

Minutes of Woore Parish Council Meeting

Monday 14th December 2020, 7.30pm

Remote meeting ID 175 471 6497



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.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs H. Jackson, Clerk to the Council.

PUBLIC:

Colin Hamilton and Dot Beeston were in virtual attendance.

20110 Apologies for absence

Cllr Roy Aldcroft, Shropshire Council, sent apologies due to business commitments and Ms S. Tyson, Tree & Footpath Warden, sent apologies due to personal commitments.

20111 Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

No Councillor declared a pecuniary interest.

20112 Open Forum – To last no longer than 15 minutes

No members of the Public in attendance wished to raise any matters.

Cllr Irwin expressed concern that not all Councillors were undertaking duties for the Parish Council to the required level and to fairly share workload, noting that the Chairman and Clerk are working above expectations to ensure tasks are completed. She suggested that Councillors should commit to at least 1 hour per week of Parish related work. The Chairman supported these comments and reminded Councillors that the election in April 2021 would provide members of the public the opportunity to vote for Councillors to represent the Parish Council, as they see fit. The Chairman advised that it was not his intention to stand for election in April 2021 and that Councillors should be prepared, in advance, to replace this position.

20113 To approve and sign Minutes of Remote Meeting held on 9th November 2020

The resolution to accept the minutes of 9th November 2020 was passed unanimously.

20114 Matters Arising

The Chairman referred to correspondence received from a Shropshire Council Representative regarding the wording in Item 20099 HS2, in the Minutes of the 9th November. This representative had attended the Parish Tour Meeting that had taken place on that date and in response to the brief update regarding the mitigations, the representative of Shropshire Council does not agree with the wording used by the Chairman, claiming it misrepresents Shropshire Council's position and requires the word "implemented" to be changed to "supported for assessment". Also, where the word "support" appears it should also include the extra wording "for assessment".

It was unanimously **resolved** to accept this amendment.

20115 Co-option of Councillor Vacancies

To receive statements of two candidates for the following vacancies and to vote on their appointment.

- (a) Vacancy dated 22nd September - 4th November
- (b) Vacancy dated 16th October - 30th November

Having read the statements prior to the meeting, voting took place for both vacancies. It was unanimously **resolved** to appoint Colin Hamilton as Councillor for Woore Parish Council, to fill vacancy dated 22nd September - 4th November.

It was unanimously **resolved** to appoint Dot Beeston as Councillor for Woore Parish Council, to fill vacancy dated 16th October - 30th November.

The Chairman welcomed both Cllr Hamilton and Cllr Beeston to the Parish Council and reminded Councillors that one vacancy remains, although it is not necessary to fill this via co-option within 6 months of the April 2021 election.

The Chairman advised Cllr Hamilton and Cllr Beeston that, as they have to been able to view documents relating to the agenda for the meeting, they have the option to abstain from voting on all items during this meeting.

20116 Representatives Reports

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. The VAS on Audlem Road has been replaced but that no update has been provided regarding the VAS on Newcastle Road or Pipe Gate.

The Clerk referred to an email received 13th December from PC Jody Farenden, Market Drayton Police Station, regarding Woore Parish Councils interest in a community speedwatch scheme, for which funding from West Mercia Police is available for the purchase of additional technology including speed guns and monitors. It was **resolved** that the Clerk would respond to express interest in this scheme and that Cllr Hamilton would act as Lead Councillor. It was suggested that the Clerk post a communication to residents via social media, to encourage volunteers to step forward and support efforts in monitoring speed within the Parish.

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

Sally Tyson had advised when sending apologies that there was no report.

- (c) Village Hall – Cllr J. Higgin

It was reported that the Village Hall December meeting had been cancelled. Several classes are yet to return following COVID lockdown restrictions and the film night is also postponed until restrictions are lifted.

Cllr Higgin requested that the representative role be reviewed at the January meeting due to difficulties in her attendance at daytime meetings.

- (a) SALC/North Shropshire Area Committee Meeting – Cllr M. Carter

Cllr Carter had circulated minutes from the meeting 16th November 2020 and no Councillor wished to raise any questions.

(d) Shropshire – Councillor Mr R. Aldcroft

Cllr Aldcroft had advised when sending apologies that there was no report and wished Councillors a Merry Christmas.

20117 Planning

- (a) To consider and, if appropriate, to resolve on a response to the following planning application;
 - a. 20/0444/FUL dated 9th November for the erection of a detached dwelling at Brookside Farm, Dorrington Lane, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire.

The Chairman referred to a report circulated prior to the meeting. It was **resolved** by majority that Woore Parish Council object to Planning Application 20/04440/FUL because the proposed plot of land is located within an area known as Dorrington. Dorrington does not fall within the designated Development Boundary as shown in Figure B of the Woore Neighbourhood Plan. The land to which this application relates is residential garden land, within a countryside location. Outside the Development Boundary the Parish is designated open countryside, where new development will be strictly controlled in line with the Development Plan and National Policies.

