

# **Minutes of Woore Parish Council Meeting**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021, 7.30pm**

**Remote meeting 181 256 9868**



## **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 and Cllr D. Beeston

## **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.

## **20138 Apologies for absence**

No Councillors were absent from the meeting.

## **20139 Declarations of Pecuniary Interests**

Cllr G. Irwin requested to be muted during discussions relating to 20144 Planning (ai).

Cllr M. Cowey requested to be muted during discussions relating to 20144 Planning (aiii).

## **20140 Open Forum – To last no longer than 15 minutes**

No members of the public were present.

The Chairman alerted Councillors to an issue regarding a manhole cover on the A51 which had been reported to Shropshire Council after several resident complaints in short succession. The issue was escalated by West Mercia Police following a visit by the mobile police van and subsequently, Seven Trent had begun repairs. Councillors noted the severity of the issue and the potential risk of harm to road users as the manhole cover had completely dislodged. The Chairman requested it be noted that with impending HS2 construction traffic, a full survey of all roads within the Parish is imperative and that this is being progressed with both Seven Trent and Shropshire Council.

## **20141 To approve and sign Minutes of Remote Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

The resolution to accept the minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 was passed unanimously.

## **20142 Matters Arising**

The Chairman provided an update on Shropshire Council's queried adoption of the streetlights on The Grove development, stating that no confirmation had been received from Shropshire Council to date. It was requested that Cllr Aldcroft take action to progress this matter.

The Chairman acknowledged that there had been no response from the Northern Planning Committee following concerns raised over lack of recognition of the Woore Neighbourhood Plan in planning decisions. It was requested that Cllr Aldcroft take action to progress this matter.

## **20143 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 and no queries had been raised. The VAS on Newcastle Road has now been repaired by Shropshire Council and a report would be available within two months.

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

It was reported that the public footpath that had been reported as blocked could be a cross County boarder issue and that this would be reported to Cheshire East. The access is not blocked entirely but is not accessible for less able-bodied persons. It may be viable to approach the relevant Council for a stile to be erected, which the wardens will investigate.

(c) Village Hall – Cllr D. Beeston

There are no meetings during the current restrictions and the Hall remains closed, with all groups/classes ceased for the time being. Handover to Cllr Beeston as representative had been completed.

(d) Shropshire – Councillor Mr R. Aldcroft

Cllr Aldcroft provided the following report;

Shropshire Council have confirmed that elections for local, Unitary and PCC will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

There will be a potential 3.99% council tax rise which could have been 4.99% but SC are hoping to access additional government funding.

Consultation for the local plan is now open until 26th February 2021.

HS2 Phase 2a Consultation is now open.

Request from Shropshire Council to check any local contractors and grit bins are prepared for a Shropshire Blizzard (2cm). The Clerk confirmed that this was completed and all grit bins were now filled.

March's meeting of SC will not now take place on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Covid: Plans for a vaccination centre in Market Drayton are underway.

## **20144 Planning**

- (a) To consider and, if appropriate, to resolve on a response to the following planning application;
  - i. 20/05302/FUL dated 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for the outline application for residential development comprising 4no detached dwellings to include access at the proposed residential development land to South of, Audlem Road, Woore, Shropshire.

Cllr. Irwin left the meeting.

The Lead Councillor referred to a report provided prior to the meeting, on behalf of the working party for this application review. It was unanimously **resolved** to support the application with the following comment;

Woore Parish Council Supports Planning Application 20/05302/OUT subject to all Consultee Comments as well as any Conditions that were applicable to 14/0367/OUT are applied to this application also. In addition, a Condition to be applied for the continuation of the existing hedgerow along the length of the layby with removal of the existing field gate. The layby shall be retained and maintained in such use as perpetuity in the interests of safeguarding a community asset.

- ii. 21/00065/FUL dated 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for the erection of two detached two storey dwellings and garages with one existing access and one new access (revision to 18/03639/FUL) at proposed residential development land South of Oak Cottage, 27 London Road, Woore, Shropshire.

Cllr. Irwin re-joined the meeting.

The Lead Councillor read a report prepared prior to the meeting. It was unanimously **resolved** to object to the application. The full detail of the comments made by Woore Parish Council are included in Appendix 1.0.

- iii. 21/00094/FUL dated 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for the erection of a porch at The Orchard, Candle Lane, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire.

Cllr. Cowey left the meeting and the Vice Chairman stepped in as Chair.

The Lead Councillor provided a report. It was unanimously **resolved** to support the application noting that no planning notice was visible to residents.

