

Minutes of Woore Annual Parish Council Meeting
Monday 11th September 2023, 7.30pm, The Victory Hall, Woore



PRESENT:

Cllr M. Cowey (Chairman), Cllr R. Goodman (Vice Chair), Cllr C. Hamilton, Cllr. M. Carter and Cllr. J. Higgin.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms C Burnard, Clerk to the Council

PUBLIC:

There were eight members of the public present.

23051 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent

The Chair welcomed Chelsea Burnard to her first solo meeting as Clerk.

Apologies were received from Cllr. M Blake due to illness.

No apologies were received for Cllr. R Aldcroft (Ward Councillor Shropshire Council).

It was unanimously **resolved** to accept apologies.

23052 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or any other Interests

Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting and which is not included in the register of interests. Members are reminded that they are required to leave the room during the discussion and voting on matters in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest, whether or not the interest is entered in the register of members' interests maintained by the Monitoring Officer. Members are reminded to declare any gifts and/or hospitality. (LGA 1972 s94).

No declarations were received.

22053 Requests for Dispensations of DPI's

No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared.

23054 Open Forum: to last no longer than 15 minutes

A resident raised concerns over the judicial review proposed by the Parish Council and stated that residents should be consulted before the costs are incurred.

Other residents present supported this.

The Chairman replied that this issue would be covered in Agenda item 23058 and all previous discussions around this issue have been fully minuted and are available for residents to view on the Parish Council Website.

The Chair also stated that the September meeting was the earliest opportunity for councillors to vote on the advice received regarding the judicial review.

A resident queried what the Parish council's responsibility is towards mowing the grass verges as the grass in Pipe Gate has reportedly only been mowed once in two years. The Chair acknowledges that this is an increasingly common problem. The part of Pipe Gate in question is the responsibility of Shropshire Council. The Chair has sent emails on this matter as the Parish has received photographs from residents of the exact areas that need tending to. We await confirmation from Shropshire Council as to when this will be dealt with.

The same resident asked for an update on planning application 23/03169/FUL - Erection of two storey extension to existing dwelling and erection of new detached workshop and garages. As the Parish council had already submitted comments on this and permission granted, this could be discussed in open forum. The Chair read out the councils comment on this, and the resident thanked the Chair.

Council comment was – *“Woore Parish Council support this application in that it is primarily an extension to a dwelling even though it is outside the Woore Neighbourhood Plan Development Boundary and would not contravene any of the Policies within the Neighbourhood Plan. There is no actual Landscape Plan attached to the Proposal and the Parish Council would request that a Condition(s) is applied that the roadside hedging remains in situ as well as additional screening as shown on the Proposed Site Plan to the new detached workshop and garages. The Parish Council would also request a Condition that the detached workshop and garages clearly state if permission is granted that this is the sole use of these buildings for perpetuity.”*

The Chair pointed out the because of a concerned resident phoning the Clerk the requests for additional screening was included in the comments and reminds all residents to always voice concerns on planning applications to the clerk.

A resident submitted a complaint about the land at Dorrington Lane that is owned by an absentee landowner. It was pointed out that Japanese Knotweed is suspected to be growing on this land. The resident has reached out to the landowner, but no action has been taken. They asked if the Parish Council could help with this.

The Chair pointed out that the council can't do anything directly due to this land being privately owned however the Parish Council will write to Shropshire Council and inform them of this issue resulting in an environmental officer being sent out to review. Due to the nature of the Knotweed being invasive, hopefully Shropshire Council act quick.

Cllr. R Goodman will report this on the Parish's behalf.

Cllr. J Higgins reminded councillors that a bench designed by local school children still needs to be commissioned. The Chair asked that the full costings be brought to the Parish Council in November when the budget for 2024/25 will be discussed.

Cllr. C Hamilton informed councillors that a resident has offered to paint and tidy up the Parish owned bus shelter and asked if any councillors had any opinions of colours. The Chair suggested they ask on social media. The Chair thanked all the volunteers involved in this project sincerely for their efforts.

