discussion took place. It was unanimously **resolved** to support the application subject to consultee comments.

- ii. 20/05128/FUL dated 17th December 2020 for the change of use from agricultural building to detached dwelling with first floor rear extension and covered parking area for Cattery Manager, at Lakeside Luxury Cattery, Villa Farm, 10 Audlem Road, Woore.

Cllr Davies left the meeting at this point.

The Lead Councillor referred to a report circulated prior to the meeting and discussion took place. It was **resolved** by majority to object to the application for the following reasons:

- 1) The Planning Application is lacking in detail/information regarding how the current business of the Cattery is to continue.
- 2) There have been previous Planning Applications for the Cattery, which are not shown on the Planning Portal, the latest 17/01258/FUL November 2017 and Conditions were applied.

- 3) There is no Ecology Report and the proposal for alterations is close to a large pond. (The SC Planning Ecologist requested refusal also on this in the Consultee response).
- 4) If the Application was to be granted, then there are significant changes to the Agricultural Building that could result in not maintaining the local character.

It was agreed that further, more detailed information should be provided and the Consultation process completed fully before the application could be supported.

- (b) To discuss Audlem Road development correspondence

Cllr Davies re-joined the meeting. Cllr Irwin left the meeting at this point.

The Chairman referred to correspondence circulated prior to the meeting, where a request had been made by the developer to engage with the Parish Council to discuss access plans for the proposed development; with the intention of being good neighbours. It was explained that since this correspondence was received, an outline planning application had been submitted to Shropshire Council and this therefore prevented the Parish Council from engaging with the developer, in line with Woore Parish Council policy and procedures. It was acknowledged that the history of this application is complex and as such, was **resolved** by majority that a Working Party of 4 be created to review the application. The Clerk confirmed that an extension to the consultation date had been sought from the Case Officer to enable this to be discussed at the Parish Council February meeting.

20131 HS2

- (1) To receive an update from the Chairman on Traffic Calming/Mitigation discussions/next steps

Cllr Irwin re-joined the meeting at this point.

The Chairman acknowledged the work of WPAGs, Councillors and volunteers for their time and effort over the Christmas period to support the letter sent to 650 MPs regarding the Amendment to the HS2 Phase 2a Bill and noted that the responses confirmed that the letters had increased awareness of the impending bill.

It was explained that a remote meeting to review the current list of mitigations was to be hosted by Rt Hon Owen Paterson on 20th January 2021. Attending would be Woore Parish Council Working Party, Shropshire Council Representatives and HS2. Mr Paterson would be on-site in Woore for the meeting, enabling him to provide video footage of talking points during the meeting.

It was confirmed that slides for the recent HS2 Annual Parish Council meeting had been circulated and that these included important dates for Councillors to note.

There has been no confirmation from Shropshire Council as to whether they have or have not agreed to act as a Consultee to Staffordshire Council.

HS2 have begun awarding contracts for Phase 2a and this showed their confidence that Royal Assent would be granted. It was noted that the recent Chris Packham petition had achieved over 100,000 signatures, hopefully forcing Government to review the costings associated with HS2.

- (1) To receive an update from the Vice Chairman

Further to Lord Rosser's amendment, it was reported that Yarnfield Parish Council have provided reports in support of the bill; with copies sent by Bill Cash to key individuals including Grant Shapps,

the Government, Transport Select Committee and other high-ranking MPs. Meanwhile, at the recent meeting of the Transport Select Committee, there was a report concerning Phase 1 of construction, with comment made by a Parish Council Chairman that there had been 'absolute anarchy' concerning HS2 construction traffic; including damage to buildings and cars and hauliers not sticking to the routes. A dim view of this was taken by the committee. It was acknowledged that this is a real concern and demonstrates the need for Woore Parish Council to continue pushing ahead with mitigations and support of the amendment.

20132 Policies and Procedures

To resolve to adopt the following policies;

- (a) Bullying & Harassment Policy
- (b) Protocol for Remote Meetings
- (c) Protocol for Councillors / Clerk Relations

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve all policies with immediate effect.

20133 Shropshire Local Plan Consultation

To receive an update from the Chairman.

Cllr Aldcroft left the meeting at this point.

The Chairman referred to a report circulated prior to the meeting and discussion took place, noting that there was no need to respond to the consultation and both the Shropshire Local Plan and the Woore Neighbourhood Plan now align in terms of Regulations 18/19. However, it was noted that the current Woore Neighbourhood Plan includes 30 houses up to 2036, whereas the Shropshire Council Plan is for 38 up to 2038. There was also some discrepancy over the number of these that have already been built. It was acknowledged that whilst this required attention from the Parish Council, there was no immediate concern. Councillors were in agreement about the importance of tracking the numbers for new developments and it was noted that there may be a requirement on review (due 2024), to extend the Woore Neighbourhood Plan by a further two years to align with the Shropshire Consultation Plan.

It was unanimously **resolved** to minute the following as Woore Parish Councils comments following a review of the plan.

Shropshire Local Plan 2016-2036

Section 5.160 A Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared for the Woore, Ireland's 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.

Schedule A5(ii) which clearly restricts the remaining windfall allowance to 38no by 2038. The Woore Neighbourhood Plan envisaged around 30 additional dwellings from 2016-2036 therefore the additional 8no cover the difference between 2036 -2038.

