

Minutes of Woore Parish Council Meeting

Monday 8th March 2021, 7.30pm

Remote meeting 922 8530 1086



PRESENT:

Cllr M. Cowey (Chairman), Cllr. G. Irwin (Vice Chairman), Cllr K. Davies, Cllr. M. Blake, Cllr J. Higgin, Cllr C. Hamilton and Cllr D. Beeston. Cllr M. Carter joined the meeting late due to IT difficulties.

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

PUBLIC:

Mr M. Holland and Mrs H. Lightfoot were in attendance.

20154 Apologies for absence

No Councillors were absent from the meeting.

20155 Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Davies requested to be muted during discussions relating to 20161 Planning (ai and aii).

20156 Open Forum – To last no longer than 15 minutes

Mr Holland requested that Councillors pose questions in relation to planning item 20161 ai, to be addressed by himself as the applicant. The Lead Councillor posed two questions relating to concerns raised by neighbours which Mr Holland answered. It was agreed that the issues raised were not directly relevant to the application but that it was the duty of the Lead Councillor to relay these. The Chairman advised that it was stated in the WPC planning policy that there will be no consultation with applicants, and this had been adhered to in this case.

No other member of the public wished to raise any matters.

Cllr Irwin raised issues of anti-social behaviour within the Parish including dog excrement on people's gates and being sent via post. The Council were in agreement that behaviour such as this was a police matter and that the Parish newsletter (when re-launched) and social media can be used to remind Parishioners of the importance of reporting incidents of this nature, particularly whilst there is regular police presence in the Parish thanks to the mobile police van.

The Chairman thanked volunteers from the Parish for their efforts in litter picking recently. Their contributions have made a big difference and this activity should be encouraged. It was noted that a community litter pick would be supported by the Parish Council in the future and Veolia have confirmed the supply of waste bags and collection of waste should this be pursued.

20157 To approve and sign Minutes of Remote Meeting held on 8th February 2021

The resolution to accept the minutes of 11th January 2021 was passed unanimously.

20158 Matters Arising

The Chairman reported that there had been no response from Shropshire Council regarding the adoption of the streetlights on The Grove development. It was requested that Cllr Aldcroft take further action to progress this matter.

Cllr Aldcroft reported that no action had been taken regarding the Planning Committee following concerns raised over lack of recognition of the Woore Neighbourhood Plan in planning decisions. Cllr Aldcroft agreed to progress this and provide a report.

The Chairman noted that item 20144 (a) revised wording (due to word count limitations) had been circulated to Councillors post meeting and this is included as Appendix 1.0 to the Minutes of the 8th February meeting.

20159 Councillor Resignation

The Chairman thanked Julian Clarke for his contribution to the Parish Council and reported that his resignation had been received with immediate effect and an email of thanks sent on behalf of the Council.

20160 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 Chairman noted that these reports had also been utilised during discussions with HS2. It was reported that Inspector Greenaway of West Mercia Police had responded to the Parish Council's request for data surrounding prosecutions for speeding within the Parish, reporting the following;

2019: 41 offences dealt with (prosecutions) - average of 2 per hour

2020: 94 offences dealt with (prosecutions) - average of 3 per hour

(b) Community Speed watch - Cllr C. Hamilton

It was noted that the number of prosecutions was incredibly low in comparison to the number of offences reported in the MVAS data (circa 25% of all traffic), with less than 0.5% of prosecutable speeds leading to prosecution.

No progress regarding the community speed watch was reported due to COVID delays and a backlog of groups requiring training and support from the Safer Roads team.

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

No representatives were present to provide a report.

The Chairman noted that a public footpath on Gravenhunger Lane had been reported for attention due to deterioration.

(d) Village Hall – Cllr D. Beeston

It was reported that decorating had taken place and a tower hired for further works. A quote for a replacement kitchen had also been sourced. COVID grants have been received. The Hall will remain closed in line with COVID guidance with the exception of 6th May elections and no meetings had taken place.

(e) Shropshire – Councillor Mr R. Aldcroft

Cllr Aldcroft provided the following report;

COVID: Rachel Robinson, Shropshire's director of public health, has reinforced the message of caution for Shropshire: "The fact that the number of cases is reducing week-by-week is really encouraging. But as the weather improves and the evenings get lighter, people may be tempted to let their guard down and take unnecessary risks. I know everyone has been asked to live under restrictions for almost a year now and it is becoming more and more difficult; I am thankful for the sacrifices everyone has made up to this point. However, we do need one last big push if we want to be in a position where all restrictions are lifted by the earliest 21 June 2021 as per the Government's roadmap. These next few weeks are probably the most important we have had locally during this pandemic. Everything we are doing now does make a difference, so please, try not to become complacent.

The Chairman advised that great efforts were being made to ensure regular updates and important information is shared via the notice boards and website.