The Chair continued on to thank other community volunteers including the resident that trimmed the hedge around the churchyard and the resident seen collecting all the litter from the Copper Arms carpark during the week. Their actions were noted and appreciated.

The Chair stated that the second road closure of Audlem road, previously scheduled for 17th September 2023, will not be going ahead. All the work was carried out during the closure on the 10th September. The Chair added that during the road closure too much traffic travelled down Candle Lane resulting in the lane getting congested and churned up. This has reminded councillors that smaller lanes must be protected should all the HS2 road closures go ahead.

23055 Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th July 2023 (Local Government Act 1972, s12p41(1)).

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the minutes of meeting 10th July 2023.

23056 Matters arising: to cover any matters arising from Minutes referred to in 23055.

The Chair stated that the issues with the overgrown footpaths are gradually improving. The paths around the Bowling Green have been cut back.

The footpath from Islands Cross to Dorrington remains overgrown. The Chair has spoken to the landowner however there is a query over the responsibility of this task.

A letter written by the Parish Council has gone out to all landowners that have footpaths on their land politely reminding them of their duty to make sure their footpath is passable. If this letter is ignored, unfortunately Shropshire Council will have to be informed. The Chair hopes it does not go that far and all paths are properly maintained.

Cllr. R Goodman pointed out that a similar communication will be in the Church magazine next month aimed at landowners and footpath users reminding us all to help maintain the public rights of way.

The fence around the Village Green has been replaced and the next stage to be completed are the trees being cut back. This is slightly complicated due to the ownership of the land and the entwined telephone wires in the branches. The Chair asked Cllr. M Carter to continue getting quotes for this work and to continue liaising with the neighbouring residents.

The Chair pointed out that the Old Woore School Trust Grant has responded to his emails and this matter is dealt with.

The Chair has still not had a response from Outdoor Partnerships regarding Cherry Tree Lane. He will continue to press for a response.

The Chair informed Councillors that Lucy Roberts has given an update on Woore's Plan Place. Shropshire Council has said that Woore's plan contains more details than any other Parish but Shropshire Council is slightly behind contacting various officers for review and putting the plans in the new format. Cllr Goodman and the Clerk to arrange a meeting with Lucy to review the Plan, aiming for mid to late October.

The Chair updated the councillors on the streetlighting issues. It is believed that all streetlights have now been replaced except for the very old-style ones on telegraph poles. The Parish Council now has a standardised letter to send out to any residents with concerns about the new lighting informing residents why the lighting has all been replaced and how to apply for a light shield from Shropshire Council. All streetlights are now the responsibility of Shropshire Council.

23057 Shropshire Council Representative Report: No report as Cllr. R Aldcroft was absent from the meeting.

23058 Planning:

a) Applications: to adopt comments in response to the following applications, as shared by Lead Councillors prior to the meeting.

- i) Reference: **23/02767/FUL** - 15 Northlands, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire. Installation of dropped kerb.

It was unanimously resolved to **support** the application with comments submitted via the Clerk as below.

"Woore Parish Council SUPPORTS this application.

All comments are subject to Consultee Comments.

Woore Parish Council request that it is notified of all changes to planning conditions relating to this Planning Application and subsequent applications relating to it."

- ii) Reference **23/03025/FUL** - The Gables, Nantwich Road, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire.
Erection of two storey rear extension

It was unanimously resolved to **support** the application with comments submitted via the Clerk as below

"Woore Parish council supports the application, if it is approved by Shropshire Council and subject to consultee comments - in particular the requirement for a Natural England license relating to bats and how the works will be safely completed taking cognisance of this, and any other constraints or planning conditions SC may place on the application.

- All comments are subject to consultee comments.

- Woore Parish Council request that it is notified of all changes to planning conditions relating to this planning application and subsequent applications relating to it."

