**MINUTES OF WOORE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Monday 11th January 2016**

**Held at Woore Victory Hall**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr M. Moore (Chairman), Cllr M. Blake (Vice Chairman), Cllr A. Allison Cllr H. Blake, Cllr S. Clifford, Cllr M. Cowey, Cllr A. Ford and Cllr F. Woodcock

**IN ATTENDANCE**:

Miss S.H. Pimlott, Clerk to the Parish Council

**PUBLIC**

3 members of the public, Mr P. Hawkins, Mr C. Jeffries and Mr R. Rigby,

attended the meeting.

**15165 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr H. Lightfoot apologised for being unable to attend the meeting for business reasons. That apology was accepted. Cllr J Higgin was also unable to attend.

Cllr J Cadwallader, Councillor at Shropshire Council (SC), apologised for being unable to attend as he was otherwise engaged on SC business. That apology was also accepted.

**15166 DECLARATIONS OF ANY INTERESTS**

There were no such declarations.

**15167 OPEN FORUM**

Mr Rigby said that the two manhole covers near his house on London Road, in disrepair since he first raised the problem in March 2015, had finally been repaired by the utility company. Mr Rigby reported that another manhole cover, further south on London Road, was now in a state of serious disrepair.

The Clerk advised that she had reported the additional defective manhole cover to SC Cllr Cadwallader and had asked if it would be possible for this cover to be repaired at the same time as the other two covers. From Mr Rigby’s comments, that had not occurred. The Clerk said that she would take the necessary steps to get the manhole cover repaired.

Cllr H. Blake informed the meeting that, in 2017, it would be 100 years since the establishment of the Women’s Institute (WI). To celebrate the centenary of the organisation, the Woore WI was contemplating planting a tree. Cllr Blake asked whether the PC could provide a site for the tree. It was suggested the Village Green might be suitable and that advice should be sought from the Tree Wardens and Ms A. King, SC’s Tree and Woodland Amenity Protection Officer. It was agreed that the WI’s proposal would be placed on the Agenda for the PC’s February meeting.

The Chairman asked whether any other members of the public had any further issues to raise in respect of matters on the Agenda, that being, in his view, the principal purpose of the Open Forum. Mr Jeffries indicated that members of the public were free to raise any matter and not just items on the Agenda. The Chairman said that the main purpose of the Open Forum was to provide members of the public with an opportunity to comment on Agenda items so Cllrs had the benefit of the public’s views on such items when they were discussing them during the meeting. The Chairman said that he would prefer members of the public to raise other issues, not on the Agenda, with the Clerk and, where appropriate, such matters could be placed on the Agenda for a future meeting or dealt with by the Clerk. The Chairman made it clear he would not prevent members of the public raising any matter in the Public Forum but, if the issue required a resolution of the PC, it would need to be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

**15168 TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 14TH DECEMBER 2015**

The Council resolved to approve the Minutes of the Meeting of 14th December 2015.

**15169 TO SET THE PRECEPT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2016-17**

Prior to the meeting, the Clerk had supplied the Cllrs with a copy of SC’s letter requesting the PC’s precept requirement for 2016-2017.The Clerk had also supplied Cllrs with estimates of the PC’s projected income for the rest of the current financial year and of its projected income and expenditure for the financial year 2016-17. The Clerk reported that, following the receipt of CIL monies (c £500) in 2015-16, and payment for adult exercise equipment, groundworks, fencing and signage, the balance of the Recreation Fund would be approx. £15K, leaving an unrestricted year end balance of approx. £5K.

There then followed a discussion about the Precept for 2016-17. The Clerk advised that, based on a Band D taxbase of 563.84 properties (compared to 556.81 in 2015-16), the Precept would amount to £21,183.47 if there was no increase in it. Councillors discussed the projected expenditure for 2016-17 (£30,600) and concern was expressed that, without any increase in the precept, unrestricted funds might not be sufficient to meet unforeseen items of expenditure. It was therefore resolved that it would be appropriate to set an increased Precept of £22,183.47 for the year 2016-17. That increase Precept would result in an increased Council Tax charge per Band D household of £1.77 per annum (i.e. an increase from £37.57 to £39.34) or less than £0.04 per week. It was suggested that, should the likely balance of unrestricted funds at the end of the financial year 2016-17 be markedly greater than the currently estimated balance of those funds as at the end of the present financial year, then the PC might consider reducing the Precept for the following financial year.