(b) Shropshire Council & Woore Parish Council Planning portal issues

Cllr Cowey re-joined the meeting as Chairman.

The Chairman reported several issues regarding the Shropshire Council planning portal and the matching of applications to the Parish of Woore. Concern was raised over the dates of validation/notifications to the Parish Council as well as lack of visibility of some applications with no adequate explanation from the planning department to date as to why. This is being investigated.

**20145 HS2**

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

The Chairman provided an update. Multiple meetings have taken place between Shropshire Council, HS2 and the Woore Parish Council working party. Further meetings are scheduled for the week ahead. Little ground has been gained from Woore Parish Council's perspective, with Rt Hon Owen Paterson, MP, also expressing his disappointment at the lack of progress for what are in his view reasonable requests by Woore Parish Council. Concern that Shropshire Council appear to now be picking up the cost of many of these mitigations was expressed.

Cllr Aldcroft thanked the working party representatives for their ongoing commitment to these discussions and reassured Councillors that in his opinion, best efforts were being made by Woore Parish Council to ensure mitigations are implemented for the Parish.

The Chairman provided an update on the HS2 Phase 2a Consultation which all residents within the parish had received by post w/c 1<sup>st</sup> February. It was explained that concern had been raised by multiple persons regarding the wording of the leaflet, specifically, *'Given the extensive consultation already undertaken for Phase 2a and consideration of the scheme by both Select Committees in Parliament, the Government does not intend to make changes to the Phase 2a scheme or to its planned construction programme in light of this consultation.'* Resultantly, an additional leaflet had been distributed via post, by HS2, along with a copy of the consultation response form, as a direct request of Woore Parish Council. It was confirmed that all postcodes had been included in this distribution.

The Chairman explained that Rt Hon Owen Paterson is the only MP to be granted a direct meeting with Andrew Stephenson, Minister for HS2, at which he will continue to promote alternative routes and the concerns of Woore Parish Council regarding the impact on the Parish.

Much discussion took place with most Councillors making comment. Cllr Clarke questioned the need for the consultation and its effectiveness. Cllr Irwin explained that historically, Woore Parish residents have responded well to HS2 consultations and that response to this consultation is important to reaffirm the strength of opposition to HS2 throughout the Parish and the support for Woore Parish Council's mitigation demands.

Cllr Clarke expressed the opinion that the Parish Council have not demonstrated that the petition is the primary objective and have in his opinion, failed to put this before any mitigation discussions. The Chairman strongly objected to this, stating the need to ensure that the entire Parish is protected when trucks begin to roll before the Summer is imperative and that the mitigations are essential to this; however reassuring Councillors that these have always been a 'fall back plan' when fighting the construction route and that the Parish Council has spent 4 years petitioning in both the House of Lords and House of Commons.

Cllr Aldcroft was questioned directly as to Shropshire Council's stance on the mitigations and their support of Woore Parish Council to date, to which he responded, noting the multiple changes of contacts within Shropshire Council as a factor in preventing progress historically. He reiterated the need for the mitigations to protect the safety of Parishioners, the security of properties and businesses ability to function.

All Councillor's agreed that the residents support of the consultation process is imperative and it was therefore unanimously **resolved** that Woore Parish Council would support a meeting hosted by Woore Parish Action Group in order to provide the community with an update on the consultation process and offer assistance with completing the consultation forms. Acknowledging the current restrictions due to COVID, it was agreed that this meeting would be held remotely within 14 days of this date and that a list of the mitigations/interventions discussed to date would be made available both online and in print for collection at the village shop in due course.

It was recommended that Woore Parish Council also respond to the consultation directly.

(1) To receive an update from the Vice Chairman

No further update was provided by the Vice Chairman.

### **20146 Flooding**

To receive an update from the Chairman.

The Chairman provided an update on numerous incidents of flooding within the Parish and the action taken to date;

- Audlem Road - raw sewerage flooded property garden. Shropshire Council and Highways have been contacted.
- London Road, land at Irelands Cross - flood water has caused damage to property. Shropshire Council drainage and flood risk management team contacted.

- A51, Boundary to Bridgemere - severe flooding of property requiring emergency services. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> incident in 15 months and the residents have had to move out until further notice.
- Bearstone Road, Chetwode end - flooding on the road. Reported to Shropshire Council.
- Crossroads, Dorrington Lane / London Road junction - flooding on road. Reported to Shropshire Council.

It was acknowledged that in the Place Plan 2012/13, United Utilities confirmed that drainage within the Parish was at a critical level and since this there has been a 20% increase in properties. It was noted that flooding is becoming a regular occurrence and Shropshire Council need to take action, along with United Utilities to ensure that the infrastructure can cope.