This proposal is therefore also contrary to Woore Neighbourhood Plan Policy HOU1 - Scale and location of New Housing as well as Policy HOU2 - Housing Development.

The Woore Neighbourhood Plan does not accept fragmented/windfall development in the countryside and is also contrary to the Shropshire Core Strategy, SAMDev Plan and cannot be supported.

- (b) To resolve to adopt the Planning Application Policy & Procedure as circulated prior to the meeting.

It was **resolved** by majority to accept this policy with immediate effect.

The Clerk advised that a further planning application had been received dated 4th December 2020 and an extension had been granted to WPC for comment until 13th January 2021. Cllr Davies agreed to act as Lead Councillor.

20118 Budget / Precept 21/22

To discuss and determine the budget and precept figures for financial year 2021/2022.

The Chairman referred to reports circulated prior to the meeting for which no comments had been received at the time of the meeting. A revised budget was presented by the Chairman and Clerk in relation to financial year 2021/2022, including projected expenditure 2020/2021.

An explanation of variances was provided, including reference to Clerks salaries, election costs and a change in reporting on breakdown of sundry items. Possible additional items of expenditure were listed and Councillors were allowed an opportunity to raise questions. The Clerk reported concern over the current condition of both Parish Council owned defibrillators, following advice received from a volunteer within the Parish who has been conducting regular checks. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate this further and report back at the January 2021 meeting as to proposed next steps.

Councillors were informed of the CIL payment for 2021/2022 at £5,562.09 and the Clerk referred to the pre-circulated WPC Monies Available 2021/2022 report, to which no Councillors raised questions.

Discussion took place, with all Councillors in agreement that in the current climate, the Parish Council should take steps not to increase the precept, acknowledging that Shropshire Council are likely to increase their part and this will already have a negative impact on residents already struggling during a difficult time. It was also acknowledged that the Parish Council should look for alternative funding streams for projects and update the Place Plan appropriately to represent its' current requirements.

It was **resolved** by majority to levy the same level of precept as for 2020/2021, of £30,727.00, acknowledging that Parish Council monies would be used to cover forecast expenditure over and above this amount. The Chairman agreed to report to all Councillors in due course, with confirmation that the budget and precept figures had been submitted.

20119 HS2

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

The Chairman confirmed that all correspondence to date had been circulated to Councillors.

It was reported that minimal progress had been made regarding mitigations and little ground had been gained since the last Parish Council meeting. Meetings proposed by Owen Paterson have subsequently been postponed by Shropshire Council and The Chairman was concerned that Shropshire Council are implying that Woore Parish Council are slowing discussions, which is absolutely not the case. Shropshire Council have tentatively agreed to the majority of the mitigations but the Chairman confirmed that he has not had sight of the report from Shropshire Council to HS2, which has been requested. Concern was expressed that Shropshire Council have agreed to be a consultee to Staffordshire Council and that Shropshire Council have failed to confirm otherwise when approached directly. It was suggested that if Shropshire Council continue to fail to respond to this request then Woore Parish Council should request confirmation under the Freedom of Information Act.

Much discussion took place, with most Councillors expressing concern that Shropshire Council are not supporting Woore Parish Council and in turn the residents of the Parish. It was agreed that Shropshire Council have to date not engaged with Woore Parish Council adequately and there has also been a lack of liaison between HS2 and Woore Parish Council.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that Lord Rosser's Table Amendment, expected to be delivered in the House of Commons early January 2021, will require the Secretary of State to publish, prior to 1st May 2021, that residents will be consulted before work can commence and that this will require the full support of the Parish Council, should it be passed.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman reported that they attended the Annual HS2 Parish remote meeting and that minutes will be circulated to all Councillors when received. They summarised that the meeting shared very little new information. When questioned, HS2 advised that the compound at Madeley will hold traffic in the passing points/holding bays if traffic is heavy. Woore Parish have 9 of these holding bays out of a total of 13. By acting as consultee to Staffordshire Council (if that is

confirmed to be the case), in this instance the concern is that Shropshire would be advised of such decisions, without any opportunity for consultation.

The Chairman expressed concern that HS2 remain focussed on the junction in Woore and that the Parish Council need to ensure all areas of the Parish are considered. Freezing mitigations at this point would restrict the Parish Council from ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the wider Parish.

It was **resolved** by majority that with reference to the Woore Traffic Calming Summary Table updated 12th November 2020, on behalf of the appointed Working Party of Woore Parish Council that the Parish Council supports the Traffic Mitigations reached so far as shown in column (K) updates. The Parish Council also requests that the Working Party continues to work with Shropshire Council and HS2 on any further Mitigations that should become apparent when any detailed surveys are carried out by any Parties.