The Clerk had advised Cllrs in writing prior to the meeting that part of the PC’s income in 2016-17 would be the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and that this was estimated to amount to approx. £3.8K. A discussion then ensued about whether that specific item of income should be added to the Recreation Fund, as had occurred in previous years, or whether it should be treated as a separate fund, perhaps called the Infrastructure Fund, which should be used to pay for infrastructure improvements within the Parish. It was agreed that how the CIL should be treated should be the subject of a formal resolution of the Parish Council following receipt of the CIL.

**15170 REPLACEMENT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL’S CURRENT WEBSITE**

The Clerk said that SC had confirmed that ShropNet, the PC’s website provided by SC, will be switched off at the end of this financial year. SC had suggested a couple of free alternative website providers. One of these was a company called Hugo Fox. This was the company which the PC had discussed at its last meeting. The Vice Chairman and Clerk had both attended training delivered by Hugo Fox in December 2015. The purpose of that training had been to obtain an overview of the Hugo Fox product and training to enable the PC’s website to be set up on the Hugo Fox platform if the PC was to resolve to replace Shropnet with Hugo Fox. The Vice Chairman and Clerk had both been favourably impressed by what they had seen on the training day. It was agreed that the Chairman would review the Hugo Fox website and report back to the PC at the next meeting.

It was reported that the subscription for the PC’s email account with Heart Internet had been renewed for a further two years.

**15171 PAYMENT OF ACCOUNTS**

# S.H. Pimlott

* Salary £360.49
* expenses £80.60

TOTAL £441.09

2. HMRC £72.10

3. Mr M. Moore (refund of fee for domain name) £26.00

The Council resolved to pay the above accounts.

Date of Next Parish Council Meeting: Monday 8th February 2016 at 7.15 pm

The Meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

**RECORD OF VOTING FOR WOORE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11th JANUARY 2016**

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| **Agenda Item** | **Motion** | **Cllr** | **For** | **Against** | **Abstain** |
| **15165** | Resolved to accept the apologies of the absent Parish Councillors and of SC Councillor Cadwallader. | Moore | **x** |  |  |
| Allison | **X** |  |  |
| Blake H | **X** |  |  |
| **Prop: Chairman****Second :Clifford**  | Blake M | **X** |  |  |
| Clifford | **X** |  |  |
| Cowey | **X** |  |  |
| Ford | **X** |  |  |
| Woodcock | **X** |  |  |

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| **Agenda Item** | **Motion** | **Cllr** | **For** | **Against** | **Abstain** |
| **15168** | Resolved to adopt the minutes of the meeting of 14th December 2015. | Moore |  |  | x |
| Allison | **X** |  |  |
| Blake H | **X** |  |  |
| **Prop: Moore** **Second: Clifford**  | Blake M | **X** |  |  |
| Clifford | **X** |  |  |
| Cowey | **X** |  |  |
| Ford | **X** |  |  |
| Woodcock | **X** |  |  |

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| **Agenda Item** | **Motion** | **Cllr** | **For** | **Against** | **Abstain** |
| **15169** | Resolved to set an increased precept of £22,183.47 for the financial year 2016-17. | Moore | **X** |  |  |
| Allison | **X** |  |  |
| Blake H | **X** |  |  |
| **Prop: Clifford****Second: M Blake**  | Blake M | **X** |  |  |
| Clifford | **X** |  |  |
| Cowey |  | **X** |  |
| Ford | **X** |  |  |
| Woodcock |  | **X** |  |

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| **Agenda Item** | **Motion** | **Cllr** | **For** | **Against** | **Abstain** |
| **15171** | Resolved to pay the accounts listed in the minutes. | Moore | **X** |  |  |
| Allison | **X** |  |  |
| Blake H | **X** |  |  |
| **Prop:Woodcock Clifford****Second: Moore**  | Blake M | **X** |  |  |
| Clifford | **X** |  |  |
| Cowey | **X** |  |  |
| Ford | **X** |  |  |
| Woodcock | **X** |  |  |