

# WOORE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

17th April 2023



[www.wooreparishcouncil.org](http://www.wooreparishcouncil.org)

Helen Jackson, Clerk to Woore Parish Council

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## **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Cllrs M. Cowey (Chair), M. Blake, C. Hamilton, G. Daville, M. Carter, R. Goodman.

## **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Helen Jackson, (Parish Clerk), Ffion Horton (Shropshire Council), Richard Marshall (Shropshire Council), Tracy Darke (Shropshire Council), Inspector Claire Greenaway (West Mercia Police), Jon Furber (Woore Cricket Club), Hannah Roberts-Steele (Friends of Woore School), Karen Pearce (Woore WI), Janet Roberts (Woore & District Vegetable & Produce Show), Michelle Ward (Woore Primary & Nursery School), Peter Goringe (Woore Methodist Church), 40+ members of the public.

The meeting was opened at 7.30pm following a drinks reception at 6.45pm.

### **1. Introduction and Welcome**

Cllr Cowey welcomed members of the public to the meeting and provided an explanation of meeting format and protocol. Woore Parish Councillors were introduced to the room with almost all in attendance. Apologies were given on behalf of Councillor Roy Aldcroft who was unable to attend as planned and in accordance with the published agenda.

### **2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

The Minutes were agreed and accepted by the meeting.

### **3. Woore Parish Council – Chairman's report**

Cllr Cowey presented a summary of the Chairman's report to the meeting, reflecting on the achievements and challenges of the previous 12 months and giving thanks to the ongoing commitment and support of Councillors and the wider community.

A copy of the Chairman's report can be viewed on the Parish Council website at:

<http://www.wooreparishcouncil.org/community/woore-parish-council-10149/annual-parish-meeting-minutes/>

### **4. Woore Parish Council – Financial Report**

The Parish Clerk presented a summary of the annual financial report to the meeting.

A copy of the full financial report can be viewed on the Parish Council website at:

<http://www.wooreparishcouncil.org/community/woore-parish-council-10149/annual-parish-meeting-minutes/>

### **5. Woore Parish Council – Representatives Reports**

Reports were provided by representatives of the Parish Council.

### **Woore Parish Community Speed Watch - Cllr Colin Hamilton**

Cllr Hamilton provided a report to the meeting, a copy of which can be viewed on the Parish Council website at: <http://www.wooreparishcouncil.org/community/woore-parish-council-10149/annual-parish-meeting-minutes/>

### **Kings Coronation - Cllr Rachel Goodman**

Cllr Goodman reminded attendees that planning for the Coronation was firmly under way and provided a summary of the activities discussed to date, including those organised by St. Leonards church. Thanks were given to residents for their support and in particular the fabulous artwork being erected around the Parish in celebration, kindly designed and produced by residents of Irelands Cross. A more permanent display to celebrate the event is currently under discussion. Residents were encouraged to lookout for future communications in the Parish Magazine and on the Parish Council website/social media channel.

## **6. Woore Parish Community Organisations - Annual Reports**

Reports were provided by representatives of each organisation.

### **The Victory Hall – Cllr. Rachel Goodman, Representative**

A copy of the full report can be viewed on the Parish Council website at:

<http://www.wooreparishcouncil.org/community/woore-parish-council-10149/annual-parish-meeting-minutes/>

### **Woore United Charities - John Parkes, Clerk (read by Michael Cowey, WPC Chairman)**

A copy of the full report can be viewed on the Parish Council website at:

<http://www.wooreparishcouncil.org/community/woore-parish-council-10149/annual-parish-meeting-minutes/>

### **Old Woore School Trust – John Parkes, Clerk (read by Helen Jackson, WPC Clerk)**

A copy of the full report can be viewed on the Parish Council website at:

<http://www.wooreparishcouncil.org/community/woore-parish-council-10149/annual-parish-meeting-minutes/>

### **Woore Primary & Nursery School – Michelle Ward, Head Teacher**

A copy of the full report can be viewed on the Parish Council website at:

<http://www.wooreparishcouncil.org/community/woore-parish-council-10149/annual-parish-meeting-minutes/>

### **Woore Methodist Church – Peter Goringe, (Woore Methodist Church Representative)**

A copy of the full report can be viewed on the Parish Council website at:

<http://www.wooreparishcouncil.org/community/woore-parish-council-10149/annual-parish-meeting-minutes/>

### **Woore & District Vegetable & Produce Show – Janet Roberts, (Secretary)**

A copy of the full report can be viewed on the Parish Council website at:

