

Minutes of Woore Parish Council Meeting

Monday 9th August 2021, 7.30pm, Victory Hall, Woore



PRESENT:

Cllr M. Cowey (Chairman), Cllr J. Higgin, Cllr D. Beeston, Cllr G. Daville & Cllr M. Carter.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Cllr R. Aldcroft, Shropshire Council and Mrs H. Jackson, Clerk to the Council.

PUBLIC:

Mrs R. Goodman and Mr Rigby (residents).

21053 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent

Cllr Cowey welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting apologies from Cllr M. Blake and Cllr C. Hamilton due to personal commitments and Cllr K. Davies due to the requirement to isolate. It was unanimously **resolved** to accept apologies.

21054 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or any other interests

No declarations were received.

21055 Open Forum – to last no longer than 15 minutes.

A member of the public expressed concern regarding high levels of speeding within the Parish, particularly making reference to Irelands Cross. Much discussion took place, with the Chair offering a thorough explanation of the efforts being made by the Parish Council to address the issue. It was noted that WPC are in high level discussions with the local authority, Shropshire Council, to implement a continuous speed limit of 30mph throughout the Parish, as part of the HS2 mitigations. This is supported by Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP; however, is a long process that requires several months of consultation. Furthermore, it was noted that there are 2no VAS and 1no MVAS in the Parish. The MVAS location is rotated to provide a wide coverage of the Parish, detail of which was provided.

The same resident remarked on the number of potholes and loose manhole covers on the A51 and the length of time it takes for them to be repaired, with many having been reported for several months. Much discussion took place and reference was made to a recent meeting that was held in Woore between WPC and Leader and Deputy Leader of Shropshire Council, Lezley Picton and Steve Charmley, where this issue was raised following correspondence from WPC noting the poor condition of rural roads in Shropshire. Attendees were informed about the new portal for reporting all issues to Shropshire Council, 'Fix My Street', discussed in detail in item 20162b.

The Chairman explained that issues regarding road surface damage and potentially unlicensed HGVs dumping soil on land within Pipe Gate had been referred to the Environmental Agency, following an on-site visit from the Chairman and Cllr Aldcroft. Currently, the origin of the waste is unconfirmed. Most Councillors offered comment and discussion took place. An update will be provided in due course.

The Chairman congratulated Woore WI on their fundraising efforts resulting in a £550 donation to the Royal Stoke Hospital Cystic Fibrosis Unit.

The Chairman and Clerk alerted Councillors to the growing need to review IT systems including software and hardware, explaining the importance of improving remote access, data storage and

security. It was noted that Cllr Davies has agreed to provide a proposal/recommendation for discussion at the September meeting and further information would follow.

21056 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th July 2021

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting 12th July 2021.

21057 Matters arising: to cover any matters arising from Minutes referred to in 21056.

The Chairman provided an update on the following issues;

- A quote has been provided to replace the waste bin reported as broken on the village green, Audlem Road. A review is currently under way to include the possible re-location of other bins to accommodate various issues raised recently by residents. This includes the addition of new dog fouling signage. SC are required to approve these plans as there are safety requirements for the emptying of waste bins.
- The flooding related issues at Flash Farm are ongoing, with the resident reporting that recent updates from SC about the clearing of gullies and culverts is incorrect. WPC are supporting the resident in progressing a solution.
- WPC awaits a response from SC on the ownership of the manor bed in Woore, relevant for mitigation discussions with HS2.
- WPC awaits a response from SC Outdoor Recreation Team on the surface issues of the public footpath through the Church yard.
- WPC awaits a response from SC Street Scene Officer in relation to the removal of graffiti within the Parish.
- WPC undertook the trimming of various hedges within the Parish, including that reported as a safety hazard to drivers and residents on the A51. The Clerk is in discussion with SC Highways Maintenance to provide details of landowners and to enable WPC to make contact in relation to future hedge trimming. Discussion took place over a central record of landowner data for this purpose, to which the Clerk agreed action with SC.

It was noted that planning application 21/02985/REM had been updated with a further response to WPC's comments submitted following the 12th July meeting. Discussion took place with reference to the boundary and layby opposite Snapes bakery, which is much needed parking for those wishing to shop within the Parish, particularly with the removal of Newcastle Road, London Road and Woore Country Stores parking as part of impending HS2 road re-structuring in Woore. A proposal for further comment will be circulated to Councillors as a matter of priority.