(2) To receive an update from the Vice Chairman

Cllr Iwrin updated Councillors that following the passing of Lord Rosser's amendment in the House of Lords, Sir Bill Cash has written to Grant Shapps asking for the Government's support when the Hybrid Bill on HS2 return to the Commons for the Final Reading (Royal Ascent). The Action Group expressed a wish to lobby all 650 MP's in the House of Commons, to support this amendment. It was **resolved** by majority that Woore Parish Council would support an open communication to 650 MP's regarding Lord Rosser's amendment and that the Chairman would approve and sign the correspondence on behalf of Woore Parish Council.

The Clerk advised that correspondence received 9th December 2020, from Steve Brown, Head of Transport and Environment, Shropshire Council, requested Woore Parish Council hold an Extraordinary remote meeting to allow Shropshire Council Officers to present to Woore Parish Council the current mitigations list, discuss the merits of each intervention and seek formal approval from the Parish for it to be formally issued for consideration by HS2. It was **resolved** by majority that an Extraordinary meeting would be held in accordance with standing orders, under the agreement that Shropshire Council first propose a list of attendees, an agenda and pre-agreement of shared/desired outcomes.

Cllr Hamilton left the meeting at this point due personal reasons.

20120 Streetlighting

(a) To receive an update on the streetlighting inventory and electricity supply contract

The Clerk referred to a report sent prior to the meeting. It was reported that an up-to-date inventory had been provided to Western Power, containing 24 streetlights and that Npower had been notified, backdating subsequent electricity usage from 1st October 2020. Current electricity supply pricing is high since Woore Parish Council is out of contract with Npower and resultantly, a quote had been sourced, recommending SSE as one of the top 6 supplies with the most competitive pricing. A noticeable saving was reported.

Discussions took place and Cllr Blake expressed concerns that in signing a new contract, Woore Parish Council would be accepting full ownership of the lights and in turn, all associated costs, thus negating the Parish Council's argument that inadequate evidence has been provided to support this claim to date and that it should be investigated further. In contrast, several Councillors acknowledged a duty to ensure that the Parish Council did not continue to incur additional,

unnecessary costs for streetlights in the interim, accepting that the asset register does provide evidence that the Parish Council owns an unspecified number of streetlights and that there would be no immediate resolution to a debate that has been ongoing for nearly 2 years.

It was acknowledged that safety concerns surrounding streetlights should be given priority by the Parish Council moving forward, since being made aware of concerns by Shropshire Council. The Clerk reported that contact has already been made with Eon to arrange this and it would be pursued.

It was **resolved** by majority that the SSE electricity supply contract for 12 months will be accepted with immediate effect.

(b) To receive a report regarding further investigation of the legal ownership of streetlighting

Cllr Blake had circulated reports prior to the meeting. The motion to propose that the Clerk write to Shropshire Council regarding a review of streetlight ownership, as per the report, was withdrawn by Cllr Blake in view of the outcome of 20120 (a).

The Chairman expressed that further investigation of streetlight ownership should be pursued by the Parish Council and that The Chairman and Clerk would propose next steps in due course for comment.

20121 Clerks Reports and Correspondence

The Clerk reported that all correspondence for the period from 9th November to 7th December 2020 had been circulated to Councillors.

The Clerk referred to the earlier issue raised regarding defibrillators and shared that a letter of thanks on behalf of the Parish Council would be sent to the volunteer who has kindly given his time to regularly check the defibrillators. It was agreed that the Clerk would seek reassurance that the temporary defibrillator would remain in situ until a replacement can be sourced and that the Clerk would report on next steps and funding options in early 2021 to address the repair/replacement of the defibrillator.

20122 Payment of Accounts

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

Date	Recipient & Purpose	Amount	Power of Expenditure
12.10.20	H.M.Jackson (November)		
	i Salary (net tax/NI £71.18)	£1,202.88	LGA 1972 s.112(2)
	iii Expenses	£45.42	LG (FP)A 1963 s.5
	iv Mileage	£0.00	
	v Sundry	£46.42	LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 LG A 1972 s 111 LGA 1972 s. 137
	TOTAL	£1294.72	

