

Minutes of Woore Parish Council Meeting

Monday 21st September 2020, 7.30pm

Remote meeting ID 163 061 8779



PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

PUBLIC:

No members of the Public were in attendance.

20063 Apologies for absence

Cllr J. Higgin had sent apologies for absence, which were due to personal commitments. Cllr Roy Aldcroft, Shropshire Council, had sent apologies due to a prior engagement and had provided a report to the Chair to be included in the Minutes. It was unanimously **resolved** to accept the apologies.

20064 Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

Cllrs Allison, H. Blake and M. Blake requested that they be muted during discussions relating to planning application 20/02976/FUL.

20065 Open Forum – To last no longer than 15 minutes

The Chair thanked all those in attendance for their patience after the intended meeting on 14th September was rescheduled due to technical difficulties.

The Vice Chairman raised concern over recent levels of crime within the Parish and proposed that the Chairman write to the Chief Police Commissioner requesting increased Police presence and representation by the Police at a subsequent Parish Council meeting, which was supported by all Councillors.

Cllr Carter highlighted residents concern around appropriate levels of lighting at the Village Green following a recent incident of serious crime.

20066 To approve and sign Minutes of Extraordinary Meetings held on 17th August 2020 and 1st September 2020

The resolution to accept the minutes of 17th August 2020 was passed by the majority, with Cllrs Irwin, H. Blake and M. Blake abstaining due to absence at the 17th August meeting.

The resolution to accept the minutes of 1st September 2020 was passed by the majority, with Cllrs Irwin, H. Blake, M. Carter and K. Chell abstaining due to absence at the 1st September meeting.

20067 Matters Arising

Cllrs Allison, H. Blake and M. Blake left the meeting at this point.

The Chairman referred to an amendment to planning application 20/02976/FUL. Cllr. Carter reminded Councillors that the original planning application for this land was granted to the developer

of the site on the basis that they provided a pavilion building for use by all members of the Parish and that this detail fundamentally underpinned the approval of the application. Cllr Carter questioned how this application even got to this stage on that basis and stated that the application should be 'thrown out' by Shropshire Council and that WPC should fight to ensure grounds for approved planning applications are enforced, or run the risk that future applicants will see no reason to comply.

The Chairman added that the Pavilion building had been originally suggested but that the PC had subsequently discussed with the developer that as there was no need for a tennis club and that this land instead be provided as a space for residents. The Chair supported the comment that Shropshire Council Planning Officers should have enforced the conditions of the original application on these grounds and furthermore, that residents who purchased houses early in this process also paid a maintenance fee to the developer for the upkeep of this land.

Cllr Chell raised concerns over the condition of the barn building that currently occupies the land, stating that it is a health and safety risk. Councillors agreed on this. The Chairman added that as this application is for a self-build house, it will also not result in a CIL payment to the PC and additionally, that the applicant is an ex-Director of the development company who built the site.

The Chairman referred to Seven Trent Consultee comments stating that there would be 'minimal' impact on the sewage system, contradicting reports from 2012/2013 which stated that the system was critical.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that WPC will have no right to appeal the decision of Shropshire Council but that a request for the local area planning committee to hear this case can be made if the PC agreed this were appropriate.

It was proposed that WPC object to the application, reaffirming the grounds of the objection laid out in comments submitted on 19th August 2020, adding its alarm that the Planning Enforcement Officer has failed to apply the conditions of the original application. Additionally, requesting that the developer has a duty of care to address the condition of the barn immediately and make the land safe to all residents. It was unanimously **resolved** to accept this proposal.

Cllrs Allison, H. Blake and M. Blake re-joined the meeting at this point

20068 Representatives Reports

To receive reports concerning the following matters:

- (a) Movable and Stationary Vehicle Activated Signs – Cllr M, Blake
To approve purchase of a trialled traffic counter.

Cllr M. Blake referred to a report Circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting, adding that if Councillors support the purchase of the traffic counter, the PC will need to consider who will lead this project. As no report was yet available from the Traffic Counter the purchase was deferred. Cllr M. Blake reminded Councillors that recent proposals for additional traffic calming initiatives require volunteers and training – to which WPC had received no interest to date. Additionally, Cllr M. Blake reminded Councillors that for prosecutions to be made, it must be enforced by the Police.

Cllr Clarke suggested that the installation of a speed camera be discussed again, to which there was much discussion. Cllr M. Blake reminded the PC that the cost of a speed camera is circa £50k and that they are only installed on the authority of the Safer Roads Partnership, confirming that although highways fall under the jurisdiction of Shropshire Council, they do not hold the powers over speeding enforcement. The Chairman explained that speeding within the Parish is considered an area of low concern by the Safer Roads Partnership and that this was reiterated in the recent response from Dave Perridge.