<http://www.wooreparishcouncil.org/community/woore-parish-council-10149/annual-parish-meeting-minutes/>

### **Friends of Woore School – Hannah Roberts-Steele, Chairperson**

A copy of the full report can be viewed on the Parish Council website at:

<http://www.wooreparishcouncil.org/community/woore-parish-council-10149/annual-parish-meeting-minutes/>

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**Woore WI – Karen Pearce, Chairperson**

A copy of the full report can be viewed on the Parish Council website at:

<http://www.wooreparishcouncil.org/community/woore-parish-council-10149/annual-parish-meeting-minutes/>

**7. Woore Parish Community Clubs - Annual Reports**

Reports were provided by representatives of each organisation.

**Woore Cricket Club – Jon Furber, Treasurer**

A copy of the full report can be viewed on the Parish Council website at:

<http://www.wooreparishcouncil.org/community/woore-parish-council-10149/annual-parish-meeting-minutes/>

**8. Cllr Roy Aldcroft (Shropshire Council Representative) - Report with Q&A**

Due to absence, no report was provided on behalf of Councillor Aldcroft. The Clerk advised that any report provided post meeting would be made available on the Parish Council website.

**9. West Mercia Police - Annual Report**

Inspector Claire Greenaway attended the meeting as representative for West Mercia Police. A summary of the report is provided below:

- Safer Neighbourhood Team for Shropshire & Oswestry is the catch all team for policing matters in the area.
- They work closely with all partners including the Parish and Shropshire Council.
- Service delivery is challenging in a time of limited public funding and the support of volunteers is critical. Police figures currently like that of 1998.
- Young people, social issues, safeguarding, county lines, criminal exploitation are particularly draining on resource and time currently.
- Crime figures (not specific to Woore) were reported; 126 calls within 12 months (including Rural Market Drayton statistics). Only 39 crime related, 19 of which were linked to 3 issues and did not impact members of the public directly. Confidence therefore that Woore Parish is a low crime area.
- Technology is being increasingly used to enable support for victims, including Teams meetings and investment in headquarters.
- Speeding remains a significant concern. Gratitude expressed to the Community Speed Watch Team for their efforts, but more volunteers are needed to strengthen the effort. Delays in the uptake were caused by the uptake in the CSW programme across the County.
- WMP supported Woore Parish Council efforts regarding HS2 and Rod Lake (Traffic Officer) visited the sites, commenting on the pavement width and crossing places defined in the plans.
- 210 vehicles were reported by the CSW team with 147 letters sent to offenders.
- Average speed camera costs in region of £100k over mile and no revenue is provided to the local authority. The aim with a camera is as a deterrent not as a means of prosecution.
- There is a speed issue in Woore Parish, but this is the case throughout the UK with 85% of people breaking speed limits daily.

Shropshire Council made the following comments in relation to this report:

- Reducing the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph is unenforceable by the police without the addition of physical infrastructure to slow traffic and mitigate against safety risks.
- VAS signs will slow traffic by 5-10mph for a while, until the novelty wears off.
- Speed bumps will receive noise complaints, chicanes lead to traffic issues.
- Must balance the rural character of the parish with physical infrastructure options available.
- Any speed limit change requires consultation. WMP support the speed limit reduction if engineering works were implemented.
- If an exercise is to be done it should include a consultation to extend the 30mph on Newcastle Road where speeds are 3 times higher than other areas within the Parish.
- Cameras in all challenging places is ideal but not practical.

## **10. HS2 - Community Engagement Update with Q&A – Victoria Robets, Senior Engagement Officer HS2**

**\*the order of the agenda was changed to enable this item to take place earlier in proceedings.**

Victoria Roberts attended the meeting as representative for HS2. A summary of the discussion is provided below:

- Intention was to attend alongside Kier to provide an overview of proposals and phasing for HS2 works but following recent announcements by the government, postponement of any works relating to main works programme has been implemented and is likely to last several years. This includes all works relating to Woore Parish.
- Environmental works (inc. utility diversions and topographical surveys) and land possession programmes will continue.
- All A525 works including passing bays, junction modifications and calming measures will be paused with immediate effect.
- Ecological surveys are time sensitive and therefore these will be paused until such time works can continue.
- HS2 remain committed and present until any further guidance is provided.
- All landowners will be notified of planned delays. Where temporary possession of land has taken place, landowners can claim compensation for business loss - which is a statutory legal process and evidence based, with a tribunal and appeals process to review any claims. Residents with queries are urged to reach out to Victoria directly.
- CEF funds remain in situ and applications can still be received.