- iii) Reference **23/03211/FUL** - Woodfield, Audlem Road, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire. Erection of a replacement detached dwelling and garage following demolition of the existing dwelling.

It was unanimously resolved to **support** the application with comments submitted via the Clerk as below

"Woore Parish Council SUPPORTS this application subject to Consultee comments being adhered to. All comments are subject to Consultee Comments.

Woore Parish Council request that it is notified of all changes to planning conditions relating to this Planning Application and subsequent applications relating to it."

- iv) Reference **23/03565/FUL** - College Fields Farm, Dorrington Lane, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire. Conversion of existing barns into 4no residential units.

It was unanimously resolved to **oppose** the application with comments submitted via the Clerk as below

"Woore Parish Council (WPC) Objects to this application and require further clarification on all the issues raised by the Consultees SC Highways regarding a Transport Statement covering all the mitigation measures for the properties at Westlands. WPC also support the comments raised by SC Rights of Way, "Potential access to the proposed dwelling would be via Bridleway (No 53) which for part of the way does not carry public motorised vehicular rights." WPC also support the Public Comments from the Shropshire Area of Ramblers in that the Applicant as answered incorrectly "but also public bridleway Woore 0236/53/1 and therefore the question on page 11 of the Planning Application about visibility from a public highway, etc. has been answered incorrectly. Access for the public to this route through College Fields Farm must be maintained at all times."

Woore Parish Council also request that if permission is granted then consideration for a Section 106 Agreement that should include speed reduction signage down Dorrington Lane to the Junction of the B5026. Also, with the incremental traffic created by this Development that the B5026 should also have a reduced speed limit of 30mph to the Staffordshire Boundary at Knighton which already as a 30mph limit.

- All comments are subject to consultee comments.

- Woore Parish Council request that it is notified of all changes to planning conditions relating to this planning application and subsequent applications relating to it."

b) Decisions to report

Reference: **23/02767/FUL** (validated 10th July 2023)

Address: 15 Northlands, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire

Proposal: Installation of dropped kerb

Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: **23/03025/FUL** (validated 12th July 2023)

Address: The Gables, Nantwich Road, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire

Proposal: Erection of two storey rear extension.

Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: **23/02029/FUL** (validated: 01/06/2023)

Address: Woore County Primary School, London Road, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire, CW3 9SQ

Proposal: Single storey extension to provide general purpose (GP) room, storeroom and disabled WC.

Decision: Grant Permission

The Chair noted that after granting permission, Shropshire Council then declined due to lack of funding. The Chair wrote to Shropshire Council and they have now confirmed that the CIL funding can be used for this extension.

c) Judicial Review outcome for Planning Application Reference **22/01789/OUT** - Land west of London Road, Irelands Cross. Erection of ten houses.

On the 20th July 2023 the Parish Council were informed that in order to proceed with the judicial review they would need to appoint a Queens Council. The QC reviewed the case and advised that the case would more than likely not be successful.

The Chair summarised that the Parish Council has taken this as far as we could, all the advice we could take was taken but he believes that no further action should be brought on this matter and no further costs incurred.

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve this.

The Chair noted that these 14 houses will add to the existing issues with the drainage and surface water and reminded councillors that all of these 14 houses are self-build and therefore will all need to independently come to the Parish Council for a planning comment.

The Chair added that the Parish Council will continue to oppose developments that are not in line with the Neighbourhood Plan as this plan was voted for by residents.

23059 Committee and Representatives Reports:

Village Hall

After September's meeting, Cllr R. Goodman provided a report for Woore Victory Hall updates.

- Film Night(s):

7 October – See How They Run

11 November – Allelujah

No film night in December

13 January 2024 - TBC

10 February - TBC

9 March - TBC

No Film Night in April.

In June 2024 there are plans to have a D-Day themed film with possibly a themed afternoon tea on the Sunday (supported by Woore Parish council).

