

WOORE PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



www.wooreparishcouncil.org

Helen Jackson, Clerk to Woore Parish Council

17 Blaizefield Close, Woore, CW3 9SU

Tel: 07469 255520 / 01630 647853 Email: clerk@wooreparishcouncil.org

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Helen Jackson, (Parish Clerk), Helen Morgan MP, Cllr Roy Aldcroft, P. Roberts, J. Goater, N. Stonier, J. Furber. 40+ members of the public.

This meeting is allowable under the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 ("the 2020 Regulations") which came into force on 4th April 2020 in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. The 2020 Regulations enable local councils to hold remote meetings (including by video and telephone conferencing) for a specified period until 7th May 2021. The published agenda for this meeting stated remote meeting access details including a link that could be used to join the meeting.

The meeting was opened at 7.00pm following a drinks reception at 6.30pm.

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 all but one in attendance. Apologies were given on behalf of HS2 representatives who were unable to attend on the evening due to sickness.

2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 29th April 2021

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, with mention of the magnitude of challenges over the previous 12 months both immense and unprecedented, giving thanks to the strength, great spirit and resolve of the community and to Councillors for their ongoing commitment and support.

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 discussed concerns regarding speeding in the Parish and the introduction of the Community Speed Watch (CSW) Scheme in Summer 2021, with the addition also of Operation Snap. Cllr Hamilton gave a brief description of the training, process and data in relation to the Community Speed Watch. It was noted that 85% of vehicles currently travel in excess of 35mph. Cllr Cowey referred to the VAS to be provided as part of the HS2 mitigations. The Clerk provided an explanation as to the process/action undertaken by West Mercia Police when a driver is caught speeding by the CSW.

Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations - Cllr Jilly Higgin

Cllr Higgin provided a summary of the events planned to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. This included the following;

- Parish parade to include vintage cars, horses, carts, fancy dress 'royal theme'.
- Fancy dress, baking and art competitions
- Lord Lieutenant Anna Turner to attend
- Woore School children art competition on display
- Gift for all Woore school children
- Tea Party at the Victory Hall
- Tennis Club open day
- Service and flower display St Leonards Church
- Flags, royal crown/carriage display around the parish

6. Woore Parish Community Organisations - Annual Reports

Reports were provided by representatives of each organisation.

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/>

The Victory Hall - Peter Roberts, 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/>

Woore WI - Janet Goater, 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/>

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/>

7. Woore Parish Community Clubs - Annual Reports

Reports were provided by representatives of each organisation.

Woore Cricket Club – John Furber, Chairman

Mr Furber thanked the Parish Council for the grant provided towards the replacement of boundary netting on the cricket field which was no longer adequate.

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 Tennis Club – Nigel Stonier, Chairman

Mr Stonier provided a brief history of the tennis club, noting that current membership stood at over 260. Both playing and social memberships are available. He provided a summary of the type of activities undertaken and encouraged anyone with an interest in joining to contact the club. He noted that a tree was planted in the tennis club grounds to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

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

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/>

A member of the public questioned the ongoing issues of flooding within the Parish and the lack of support from Shropshire Council or the Utilities contractors, after battling the issue since 2020. It was noted that the Parish Council had requested a stop to all new development applications within the Parish boundary until the issue is addressed. Members of the public present expressed strong concerns that flooding, raw sewerage, speeding and planning enforcement issues seem to be ignored by Shropshire Council and several noted that they were 'sick and tired of the same excuses of lack of resource'. Members commented that despite being encouraged to use the Fix My Street portal to raise issues, they were not receiving any updates and utilities companies are not taking responsibility within a timely manner. The Clerk provided a summary of the process for planning application consultation and how members of the public can access the information they require. Members of the public shared concerns that the Woore neighbourhood Plan was not being given consideration by Shropshire Council Planning Department and that this undermines the democratic process as residents voted to support the plan at referendum.

9. West Mercia Police - Annual Report

The Clerk read a pre-prepared report to the meeting.

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/>

10. HS2 - Community Engagement Update with Q&A

The Chairman read a pre-prepared report to the meeting in the absence of HS2 representatives due to sickness.

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/>

11. Helen Morgan MP - Priorities & Concerns with Q&A

Helen Morgan opened by stating that she is actively engaged with Woore Parish Council. Highlights from the report as follows;

- Elected December 2021, did not inherit a team and therefore tsunami of correspondence so work has begun to respond. Varied issues, some very complex.
- Ukraine situation has created additional workload tackling visas, the system is overloaded.
- Current workload includes: Safeguarding/rehoming of children following conflict, energy bill struggles, personal case work.
- Issues relevant to North Shropshire include:
 - o Ambulance waiting times – have posed questions to ministers in debate prior to Easter, working alongside other MPs to discuss capacity and resourcing, will hopefully see progress soon.
 - o Farming & Services – engaged with Tim Farron MP, leading rural affairs.
 - o Buses – very disappointing to see the latest response to the proposal. Only one bus service currently servicing Market Drayton which is also being reduced. Plan to write to Grant Shapps and take strategy forward. Different political views will not get in the way of working together.
 - o HS2 – already engaged with WPC, horrified to see the impact of HS2 on the Parish of Woore. Have met HS2 Community Engagement, alongside WPC and have discussed road safety concerns. WPC committed to mitigations. Desire to work alongside Sir Bill Cash despite experiencing a bit of a wall at first attempt. Speeding is a primary concern. Have written to Chief Exec Mark Barrow to express serious concerns. Received commitment that Shropshire Council are on board. Plan to engage with West Mercia Police also. Current argument for not engaging in speed reduction is that it is not enforceable as speeds are currently too high; 'fuzzy logic'. Will keep plugging away. Mitigations must be a priority.

Members of the public queried the lack of support from Shropshire Council in securing an alternative route and/or safety precautions for the existing route to protect residents and road users. Cllr Cowey reminded members of the public that the Local Authority is responsible for setting speed limits and the issue of speeding existed before HS2; further, traffic calming modifications made to Woore junction in the 90's will be removed to accommodate HS2. Shropshire Council has given assurances that a speed change consultation would take place in January 2022.

Trevor Parkin (Stone Railhead Crisis group) spoke to provide a summary of the work it is doing alongside Sir Bill Cash and all Staffordshire MPs to battle HS2. He provided a brief of the work being done to promote an alternative route to the current construction route plans that impact Woore Parish. Woore PC engaged already with SRCG.

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.

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

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.