**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 9TH APRIL 2018**

**Woore Parish Council: Chairman’s Report**

It is traditional for the chairman to offer a report regarding the activities of the parish council over the past year. Some present may not know that all the members of this council are volunteers, offering time and skills to the community, doing our best to represent and support the community within the restrictions of the limited powers granted to us by parliament.

This annual parish meeting represents the end of my first year in office, and I would like to thank the vice chairman, who has had to shoulder the burden of chairmanship during my recent illness, for his assistance throughout these twelve months.

This is almost the end of the third full year for our clerk, Sarah Pimlott, and I would like to extend both my personal thanks and the appreciation of the full council for her skills and the considerable amount of time she has put into performing the administration of the many parish duties, much increased by HS2 but more of that later.

We had councillors co – opted this year, Cllrs Gaynor Irwin, Julia Mitchel and Jilly Higgin (although she has previously been a councillor) and more recently Kyle Davies, and I would like to extend a welcome to all of them on behalf of all the residents of the parish.

The Parish also has a new Shropshire Cllr Roy Aldcroft who is here today. We look forward to working with him in the following year particularly with reference to HS2.

Much of our time over the past year, as in the previous year, has been spent on planning matters. Although the parish council has no direct control over planning decisions, we are asked for our views by Shropshire Council. The adoption of our Neighbourhood Plan should help direct future considerations on planning applications. I would like to thank all those who are on the Neighbourhood Planning Team (for those that don’t know, the Neighbourhood Planning Team is a group of Councillors and residents who are working together to produce a Neighbourhood Plan) and who have spent so much time and effort in getting to this stage.

I mentioned earlier HS2. Few parishioners can have missed the banners advising of HS2’s intentions to route HGV’s through our Parish and to go to WPC website for more information. Additionally, our recent meeting to consider Petitioning Parliament was advertised in the Shropshire Star and Evening Sentinel newspapers. I would urge Parishioners to note our meeting dates which are published for this year and check as above for any additional meetings if they wish “to have a say”.

This council receives money from the rates that you pay. Last year, a band D property contributed £54.45 (for the whole year). This year, the amount remains the same - the 5.4% increase shown on the Demand is all attributable to Shropshire Council.

Some of this money we donate to local organisations. We have donated the following sums:

* Woore Village Pride: £1,445
* Woore Victory Hall: £2,000
* British Legion Poppy Appeal: £100
* St. Leonards Church: £1,000
* Woore Cricket Club: £500

Some of those organisations will provide reports on how they spent that money this evening.

The Parish Council also receives money when new housing is built in the parish. This money may only be used to improve the infrastructure of the parish. This would, for example, include improving footpaths or providing other infrastructure that would benefit the area. However, during the last financial year (2017-18) no monies were received. We rely on residents to keep us informed of ideas and recommendations for how any such funds can be best spent.

Shropshire Council has some funds from the Candle Lane development £32k approx. that may be spent on the creation or improvement of public open space in the parish. We are therefore keen to talk with any landowners who may wish to provide the parish with open space regarding this. There is a time limit on this and we could lose the money if not spent.

One of our duties is to maintain some of the public spaces in the parish, such as the St Leonard's Way play area, the village green and some of the grassed areas throughout the parish. We purchase the services of local contractor to do this work, the day to day management of this is performed by our clerk, I would also like to thank Chris Jeffries and Paul Hawkins, as well as their team of volunteers, for their work in Village Pride some of whom have now decided “to put their feet up”. Should anyone wish to volunteer to help the PC take over Village Pride’s activities, please contact the Clerk.

Other activities performed by the Parish Council over the last 12 months include:

* Arranging for the repair of street lights.
* Arranging a Christmas Tree for the parish.
* Laying a wreath at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.
* Moving and maintenance of the MVAS as below.
* Woore Parish Council (WPC) have now had a Moveable Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) since 2015 and this report covers the period April 2017 – April 2018.
* As the name suggests the sign is moved around the parish, normally on a fortnightly basis and needs to be adjusted to allow for the differing speed limits and distances (the activation distance can be varied between 50 – 220 mtrs) within the Parish.
* The locations for 30mph are the A51 at the school, A525 Audlem Road at the Village Green and the A525 London Road where the distance is reduced to allow for vehicles leaving the 40mph zone.
* The locations for 40mph are A51 Lindops, A51 Crossways and the A51 Chetwode Arms.
* The MVAS records vehicle speeds in both directions and as many people will have noticed “flashes” speeds at oncoming traffic, amber with a “smiley face” if within the limit and red with an “exclamation mark” if above the limit.
* All the activations are recorded and fortnightly sent to the Safer Roads Partnership (who direct the Camera/Safety vehicle), West Mercia Police and the Shropshire Star/Advertiser in addition to our representative on Shropshire Council and all WPC Cllrs and the Clerk.
* Additionally the data is “posted” on WPC web-site along with links to various information.
* Last year Shropshire Council indicated that two additional Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS’s) would be installed during this financial year, one at the junction with the A51 and Cherry Tree Lane and the other at the junction of the A51 and Phoenix Gardens. To date only one sign has been installed at Phoenix Gdns (we still await data from this sign). This has enabled the existing sign located at the Coopers Arms to be relocated on the A525. We still await a date for the installation of the Cherry Tree Lane sign
* There are historic records (last years) on the SRP site as to enforcement, however to date we have no information as to enforcement from West Mercia Police for the current year.

**Cllr Malcolm Blake**

**Chairman, Woore Parish Council**

**April 2018**