It was noted that the Environmental Maintenance Grant has been approved for 1 year only, at a value of £1,435.00, not for three years as preferred. If the grant is continued, SC have on record that WPC wish to make the same application for additional years.

21058 Committee and Representatives Reports: for Councillors/representatives to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

a) North Shropshire Area Committee Report

Cllr Carter provided a summary of the points raised in the meeting, noting that the minutes are outstanding. A summary of discussions included climate change and the 2030 agenda; Highways and 'Fix my Street' and a detailed presentation from newly appointed Leader, Lezley Picton, with particular reference to the efficiencies SC are planning to make in the upcoming months and acknowledging the need to improve communications.

b) All other reports as required

Paths & Trees – No tree and path wardens were in attendance and no report was provided.

MVAS & CSW – In the absence of Cllr Blake and Cllr Hamilton, the Clerk referred to a report circulated prior to the meeting for the Community Speed Watch. It was noted that the initiative had been approved by West Mercia Safer Roads Team for 2no CSW locations on London Road and Newcastle Road, with further locations to be added in due course to include Pipe Gate and Audlem Road. Training will be provided to all volunteers in September, with further information to follow. WPC is still seeking volunteers and encourages residents to email clerk@wooreparishcouncil.org for more information.

Village Hall – Cllr Beeston provided an update on the range of bookings taken by the hall recently. Cllrs were encouraged by the apparent return of bookings following a difficult 18-month period due to the pandemic. It was noted that the committee are keen to encourage new members to join. It was also noted that discussions to provide broadband were also taking place.

21059 Shropshire Council Representative Report: for Cllr R. Aldcroft to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

Cllr Aldcroft provided a report as follows;

- Local Plan submitted in July setting out housing development till 2036.
- Just launching a Boundary review, expressions of interest required. It was noted that 5no Parishes surrounding Market Drayton were currently under review. The Chairman commented that Woore Parish is currently already isolated between Counties and should be concerned that this will worsen if surrounding parishes are incorporated within Market Drayton. It was requested that WPC be involved in future discussions to highlight this concern.
- Cllr Aldcroft attended several induction sessions at SC regarding Safeguarding, Planning, Audit and others. Regarding Safeguarding, special courses are available for cab drivers.
- Cllr Aldcroft is now on the Fire Authority, with John Campion is about to launch a campaign to move Fire under the PCC.
- Cllr Aldcroft appointed as Chair of Licensing Committee for SC.
- Road works are ongoing, with 'Fix My Street' a far better website for reporting highway, footpath, lighting and other issues to SC. Lengthsman to be reintroduced.
- John Bellis joined by additional engineer for the SC Flood and Drainage Team to support the increase in issues.
- 16/6 reported 7,700 backlog in potholes, now roughly 7,000.
- Owen Paterson involved in mitigations for HS2, also accident prevention on A41. He has reported concern about traffic lights to be placed at Blackbrook.
- Aware of several planning issues in Woore and Cllr Aldcroft is kept up to date by WPC Chairman. Ian Kilby is leaving the authority not sure who will be replacing him.
- MD Swimming Pool review meeting in September.
- £30million made available by HMG for Adult Social Care.

The Chairman raised the issue of the sign in Irelands Cross which remains un-repaired for approaching 2 years, thanking Cllr Aldcroft for his recent help in chasing SC for an update and asking for further action to address this.

21060 Planning

- a) Applications: to adopt comments to be submitted in response to the following applications, as circulated to Councillors prior to meeting;

21/03377/FUL (27th July 2021)

Address: Bridgemere Nurseries, Bridgemere Garden Centre, London Road, Woore, Shropshire

Proposal: Engineering operation to increase the existing water reservoir capacity

The Lead Councillor referred to a report circulated prior to the meeting. Discussion took place with reference to the direction of HGVs, operating hours for construction, the number of vehicles in and out and speed limits, as well as the need for a road sweeper.

It was unanimously **resolved** to support the application, submitting comments as below;

Woore Parish Council wish to note that there are issues identified as below, regarding this development, which could have a significant impact upon the Parish and its residents during the construction period. Woore Parish Council SUPPORT this application, subject to conditions being imposed in the consent, to address the issues contained in the points 1 to 5 below and subject to complying with any Consultee/statutory comments and requirements.