- Community Café & Book Sale Dates:

27 October
24 November
No Community Café in December.

- Future Events:

Quiz – Saturday 9th December 2023 £12.00 per ticket (to include fish and chip supper), teams of 4. Maximum 20 tables (80 people) on the night.

Barn dance – Saturday 27th April 2024 Tern Valley Tinkers have been booked. We will plan for a maximum of 80 guests.

- HS2 grant to be reviewed and completed by December.
- Maintenance: Purchase of new tables and chairs to enable maximum booking numbers where required. Plumbing work undertaken to improve the taps and hot water supply.
- The Hall would be happy to be the site for any bench(es) should the Parish Council wish.

Cllr. J Higgins asked about the Woore United Charities and whether the elderly residents in the village were entitled to any charitable funds. The Chair replied that this is not ratified yet, but he will work on it over the next few weeks to ensure all residents, including the school children get the resources they need.

Community Speed Watch

Cllr. C Hamilton noted that the speed watch group is still active and is catching, on average, one speeder every two minutes when out with the speed gun.

Speeding is still a major issue and Cllr. C Hamilton added that more volunteers are required to maintain this level of frequency.

The Chair asked if Cllr. C Hamilton could enquire about Market Drayton's police speed van as Woore Parish Council was told it could not have both the speed van and community speed watch, but it could be possible that Market Drayton now has both. Cllr. Hamilton is going to investigate.

The Chair reminded all residents to upload any camera footage of irresponsible driving to 'Operation Snap'. Details of how to do this can be found online by searching 'West Mercia Police Operation Snap' and on the Woore Parish Council website.

Footpaths and Trees

The Chair informed councillors that there is a nationwide Ash Tree die back. Within the next five years, it is likely that Shropshire Council will want the Parish Council to conduct their own, self-funded survey into this. Further information will be reported when received.

Chairman's Meeting (SALC)

The Chair informed the councillors that there has been no HS2 meeting but there has been a new appointment of Margaret Kirkwood as 'Engagement And Interface Manager'. She will hopefully be attending the Woore Coffee and Cake afternoon on 24th November. If any residents have any queries with HS2, they are welcome to come and introduce themselves to her and raise any questions.

The Chair informed the councillors that there have been no Shropshire Council Remote meetings but the next one is 23rd October 2023 at 10am. The Clerk and Vice Chair R. Goodman will attend.

The Chair stated that at the last SALC meeting there were technical issues and Lucy Robert's reports were missed. It is hoped that the SALC meeting on 18th October will be more productive.

23060 Remembrance Day:

Cllr. J Higgins would like to commission a piece of artwork for Remembrance Day. There was funding allocated in the 2023/24 budget for this project.

The Chair added that last year the Parish Council donated £100 to the British Legion. It was put to councillors if they wanted to donate this year also.

Cllr. C Carter suggested a donation of £125.00.

It was unanimously resolved to **support** this notion as in return for the donation, the Parish will receive 5 wreaths.

The Chair concluded by informing councillors that the Deputy Lord Lieutenant Martin Stevens will be in attendance for the 12th November Remembrance Service.

23061 Christmas Tree:

The Chair pointed out that this should not be left to the last minute which is why it's included on September's agenda.

The Chair suggested an artificial Christmas tree would be easier to source but it was decided that a real tree would look better in a rural setting.

Cllr. J Higgins will enquire with local businesses to try and get a quote. It was agreed that in October, a firm proposal will be presented for a tree of 4.5 to 5 meters tall including erection and removal and decorative lights to be placed in the village during the first few days of December.

23062 Firework Display:

A grant request has been received from Woore Cricket Club for a donation of £425.00 to help put on a firework display for the village. All supporting paperwork was supplied to aid their request.

Due to the donation from the Parish Council, the Cricket Club will be able to keep the prices of entry to only £4.

As this is a community event put on for the village, the Chair suggested the Parish Council support the proposal.

The majority of councillors decided to **support** the grant on the basis that it will help to reduce the number of independent displays taking place in the weeks prior to the 5th November and because it's a community event.