A brief note including detail on the recent announcement will be provided to the Clerk following the meeting and made available here:

<http://www.wooreparishcouncil.org/community/woore-parish-council-10149/annual-parish-meeting-minutes/>

Comments made by members of the public included:

- Traffic surveys completed in 2012 in support of the HS2 route are inaccurate and reference ludicrous traffic volumes.
- Compensation for landowners must be provided, treatment of those impacted is unforgivable.

Comments made by Shropshire Council included:

- Shropshire Council met with HS2 prior to the announcement and agreed that before any

future works are to commence, notice will be given, and engagement will take place. It is a statutory requirement to complete audits prior to any designs being presented.

- Environmental statements must be revisited to ensure compliance and take note of any change in data.
- Due to an upcoming election prior to any review of this decision to pause, it is unlikely that any party would be brave enough to support signing off of the current plans and therefore all this could be hypothetical.
- SC committed in 2021 to surveys on rat runs – Gravenhunger Lane, Candle Lane, Checkley Lane, Aston Lane and surveys will be conducted at the appropriate time should work commence.
- SC has removed Ffion Horton as representative in HS2 matters but this does not impact SC's duty to support the Parish in matters relating to HS2. All HS2 matters will be included in the Woore Parish Council Place Plan from this point forward.
- Unlikely HS2 would consider abolishing the route completely.

#### **11. Shropshire Council – Tracy Darke, Richard Marshall, Ffion Horton**

The representatives named herein attended the meeting on behalf of Shropshire Council. A summary of the discussion is provided below:

Richard Marshall (Cabinet Member Highways & Regulatory Services):

- Warmed by commitment of the community groups within the Parish, very impressive to fill a room with this many residents.
- Trial scheme in Market Drayton (inc. Woore) to identify carriageway defects which identified a comprehensive list which committed to completing before end May 2023. The Chair challenged this claim.
- Significant works on drainage required including gullies and pipework. Culverts cleaned in Woore within last 7 days including mechanical sweep. The Chair challenged this claim.
- Massive pressures from budgetary constraints require more efficient ways of working. The indication is that 85p of every £1 is spent on adult social care leaving 15p for all other services including waste disposal, highways, libraries etc. SC has kept services open where other authorities have not.
- Schemes under major projects will not be delivered this year but in 2 years when inflation drops (35% increase in costs this year alone).
- 850 potholes in County repaired within last 12 months which is encouraging. 80-90% fix first time aim.
- Move to LED lightbulbs for all streetlights within the County to save money and to improve sustainability.

Comments made by residents in response to this report included:

- Fix my Street response positive and signs indicate having a good impact, but progress has been blighted by road works and lack of coordination. Response: Utilities get emergency powers, and this can cause issues. Offer to continue conversation directly via email was made by Richard Marshall but declined by the resident. The Chairman noted further complications with cross County/ borders failures to communication regarding the coordination of works and the significant impact on residents.

Tracy Darke (Director of People & Place):

- Levelling up funding and Prosperity Funding remain two main funding streams.
- Accept Shrewsbury is the economic centre but £2.6m was shared by rural Shropshire and further bidding opportunities remain.

- Local Plan has progressed with Inspector questions to be published by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The Local Plan is essential.
- Woore Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan must align. All must be considered, one is not more significant than another.
- Place Plan teams will be making visits to communities now they are back in action and Officers will help facilitate these.
- Half the number of planning applications exist on the system now in comparison to the same time last year and a small number remain to clear out that date back to 2017.
- Only 5 Enforcement Officers within the whole of SC.
- Monthly meetings with Parish Councils do not exist within SC, with the exception of Woore Parish Council. Imperative to work together and committed to doing so.
- Must be 'expedient and proportionate to take action'. It is not an offence to build without permission but it will restrict the right to sell. Permission can be granted after build.
- The enforcement team do not have the resources to be proactive, sadly.

## **12. To invite the public to raise any matter of interest**

Questions were taken throughout the meeting, during relevant reports. All representatives were confirmed as available for questions post meeting; contact details to be made available via the Clerk and Woore Parish Council website.

## **13. Close**

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Date of next meeting: The next Annual Parish Meeting is yet to be scheduled. Meeting dates are published via the Parish Council website [www.wooreparishcouncil.org](http://www.wooreparishcouncil.org)

These minutes are subject to approval at the next Annual Parish Meeting. Minutes prepared by the Clerk to the Parish Council. Contact details can be found above.