- 1. Clarification of where the source of the imported clay is coming from, North or South of the Parish of Woore?*
- 2. Clarification that it is a total of 30no vehicle movements per day, 15 in and 15 return, including confirmation that this number will not be exceeded in any one day and of how this will be monitored.*
- 3. A specified time limit should be proposed for the operations since this road is particularly busy at certain times of the day with commuter traffic.*

Suggest: Monday to Friday - 0800 - 1700
 Saturday - 0800 - 1300
 Sunday - None

- 4. The commercial entrance to Bridgemere Nurseries on this section of the A51 is particularly blind from both directions and the speed limit on the road in this area is 60mph. Therefore, traffic control should operate during the suggested working hours proposed in (3) above and should be a condition of any consent.*
- 5. A Road Sweeper should be a Condition within the consent and should be employed to sweep the A51 from site entrance to the Junction of the A51/A525 if clay coming from South, or from the site entrance to the main Bridgemere entrance if coming from the North, at the close of operations each day.*

- b) Decisions: to acknowledge all planning decisions made between 12th July 2021 and 9th August 2021.

21/02533/FUL (11th June 2021)

Address: 49 St Leonards Way, Woore, CW3 9SS

Proposal: Erection of single storey extensions to the front and side elevations

Decision: Permission Granted

The Chairman noted the ongoing issue of the WPC website planning tracker either incorrectly classifying applications or failing to show live applications. The Clerk responded that contact with the provider had been made as both Hugo Fox and SC are currently claiming this is neither of their doing, which is unhelpful in resolving the issue.

21061 HS2: to receive an update from the Chairman on Traffic Calming/Mitigation discussions/next steps and HS2 Consultation.

The Chairman provided a report as follows;

- Monthly meetings – countless emails sent by the working party and Steve Brown (SC), to chase Jason Pacey (HS2) in relation to kick starting these meetings. No response to date, indicating that HS2 are reluctant to meet.
- Actions from 22nd July meeting with Rt Hon Owen Paterson MP, Lezley Picton (SC), Steve Charmley (SC), Cllr Aldcroft, WPC HS2 working party and WPAG representative were previously circulated to Councillors and reference was made to the importance of the continuous speed limit within the Parish, noting that many mitigations were impacted by the current 40mph limit. Owen Paterson has an 'open door' with HS2 Minister Andrew Stephenson and the priority is to draft a joint letter between Lezley Picton and WPC for Mr Paterson to write on behalf of WPC,

requesting support with outstanding mitigations. The proposal from the Chairman for the Clerk to write to Lezley Picton noting that lack of an update on outstanding updates since the 22nd July meeting was supported and unanimously **resolved**.

- Ian Kilby contacted Cllr Cowey 22nd July to advise of his departure from SC and to confirm that SC have agreed to be a consultee to Staffordshire County Council, stating that they have 'signed up to protocol for Schedule 17'. Councillors shared the frustration that up until now SC have refused to comment. The Chairman emphasised the negative impact this has on Woore Parish, as schedule 17 provides just 2 weeks notification to the local authority for any changes HS2 wish to make on the construction route; putting SC (and subsequently WPC), further down the channel of communication and further evidencing that SC are abdicating responsibilities.
- Ian Kirby advised that WPC working party and Clerk should expect an invite to a meeting with Jason Pacey (HS2) imminently, which is yet to be received.
- Lezley Picton confirmed that detail of which department/budget will have responsibility for the £114,500 road safety fund from HS2 would be made available to WPC.

21062 Reporting of Issues to Shropshire Council:

- a) To receive an update from the Chairman on the meeting with Owen Paterson, Lezley Picton, Steve Charmley and Roy Aldcroft, 22nd July 2021

It was noted that actions from the meeting had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting and priorities had been discussed earlier in the agenda.

- b) To receive an update on 'Fix My Street' portal for logging of issues

The Clerk provided an update on the portal, which replaces SC's current portal for reporting issues. The portal provides the ability to log issues and their exact location, upload photos, view other issues within a set radius, check for updates and set up email alerts. It was agreed that the system is a significant improvement and information would be shared with residents in the next WPC newsletter. The portal can be accessed via www.fixmystreet.com.