15.12.20	HMRC (PAYE NI Contributions July-Dec 20)	£183.34	LGA 1972 s 112(2)
29.11.20	T.Seabridge (Grounds maintenance 05.10.20 – 31.10.20 & Spraying)	£660.00 (inc. VAT)	HA 1980 s.96
19.11.20	Westholme Nurseries (Winter tubs)	£300.00 (inc. VAT)	LGA 1972 s.137
23.11.20	The Play Inspection Company (ROSPA St Leonards/Gym)	£240.00 (inc. VAT)	LG(MP)A 1976 s.19(3)
25.11.20	Design Marc (WPC logo for engraving)	£15.00	LGA 1972 s.137**
16.10.20	Eon – streetlight repair Dorrington	£171.62 (inc. VAT)	PCA 1957 ss.3(1) & 7, HA 1980 s.301
14.12.20	KJS Staffs Ltd (Newcastle Road WPC CIL Neighbourhood Fund contribution £5,802.00 plus VAT £5,960.40)	£11,762.40 (inc. VAT)	LGA 1972 s.124(1)
17.12.20	Flower Divas (Flowers for school event)	£30.00	LGA 1972 s.137
14.12.20	(Mucklestone Nurseries (Christmas tree)	£50.00	LGA 1972 s.137
14.12.20	Chapel (Christmas tree lighting supply donation)	£20.00	LGA 1972 s.137**
12.11.20	Npower (streetlighting arrears PAID)	£1,415.86 (inc. VAT)	PCA 1957 ss.3(1) & 7, HA 1980 s.301
14.12.20	Brunel Engraving (Commemorative plaque)	£228.48 (inc. VAT)	LGA 1972 s.137

It was agreed that an additional payment of £15 be made to the Chapel in January 2021 by way of contribution to the electricity costs of the Christmas tree lights.

The Chair closed by wishing all Councillors a Merry Christmas and Happy New year and encouraged them to stay safe during these difficult times.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

11th January 2021 and 8th February 2021 (both @ 7.30pm)

Signed.....(Chair)

Dated 11th January 2021

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
20117 a)	To object to Planning Application 20/04440/FUL as it is contrary to Woore Neighbourhood Plan Policy HOU1 - Scale and location of New Housing as well as Policy HOU2 - Housing Development. The Woore Neighbourhood Plan does not accept fragmented/windfall development in the countryside and is also contrary to the Shropshire Core Strategy, SAMDev Plan and cannot be supported.	Cowey	X		
		Irwin	X		
Davies		X			
Blake, M		X			
Higgin, J		X			
Clarke		X			
Carter		X			
Beeston				X	
Hamilton				X	
Prop: Cowey, M Second: Davies, K					

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
20117 b)	To resolve to adopt the Planning Application Policy & Procedure.	Cowey	X		
		Irwin	X		
Prop: Davies, K		Davies	X		
Blake, M		X			
Higgin, J		X			
Clarke		X			
Carter		X			
Beeston				X	
Second: Irwin, G		Hamilton			X

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
20118	To levy the same level of precept as for 2020/2021, of £30,727.00, acknowledging that Parish Council monies would be used to cover forecast expenditure over and above this amount.	Cowey	X		
		Irwin	X		
Prop: Davies, K Second: Irwin, G		Davies	X		
		Blake, M	X		
		Higgin, J	X		
		Clarke	X		
		Carter	X		

		Beeston			X
		Hamilton			X

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
20119	With reference to the Woore Traffic Calming Summary Table updated 12th November 2020, on behalf of the appointed Working Party of Woore Parish Council that the Parish Council supports the Traffic Mitigations reached so far as shown in column (K) updates. The Parish Council also requests that the Working Party continues to work with Shropshire Council and HS2 on any further Mitigations that should become apparent when any detailed surveys are carried out by any Parties.	Cowey	X		
		Irwin	X		
Prop: Cowey, M		Davies	X		
Second: Blake, M		Blake, M	X		
		Higgin, J	X		
		Clarke	X		
		Carter	X		
		Beeston			X
		Hamilton			X

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
20119	Woore Parish Council would support an open communication to 650 MP's regarding Lord Rosser's amendment and that the Chairman would approve and sign the correspondence on behalf of Woore Parish Council.	Cowey	X		
		Irwin	X		
Prop: Irwin, G		Davies	X		
Second: Blake, M		Blake, M	X		
		Higgin, J	X		
		Clarke	X		
		Carter	X		
		Beeston			X
		Hamilton			X

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
20119	An Extraordinary meeting would be held in accordance with standing orders, under the agreement that Shropshire Council first propose a list of attendees, an agenda and pre-agreement of shared/desired outcomes.	Cowey	X		
		Irwin	X		
Prop: Davies, K		Davies	X		
Second: Irwin, G		Blake, M	X		
		Higgin, J	X		
		Clarke	X		
		Carter	X		
		Beeston			X

		Hamilton			X
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Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
20120	The SSE electricity supply contract for 12 months will be accepted with immediate effect.	Cowey	X		
		Irwin	X		
Prop: Cowey, M		Davies	X		
Second: Irwin, G		Blake, M		X	
Higgin, J		X			
Clarke		X			
Carter				X	
Beeston				X	
Hamilton				X	

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
20122	To approve payments by cheque.	Cowey	X		
Prop: Irwin, G Second: Higgin, J		Irwin	X		
		Davies	X		
		Blake, M	X		
		Higgin, J	X		
		Clarke	X		
		Carter	X		
		Beeston			X
Hamilton				X	