23063 Winter planting:

Cllr. J Higgins confirmed that Westholme Nurseries are having the planters in Pipe Gate removed and reinstated ready for winter. The planters that are still looking good will remain for a few more weeks and all others that are ready for winter planting will be removed in the coming weeks.

The Chair instructed that Westholme Nurseries will be in charge of the 27 planters for winter. The Clerk is to email instruction after the meeting.

Cllr. J Higgins requested an updated list of all village volunteers who can help with the winter planting to help keep costs down.

Cllr. J Higgins added that a new legthsmen has come forward requesting information about the role. The Clerk is to get sight of the public liability insurance certificate held and, if appropriate, a contract of duties will be sent to them so they can start work.

23064 Finance:**a) Invoices/payments & receipts: to resolve to approve the below detailed expenditure:**

| Date | Recipient | Reason for Payment | Cheque Number | Net Amount | VAT Amount | Power of Expenditure |
|------------|------------------------------------|---|----------------|--|------------|---|
| 14/08/2023 | Chelsea Burnard | Clerk Salary (July month): Gross Pay - Holiday Pay (accrued) Bank Holiday Pay (Ono) NI deduction Income Tax deduction Mileage Expenses - Stamps | 1930 (PAID) | £530.64 £0.00 £0.00 £0.00 -£106.00 £0.00 £6.00 <u>£430.64</u> | | LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LG (FP)A 1963 s.5 LG (FP)A 1973 s.5 LG A 1972 s.111 |
| 14/08/2023 | Tony Seabridge Grounds Maintenance | Grounds Maintenance 01/07/23 – 31/07/23 | 1927 (PAID) | £300 | £60.00 | HA 1980 s.96 |
| 14/08/2023 | SALC | Training for Cllr Rachel Goodman | 1926 (PAID) | £95.00 | | HA 1980 s. 96 |
| 14/08/2023 | Ashtons Legal LLP | Judicial Review Assistance for Station Yard, Pipe Gate | 1928 (PAID) | £3,140.00 | £628.00 | HA 1980 s.96 |
| 12/09/2023 | Ashtons Legal LLP | Judicial Review Assistance for Station Yard, Pipe Gate | 1930 (PAID) | £1,000.00 | £200.00 | Ha 1980 S.96 |
| 12/09/2023 | Wilcox Landscapes LTD | Repair of Village Green Fencing | 1931 (PAID) | £1809.81 | £161.96 | HA 1980 s.96 |
| 12/09/2023 | Westholme Nurseries | Village Planters | 1932 (PAID) | £966.67 | £193.33 | LGA 1972 s.137 |
| 19/09/2023 | Chelsea Burnard | Clerk Salary (Aug month): Gross Pay - Income Tax deduction Mileage Expenses | 1934 (PAID) | £530.64 £106.00 £0.00 £0.00 <u>£424.44</u> | | LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LG (FP)A 1963 s.5 LG (FP)A 1973 s.5 LG A 1972 s.111 |
| 19/09/2023 | British Legion | Donation to Poppy Appeal *Section 137 | 1936 (PAID) | £125.00 | £0.00 | LGA 1972 s.137* |
| 19/09/2023 | Woore Cricket Club | Donation to Firework Display | 1935 (PAID) | £425.00 | £0.00 | LGA 1972 s. 137 |

The chair noted that all legal costs for the judicial review have been received and paid. There are no further invoices.

It was unanimously resolved to **approve** all payments.

The Clerk agreed to circulate a full report post meeting and presented the bank reconciliations for July 2023 and August 2023.

Due to change in clerk and administration delays, this has not been possible. A full Year to Date reconciliation including unpresented cheques and balances will be presented as part of the October meeting.

23065: Clerk's Report and Correspondence

The Clerk is to scrutinise mid October/November 2023.

The meeting closed 10pm.

DATE OF NEXT ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

**9th October 2023 at 7.30pm
and 13th November 2023 at 7.30pm.**