21063 West Mercia Police (WMP) Update:

- a) To receive an update on the meeting with PCC John Campion and Inspector Clare Greenaway, 15th July 2021

The Clerk provided a summary of the key outcomes from the meeting;

- Confirmation of involvement of WMP in the monthly HS2 meetings to be Chaired by Owen Paterson MP.
- Potential 25% funding from the PCC (Commissioners Community Safer Road Fund) for VAS upgrade.
- Data for the number of mobile speed van/motorbike visits to the Parish over the last 2 years as follows;
 - o 2019 – 41 offences detected (average of 2 an hour) – 15 visits approx. 22 hours
 - o 2020 – 94 offences detected (average 3 an hour) - 23 visits approx. 34 hours
- WPC to continue to provide community speed prevention support currently in place, up to the point that WPC agree that the CSW is active.
- WPC/PCC to provide written support for 5no VAS to be movable and not fixed for the purpose of ensuring they are most effective long term and for HS2 to provide grant funding for Shropshire Council contractor to be responsible for the re-positioning/data collection of these and not WPC.
- WPC to meet with Mark Booth (16th July) to continue discussion to progress the Community Speed Watch.
- WPC Newsletter to residents to provide an update on the Community Speed Watch, Community Charter, Support Line and Victim Satisfaction Team.

- b) To agree dates for Councillor attendance at the mobile police van;

Monday 16th August, 2-3.30pm, Village Hall

Monday 13th September, 2-3.30pm, Village Hall

Monday 25th October, 2-3.30pm, Village Hall

Monday 22nd November, 2-3.30pm, Village Hall

Monday 13th December, 2-3.30pm, Village Hall

It was agreed that the Clerk would produce a rota for Councillor attendance on these dates and circulate for agreement.

21064 Finance:

- i) Invoices/payments & receipts: to resolve to approve the below detailed expenditure:

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the following payments as presented. It was unanimously **resolved** to approve £50 on the strimming of nettles at St Leonards play area from the recreational fund. The Clerk to provide updated fund totals at the September meeting.

Date	Recipient	Reason for Payment	Cheque Number	Amount (Ex. VAT)	VAT Amount	Power of Expenditure
09.08.21	Helen Jackson	Clerk Salary (June): Gross Pay Holiday Pay NI deduction Income Tax deduction Expenses Sundry	1805	£818.40 £0.00 £2.57 -£46.00 £45.42 £17.61 <u>£924.86</u>	£3.52	LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LG (FP)A 1963 s.5 LG (FP)A 1973 s.5 LG A 1972 s.111 LGA 1972 s.137
16.07.21	Richard White	Lengthsman	1806	£45.00	£0.00	HA 1980 s.96(5)
02.07.21	SSE	Streetlight energy supply	D/D (Paid)	£48.86	£3.03	PCA 157 ss.3(1) & 7, HA 1980 s.301
19.07.21	Eon	Streetlight repair	1802	£175.10	£35.02	PCA 157 ss.3(1) & 7, HA 1980 s.301
23.07.21	Westholme Nurseries	Summer Planting (25 saucers plus 1 no new)	1803	£500.00	£100.00	LGA 1972 s.137
30.07.21	Tony Seabridge	Grounds Maintenance- 31.05.21-30.07.21 Grass cutting, hedge cutting, spraying and strimming nettles St Leonards	1804	£995.00	£199.00	HA 1980 s.96

Date	Payee	Reason for Payment	Cheque Number	Amount (Ex. VAT)	VAT Amount	Power of Expenditure
14.07.21	Shropshire Council	Environment Maintenance Grant	n/a Ref:3257474	£1,435.00	£0.00	HA 1980 S.96

ii) Bank reconciliation: for the Council to receive and accept the month end bank reconciliation
The Clerk provided a report as follows;
Current Account: £100.00
Reserve Account: £120,980.75
Unpresented cheques: £3,009.19
Balance 9th August 21: £118,091.56
*Note £20 difference applies to overpayment identified from previous month, yet to be adjusted
*All expenditure (except for £50 from the Recreational fund, as per above) is from the General fund only.

21065 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

To receive a summary of Reports and Correspondence for the period from 12th July 2021 to 3rd August 2021.

The Clerk noted that all correspondence for the period had been circulated, nothing the below;

- First stage responses to AGAR received, with further information on variances provided by the Clerk.
- Expression of interest and personal statement received in relation to one of the two Councillor vacancies currently advertised, to be circulated to Councillors prior to the September meeting.
- Planning application received, 21/03532/FUL. The Lead Councillor was assigned, and it was agreed that a report would follow in due course with comments to be submitted by the Clerk under delegated powers, once the process for approval is completed.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

13th September 2021, 7.30pm and 11th October 2021, 7.30pm

Signed.....(Chair)

Dated 11th October 2021