It was also suggested that Woore Parish Council should consider imposing the need for 'green' initiatives in the build of new housing developments including rainwater harvesting, when applications are reviewed.

#### **20147 Community Speedwatch**

To receive an update from the Cllr. Hamilton.

Cllr Hamilton advised that several volunteers have stepped forward to assist with the community speed watch initiative, however West Mercia Police have advised that due to the recorded speeds on the main roads, obtaining insurance may not be possible due to risk. Additionally, due to COVID there is also a delay in accessing training. Further investigation will take place and an update will be provided in due course.

#### **20148 Defibrillators**

To receive an update from the Clerk and to discuss the approval of emergency expenditure requirement.

It was reported that the defibrillator reported as faulty has been working consistently for 2 months and this would therefore be refitted. Both defibrillators are out of warranty. Both defibrillators now require replacement batteries. It was unanimously **resolved** to approve emergency expenditure of up to £500 so that replacement batteries can be sourced and replaced as soon as possible before the unit is refitted. It was noted that pads will also be checked.

Councillor's acknowledged the need for the existing volunteer to step down and for a representative to replace this person. It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate the insurance cover and recommended policy/procedure for defibrillator maintenance/checks in order for this to be progressed. Cllr Aldcroft offered his support in providing guidance on this process.

#### **20149 Internal Audit Procedure**

To receive an update from the Clerk as to the procedure and proposal for appointment of Internal Auditor.

The Clerk provided an update on the process for the internal audit. It was unanimously **resolved** to appoint Sue Hackett as internal auditor with immediate effect, following the recommendation of Shropshire Association of Local Councils. It was noted that this appointment was based on correspondence with the Clerk to date and an estimate of £120-£150 depending on volume of work.

#### **20150 COVID Lockdown**

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

Cllr Irwin referred to a complaint from a resident regarding the lack of Parish Council noticeboards in Pipe Gate and that unless residents visit the website, they are not aware of the meeting dates or other important information. It was noted that the only working Parish Council noticeboard is opposite the Country Stores shop.

It was suggested that residents subscribe to a mailing list for notice of meetings and other important information and agreed that a data protection policy will be required prior to this, to be progressed by the Clerk. It was suggested that notice of meetings be made via Facebook.

#### **20151 Clerks Appraisal and Pay Review**

To receive an update from the Chairman.

The Chairman refereed to a report circulated prior to the meeting, explaining that the Clerk's appraisal was complete and objectives for 2021/22 had been agreed. In line with NALC pay scales and current contract a pay review had taken place. It was unanimously **resolved** to apply the change of pay scale, backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

#### **20152 Clerks Reports and Correspondence**

To receive a summary of Reports and Correspondence for period from 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.

The Clerk provided a report as follows;

NALC has released guidance on the return of face-to-face meetings by 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021. An update will be provided in due course following a review of this guidance. It was acknowledged that at this point most Councillors are unhappy with returning to face-to-face meetings.

NALC has released a delivery plan for Local Elections on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 which will require review by the Clerk.

VAT Claim for Q1/2/3 of financial year 2020/21 totalling £7313.37 has been made but not yet received.

Financial Scrutineering has been partially completed remotely by Parish Council representatives for Q1/2/3 and this will be completed and details circulated to Councillors in due course.

There has been a significant increase in resident enquiries both via the website and direct to the Clerk/Chairman, covering a wide range of enquiries.

The Clerk confirmed that all correspondence for the period from 11<sup>th</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 had been circulated to Councillors.

#### **20153 Payment of Accounts**

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

Date	Recipient & Purpose	Amount	Power of Expenditure
08.01.21	H.M.Jackson (January)		
	i Salary (net tax/NI £0.00)	£694.88	LGA 1972 s.112(2)

	ii Backdated salary – pay scale change (1 <sup>st</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan 21)	£55.45	LGA 1972 s.112(2)
	iii Expenses	£45.42	LG (FP)A 1963 s.5
	iv Mileage	£0.00	
	v Sundry	£24.13	LG(FP)A 1963 s.5 LG A 1972 s 111 LGA 1972 s. 137
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£819.88</b>	
23.01.21	NPower (final invoice prior to contract switch to SSE) (Inc VAT)	£387.05	PCA 1957 ss.3(1) & 7, HA 1980 s.301
12.01.21	Woore Primary School (Grant/donation for laptops for home learning) (PAID)	750.00	LGA 1972 s.137**

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.

### **DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 (both @ 7.30pm)

Signed.....(Chair)

Dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021