The Interactive Policies Map is also helpful as our Hub is marked as having a development boundary as shown in Insets for S11 Market Drayton Place Plan area.

20134 COVID Lockdown

To discuss all matters concerning the Parish, in relation to the current restrictions.

The Chairman referred to a report circulated prior to the meeting and the request from Woore Primary School for a grant of £750 to help towards the purchase of laptops/devices to support families with home learning during the current pandemic. It was reported that some families were struggling to access online learning for children due to lack of devices (particularly those with multiple children or financial difficulties). Some discussion took place, with all Councillors in agreement that in the current climate, supporting the children of the Parish should be a priority.

The Chairman acknowledged a request to residents and key local businesses had also been made, as well as the Old Woore School Trust. It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the grant of £750, noting that once restrictions are lifted, the laptops would be utilised by the school ongoing.

The Chairman noted that some elderly residents of the Parish were needing to travel to Oswestry for COVID vaccinations and that contact had been made with the Volunteers of Woore regarding transport issues for the most vulnerable residents.

The Clerk raised concerns over workload and managing the need to home-school whilst restrictions were in place. Councillors were sympathetic to this issue and agreed the need to prioritise, accepting that there may be an impact on the Clerk's availability during this time.

20135 Grit Bins

To discuss the provision and maintenance of bins within the Parish.

Cllr Clarke raised concerns that some grit bins within the Parish had little salt in them and also contained a lot of water. It was agreed that contact would be made with Shropshire Council to understand 'topping up' costs, whilst Cllr Clarke agreed to conduct an audit of grit bins within the Parish, acknowledging that any plans to maintain the bins would need to be approved by full Council and that the Parish Council insurance policy would need review to ensure that it is protected fully for this service.

20136 Clerks Reports and Correspondence

The Clerk reported that all correspondence for the period from 14th December 2020 to 11th January 2021 had been circulated to Councillors.

The Clerk noted that the 2021/22 precept request had been submitted to Shropshire Council as per procedures.

It was acknowledged that due to current priorities and also budgetary restrictions, the SmartWater initiative would be deferred until further notice, noting the deadline for 50% funding from the PCC of March 2021.

The Clerk provided an update on the ongoing concern over the Parish Council owned defibrillators and discussion took place. It was confirmed that the replacement defibrillator on loan would remain in situ and that further investigation was required to identify options for funding/replacement/maintenance and regular audits long term.

20137 Payment of Accounts

It was **resolved** by majority to approve the following cheques for payment:

Date	Recipient & Purpose	Amount	Power of Expenditure
11.01.21	H.M.Jackson (December)		
	i Salary (net tax/NI £12.82)	£886.03	LGA 1972 s.112(2)
	ii Expenses	£45.42	LG (FP)A 1963 s.5
	iii Mileage	£0.00	
	iv Sundry	£23.28	LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 LG A 1972 s 111 LGA 1972 s. 137
	TOTAL	£954.73	
11.01.21	HMRC (PAYE NI Employee/Employer Contributions month 10)	£35.84	LGA 1972 s 112(2)
31.12.20	T. Seabridge (Grounds maintenance - St Leonards wood removal, planters tidy-up and Christmas tree)	£336.00 (inc. VAT)	HA 1980 s.96
23.12.20	Design Marc (printing MP letters)	£154.56	LGA 1972 s.137**
15.12.20	KJS Staffs Ltd (Newcastle Road CIL funding)	£24,000.00	LGA 1972 s.124(1)
11.01.21	Chapel (Christmas tree lighting supply donation)	£15.00	LGA 1972 s.137**

Note: It was noted that the Brunel Engraving (Commemorative plaque) payment approved 14th December 2020 meeting (£228.48) had since reduced by £36.00 to £192.48. No cheque had been issued, meaning payment will be made at the reduced amount.

The meeting closed at 10.16pm.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

8th February 2021 and 8th March 2021 (both @ 7.30pm)

Signed.....(Chair)

Dated 8th February 2021

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
20126 Prop: Carter, M Second: Davies, K	To approve the Minutes of the Remote Meeting held on 14 th December 2020.	Cowey	X		
		Irwin	X		
		Davies	X		
		Blake, M	X		
		Higgin, J	X		
		Clarke	X		
		Carter	X		
		Beeston			X
		Hamilton	X		

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
20127 Prop: Cowey, M Second: Davies, K	(Following the request from a Shropshire Council representative for an Extraordinary meeting) - To respond requesting further information before the request for an Extraordinary meeting can be progressed.	Cowey	X		
		Irwin	X		
		Davies	X		
		Blake, M	X		
		Higgin, J	X		
		Clarke	X		
		Carter	X		
		Beeston			X
		Hamilton	X		

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
20130 aii) Prop: Higgin, J Second: Carter, M	To resolve to object to the application.	Cowey	X		
		Irwin	X		
		Davies			X
		Blake, M	X		
		Higgin, J	X		
		Clarke	X		
		Carter	X		

		Beeston	X		
		Hamilton	X		

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
20130 b)	To resolve to form a Working Party of 4, to review the application.	Cowey	X		
		Irwin			X
Prop: Cowey, M		Davies	X		
Blake, M		X			
Second: Clarke, J		Higgin, J	X		
Clarke		X			
Carter		X			
Beeston		X			
Hamilton		X			