Roads: Shropshire Council are pleased to announce they have gained a grant of 40 million over the next 4 years for much needed road repairs. I can also confirm that SC is trialling one of the new JCB road repair vehicles around the county presently. There are also improvements in the reporting system for road and paving problems. In order to keep traffic flowing major projects such as the North West Relief Road and A5 at Mile end are going ahead.

The Chairman encouraged all Councillors to report all issues regarding roads to the Clerk.

PURDAH: We go into PURDAH from 15th March so things will get very quiet as Councillors are busy promoting themselves. There are rules during this period all Clerks have copies and can advise what can and can't take place. Don't forget to Vote May 6th.

Children's Services: Are reporting a significant increase in youngsters being coerced with threats to family, themselves and their property unless the youngsters carry out tasks for them. This can involve 'protection money', blackmail, currier duties and assaulting fellow youngsters or parents of people who don't comply. This is now happening to children between the ages of 10 and 14 upwards. Unfortunately, there are not a lot of signs that youngsters are being used, teenagers going through growing changes as they do. But gangs tend to pick on children from middle class families, who aren't on police, courts or social services records. Very often Children forced into this will have changes of mood, friends and habits. Be in and out at odd hours, schoolwork may be affected. May be encouraged with money or other gifts which may suddenly appear in bedrooms along with pay as you go phones. This tends to happen in Market Towns in Shropshire, yes, Shropshire. Keep your eyes open and report to Children Services or the Police should you suspect youngsters are being used this way.

Cllr. Aldcroft agreed to provide posters to help publicise this issue via the Clerk.

20161 Planning

- (a) To consider and, if appropriate, to resolve on a response to the following planning application;
 - i. 20/05128/FUL dated 8th February for the part conversion of outbuilding to annexe accommodation at Lakeside Luxury Cattery, Cattery at Villa Farm, 10 Audlem Road, Woore.

Cllr. Aldcroft and Cllr. Davies left the meeting at this point.

The Lead Councillor referred to a report circulated prior to the meeting, noting that amendment advice had been offered from the Shropshire Council Planning Team. It was unanimously **resolved** to support the application, subject to consultee comments and noting comments provided in the Lead Councillor report that remain unanswered, as follows;

1. Change of use does not describe how it will impact on the cattery business.
 2. The application states that the annex is intended for elderly residents, when previously stated that it would be managers accommodation, raising the question of whether there will be future applications for further cattery buildings.
 3. The look of the building has been modified to retain the local character with the exception of one roundel, which will be replaced to allow for sliding doors and a balcony.
- ii. 21/00476/FUL dated 8th February 2021 for the erection of detached 3-bay garage at Kingsley, Audlem Road, Woore, CW3 9RL.

The Lead Councillor referred to a report circulated prior to the meeting. It was unanimously **resolved** to support the application subject to consultee comments.

- iii. 21/00065/FUL dated 1st March 2021 for the amendment to the proposal 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.

Cllr Davies re-joined the meeting.

The Chairman referred to correspondence circulated prior to the meeting. Discussion took place regarding amendments to the application previously objected to by the Parish Council. It was unanimously **resolved** to reaffirm the Parish Council's decision to object to the application based on comments previously made. Comments in full can be found in Appendix 1.0 of the Minutes of 8th February 2021 meeting.

20162 HS2

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

The Chairman provided an update, thanking residents for the pleasing attendance at the Community Meeting held remotely via zoom, 18th February, to inform residents about the HS2 Phase 2a Consultation and it was agreed that this had undoubtedly helped to increase responses to the consultation. The Parish Council now awaits the outcome of this process. It was noted that Shropshire Council had also submitted a response which was very pleasing. There have been no further meetings since the February update, although dates have been suggested for mid-March. It was noted that Shropshire Council appear to be confident that most of the mitigations were now covered, whereas the WPC working party remain concerned that many remain unresolved. Concern remains that Shropshire Council will be responsible for picking up the cost of many mitigations.

Rt Hon. Owen Patterson is yet to meet with Andrew Stephenson, HS2 Minister. Full agreement on all assurances is required by WPC before a response to HS2 is made, otherwise the response will note what remains outstanding.

It was noted that correspondence had been received, by the Clerk, from a representative of Shropshire Council, requesting a meeting to formally brief the Parish Council on the 'issue of HS2'. Councillors were in full agreement that the working party have been appointed to represent full Council in all matters regarding HS2 and that the working party have support of the full Council to continue to do so, noting their unanimous satisfaction that this is being done thoroughly.

Additionally, it was noted that the Minutes of all WPC meetings are an adequate public record of this and all HS2 discussions.

The Chairman advised that the Community Engagement Team had confirmed their intentions to provide a Commonplace bulletin/newsletter for Shropshire and that WPC continued to request this as a useful resource for residents to obtain information on road closures etc. once work commences.

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

No further update was provided by the Vice Chairman.