Cllr Irwin suggested that HS2 be approached for contribution towards a speed camera for the Parish. Cllr M. Blake suggested that discussion over the location of a camera should consider the whole Parish as there are several areas of concern.

Cllr M. Blake reminded Councillors of the lack of help from Shropshire Council for simply extracting data from the current two VAS's and Cllr Clarke queried whether this could be obtained via the Freedom of Information Act.

All Councillors agreed that WPC should continue its efforts in sharing the data from the MVAS with relevant authorities and not be off put by the lack of action by them to date. The Chairman explained that a summary of action to date would be provide to residents via the WPC website.

It was unanimously **resolved** that Cllr Clarke would contact John Campion to continue discussion regarding the provision of a fixed speed camera within the Parish.

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

Ms Tyson updated Councillors that Wardens had been stood down due to COVID-19 but had received several calls from residents in relation to the path adjacent to the Bowling Green. Ms Tyson confirmed that the path hedge on the green side has been cut back but that repairs to the path following damaged caused when the blowing green entrance was added, are yet to be made and that there are several trip hazards on the path that the Wardens were unable to remove. It was **resolved** that the Clerk would contact Richard Knight of Shropshire Outdoors to enlist help in addressing these issues and putting right the damage to the path.

Ms Tyson kindly agreed to spray paint (pavement spray) the trip hazards as a priority to make them more visible to anyone using the path.

Ms Tyson updated the PC that the hedge on Cherry Tree Lane has been cut back and that the concern raised by Cllr Chell as to the condition of the gate to the public footpath was ok. It was **resolved** that Cllr Chell and Ms Tyson would continue this conversation to ensure it was working correctly.

(c) Shropshire – Councillor Mr R. Aldcroft

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

'Full meeting of County will take place this Thursday at 10.00am, it will be virtual so you can listen in.

Currently SC is a mere £2 million in the red although the Covid bill may push that up slightly we are looking at no further cuts to services at this time.

For information, it is now widely expected that local and national elections will either be postponed for six months or be totally postal if held in May. As there are already seats in the house vacant and in Councils across, the feeling is that it will be postal totally.

The plan to have local County Offices is still going ahead subject to premises being available this will put County Officers in locally hubs, in our case Market Drayton.

I am advised by Leisure services the swimming pool will be operational by October end, when engineering work will be finished.

20mph limits outside schools will be advisory as the police will not enforce a mandatory limit. The scheme will still go ahead with clear signage and emphasis on speed and safe parking.

Eddie West is now back at the helm of the Local Plan and has double underlined the 30th of September as last day of consultations.'

(d) Village Hall – Cllr H. Blake

Cllr H. Blake informed Councillors that the Village Hall is now open to bookings again and there are two groups that have returned to using the Hall to date. The Chairman explained that following NALC guidance, the WPC are unable to resume face-to-face meetings at this point.

20069 HS2

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

The Chairman thanked the Vice Chairman, Cllr Allison and Mr Alan Melvin for their efforts on behalf of the PC at the House of Lords Select Committee hearing on Monday 14th September and shared that it was, in his opinion, an excellent presentation.

The Chairman confirmed that by request of the PC, no further action has been taken with traffic calming / mitigations. Discussion took place as to whether any progress could be made with this until feedback from the Select Committee had been received. It was **resolved** to continue to 'park' conversations regarding traffic calming/mitigations until such a response was received. Cllr Davies requested that it be Minuted that he would have preferred that action be taken to resume this conversation sooner than that.

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

The Vice Chairman provided no further update other than that in (2).

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

The Vice Chairman summarised that although the Select Committee had been very sympathetic to the case put forward by WPC, there was little reassurance that anything would be done. The Vice Chairman explained that Trevor Parkin of Yarnfield Parish Council had approached WPC in the hope of 'joining forces' to lobby Lord Hope for further action to be taken, stating that they had already secured coverage of the issue in the Sunday Papers. Cllr Allison and The Vice Chairman explained that the alternative route Yarnfield support would remove virtually all proposed vehicles through the Parish and instead use the M6 and Keele Services. The Vice Chairman reminded Councillors of the danger that the existing route would lead to the loss of the Village shop and Cllr Allison echoed that Yarnfield had offered WPC a 'lifeline' before the HoL Petition by referring WPC to the Traffic Act and subsequently helping prepare them for the select committee hearing. Both the Vice Chairman and Cllr Allison expressed that WPC should consider sharing knowledge and experience with Yarnfield for the benefit of everyone and to help illustrate the breadth of the effects that the construction traffic route.