20163 Summer Planting

Discussion took place and it was agreed that Cllr Higgin, Cllr Beeston and the Clerk would liaise to discuss requirements and report to Council with a recommendation on how this is provided.

20164 Elections 2021

The Clerk advised on the process and procedure for the upcoming elections, referring to the following important dates;

Notice of Election	Monday 15 th March
Deadline for receipt of nominations	4pm, Thursday 8 th April
Deadline for withdrawal of candidature if no longer standing	4pm, Thursday 8 th April
Statements of Persons nominated	Friday 9 th April
Last date to register to vote	12 midnight, 19 th April
Last date to apply for postal vote	5pm, 20 th April
Last date to publish the Notice of Poll	Tuesday 27 th April
Last date for receipt of written applications to vote by proxy	5pm, Tuesday 27 th April
Polling day	7am-10pm, Thursday 6 th May
Count	Sunday 9 th May

It was advised that nomination packs would be provided by the Clerk and importantly, that nominations packs must be delivered by hand, prior to the deadline of 4pm 8th April. A list of venues would be provided with nomination packs. The Clerk encouraged all candidates to contact her directly with any questions and that social media, the WPC website and noticeboard would be used to publicise the elections and encourage interested parties to apply.

The Clerk agreed to seek advice on best practices regarding PURDAH.

20165 Tender/Contract Review

The need to review grounds maintenance/Lengthsman duties/contracts was reported. Discussion took place and most Councillors offered a view. It was noted that the Clerk would review the current arrangements and circulate this to all Councillors for comment with the intention of identifying issues that currently fall outside of the scope of the current contracts that need addressing moving forward. On agreement of the requirements, WPC will put these out to tender.

20166 RFO Update

The Clerk provided an update on the following;

- a) Internal Control Process (financial scrutineering) Q1/2/3 is now completed, with thanks to Financial Scrutineers and will be circulated to all Councillors for information only.
- b) VAT Claim Q1/2/3 has been paid in full at £7313.37.
- c) Financial review – deferred until April meeting due to delay in receipt of bank statements.

The application for online banking is currently in process and the Internal Audit is underway, with reports to follow.

20167 Policies and Procedures

It was unanimously **resolved** to adopt the Woore Parish Council Code of Conduct, March 2021.

20168 Clerks Reports and Correspondence

To receive a summary of Reports and Correspondence for period from 8th February 2021 to 2nd March 2021.

The Clerk provided a report as follows;

Planning application received for 28 The Grove, which was appealed by WPC at the Northern Planning Committee. The Chairman reported concern that there were 'loopholes' in the system and that Shropshire Council should respond to this point to prevent applicant taking advantage.

Census 2021 – this is now live and notices have been sent to households. Residents are encouraged to respond.

Audlem road / HGV traffic – correspondence has been received from a resident regarding increase in heavy vehicle traffic on the Audlem Road. The Chairman reported that as this is a boundary issue it had been passed to Cheshire East. There is evidence of slip waste being piled high at the location in question, in addition to planning taking place, neither of which Cheshire East have record of. Confirmation had been received from the Ward Councillor for Cheshire East that this has been passed to the Enforcement Team to investigate.

Presentation of plaque to Woore Country Stores and Volunteers of Woore will take place Tuesday 16th March at 4.00pm. The Chairman will conduct the presentation in line with social distancing guidelines, in the presence of the Shropshire Star also. The plaque will be fitted in due course.

Annual Parish Meeting – this should take place between 1st March and 1st June. Advice would be sought by the Clerk as to how this can be done in line with current restrictions and an update provided in due course. The meeting date of 12th April which was reserved for the Annual Parish Meeting will remain as a regular meeting of the Parish Council.

20169 Payment of Accounts

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

Date	Recipient & Purpose	Amount	Power of Expenditure
08.03.21	H.M.Jackson (February)		
	i Salary (net tax/NI £0.00)	£728.50	LGA 1972 s.112(2)
	iii Expenses	£45.42	LG (FP)A 1963 s.5
	iv Mileage	£0.00	
	v Sundry	£64.36	LG(FP)A 1963 s.5

			LG A 1972 s 111 LGA 1972 s. 137
	TOTAL	£838.28	
07.02.21	NPower (Electricity supply streetlights final invoice) (Inc VAT)	£78.16	PCA 1957 ss.3(1) & 7, HA 1980 s.301
16.02.21 02.03.21	SALC (New Cllr training) SALC (Clerk training – year end)	90.00	LG A 1972 s 111
12.02.21	SSE (Electricity supply streetlights) (Inc VAT) (PAID by DD)	£22.06	PCA 1957 ss.3(1) & 7, HA 1980 s.301

The meeting closed at 9.32pm.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

12th April 2021 and 10th May 2021 (both @ 7.30pm)

Signed.....(Chair)

Dated 12th April 2021