Cllr Allison agreed with the Vice Chairman's analysis and informed Councillors that the transcript for the hearing had been received by the working party and was currently in the process of review for typos before this would be returned to the Select Committee and circulated to the PC by return.

The Vice Chairman proposed that she approach Yarnfield and report to WPC on next steps / costs for joining their lobby. It was unanimously **resolved** to accept this proposal.

20070 St. Leonards Play Area

To receive and update on the proposal for a working party/next steps.

The Clerk referred to a report circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. It was unanimously **resolved** that a ROSPA inspection be organised at the cost of £200 for both the St. Leonards play area equipment and the Outdoor Gymnasium with a lead time of 6-12 weeks.

It was unanimously **resolved** to form a working party for spending related to the play area and gym to be reviewed and Cllr Chell and Cllr Clarke stepped forward to represent that working party, alongside the Clerk.

20071 Village Green

To receive and update from the Chairman.

The Chairman expressed concern that the land registry documentation received had caused confusion over boundaries and that before any further discussions took place regarding proposed works on the Village Green, that confirmation of ownership be sought.

20072 Complaints Policy

To resolve to adopt the policy.

It was unanimously **resolved** to adopt the policy, as circulated prior to the meeting by the Clerk. Councillors were informed that WPC is required to update several policies and that they should expect more to follow over coming weeks.

20073 Quarterly Financial Review

To agree a date for the Q1 financial scrutineer review and sign off.

The Chairman reminded Councillors of this requirement. Cllr Allison expressed a wish to step-down as WPC Financial Scrutineer and Cllr Davies offered to take over this role. The Clerk agreed to contact Cllr Davies and Cllr Chell to agree a date for this to take place. It was acknowledged that this is a priority but due to availability would not take place until end of October at the earliest.

20074 Clerks Reports and Correspondence

To receive a summary of Reports and Correspondence for the period from 17th August 2020 to 14th September 2020.

- a) Streetlights – Contact has been made with NPower, Shropshire Council and Western Power with no developments regarding clarification over ownership of the streetlights in question, by either WPC or SC. Councillors agreed that there would be no movement on the decision to halt payments until responsibility for the streetlights under dispute is confirmed.
- b) Mr & Mrs Lightfoot – Correspondence has been received from Mr & Mrs Lightfoot following contact with Shropshire Council Monitoring Officer. The Clerk advised that details of the exact request would require submitting prior to the deadline of 28th September for inclusion on the October agenda.
- c) Remembrance Day Service – Revd. Alcock has provided confirmation that this year would see an abridged service held outside St. Leonards Church from 10.45am and would include laying of the wreath and 2-minute silence. Social distancing will be required, with face coverings encouraged.
- d) No invoice is supplied for Tony Seabridge or Richard White (Lengthsman) due to holidays. Richard White has returned to work but will break for Winter at the end of November 2020 until March 2021.
- e) Concerns have been raised by residents, to the Clerk and Chairman related to increased crime in the Parish. This was discussed in the Open Forum so no further discussion was required.

20075 Payment of Accounts

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

1.	H.M.Jackson (August) (PAID)	
	i Salary	£601.75

	ii NJC pay scale back dated pay 1 st April 2020	£21.17
	iii Expenses	£45.42
	iv Mileage	£0.00
	v Sundry	£13.36
	TOTAL	£681.70
2.	B. Morris (NJC pay scale back dated salary owed) (PAID)	£42.08
3.	Morelock Signs Ltd (MVAS repairs) (PAID)	£630.00
4.	Land Registry (Village Green Title Plan & register) (PAID)	£14.00
5.	M.Cowey (Padlock for Traffic Counter on Loan) (PAID)	£9.99

Prior to close of the meeting, Cllr H. Blake resigned from her role as Woore Parish Councillor and The Chairman thanked her for her contribution during her time on the Council. It was acknowledged that the Clerk would produce the Notice of Vacancy with immediate effect.

The meeting closed at 9.56pm.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

12th October 2020 and 9th November 2020 (both @ 7.30pm)

Signed.....(Chair)

Dated 12th October 2020

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
20066 Prop: Davies, K. Second: Chell, K.	To approve and sign Minutes of Extraordinary Meetings held on 17 th August 2020.	Cowey	X		
		Irwin			X
		Chell	X		
		Davies	X		
		Blake, M			X
		Blake, H			X
		Clarke	X		
		Carter	X		
		Allison	X		

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
20066 Prop: Blake, M. Second: Davies, K.	To approve and sign Minutes of Extraordinary Meetings held on 1 st September 2020.	Cowey	X		
		Irwin			X
		Chell			X
		Davies	X		
		Blake, M	X		
		Blake, H			X
		Clarke	X		
		Carter			X
		Allison	X		