

Minutes of Woore Monthly Parish Council Meeting

Monday 11th March 2024, 7.30pm, The Victory Hall, Woore



PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Ms C. Burnard, Clerk to the Council
Cllr R. Aldcroft (Ward Councillor Shropshire Council)
PCSO Tara Carruthers and PC Iain McIntosh were in attendance.

PUBLIC:

There were two members of the public in attendance. Both of whom were co-opted as Parish Councillors in Agenda Item 23129

23127 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent

The Chair welcomed all to March's Parish meeting, especially the members of West Mercia Police that have joined us by invitation.

Apologies were received from Cllr M. Blake due to illness.
Apologies were received from Cllr J. Higgin due to work commitments.
It was unanimously **resolved** to accept apologies.

23128 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.

23129 Co-option of two Parish Councillors appointments

The Chair welcomed the two prospective Councillors to the meeting.
It was unanimously **resolved** to co-opt the two new Councillors and formal inductions took place. The '*Acceptance of Office*' forms were signed, witnessed, and read out by both new Councillors. The Clerk retained the signed forms for their records.

Cllr A. Gath and Cllr C. Gath joined the Parish Council as Councillors.

23130 Requests for Dispensations of DPI's

No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared.

23131 Open Forum: to last no longer than 15 minutes

The Chair updated Councillors that the defib at the Chetwode Arms is still not working. As this unit is very old, we are struggling to find an engineer to fix it. Once resolved all the defibs will be added to a service plan. The Clerk and the Chair are to continue to try and resolve this along with the resident who volunteers to maintain the units.

The Chair informed Councillors about a letter that has been circulated about '*Digital Voice*' from BT. Residents with landline phones are being migrated from the current BT phone lines onto broadband lines. This means that if you don't already have broadband you will need to install it. The Chair is asking BT if they will compensate for any inconvenience caused to these residents who do not want

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to upgrade but have to. Councillors will be kept updated.

Any residents already with broadband lines will not notice the change however BT state the phone call quality will be improved.

23132 West Mercia Police Speed Watch Update

The Chair informed Councillors that the grant application for £10,000 applied for by the Parish Council to the Police Commissioners Grant Fund for three new SID's (Speed Indicator Device) has been unsuccessful. The Chair will look into acquiring new ones for the Parish via other means.

The Chair handed over to PSCO Tara Carruthers.

PSCO Carruthers opened by informing Councillors that as per our Police Community Charter submitted by the Clerk highlighting our top three priorities we wish for the police to tackle, speeding is our main concern.

West Mercia Police have already actioned speed monitoring five times since early February 2024.

Our second priority is rural thefts and the police force has conducted four high visibility patrols of the parish.

Our third concern was drug use (mainly on the Copper Arms carpark) and the police have visited the site once since February.

PSCO Carruthers highlighted our Community Speed Watch's concern that the data they collect isn't leading to anything. She informed Cllr C. Hamilton that any data sent to them is processed and letters are sent out. She added that if the speed recorded is incredibly high, it will result in a police officer visiting the registered address. Due to the large area that is covered, it is normal that the CSW team do not hear back directly.

The last six months of data collected by the Community Speed Watch team in the Parish is summarised below –

- **London Road** - One visit on 24/10/2023: 3x 1st letters sent out.
- **Newcastle Road**- Two visits on 21/08/2023: 24x 1st warning letters & 2x 2nd warning letters. Second Visit - 30/08/2023: 1x 1st letters 4x 2nd letters.
- **Audlem Road** - One Visit on 29/01/2024: 2x 1st warning letters.
- **Pipegate** - No visits for over six months.

[1st letters advise motorists that they have been caught speeding and need to be more aware of their speed going forward. No further action.

2nd letters warn motorists they have been caught again and if caught again they will receive a visit from a police officer.]

PSCO Carruthers added that 'The Safer Neighbourhood' team have conducted 3 speed surveys on London Road over the past month, of which four vehicles came to light and drivers were pulled over and spoken to directly by officers at the time.

Cllr C. Hamilton thanked PSCO Carruthers for the information and informed her that the Community Speed Watch team in the parish is low on numbers so it's difficult to get out at the necessary times.

PSCO Carruthers informed Cllr C. Hamilton that West Mercia Police can offer support with this.

The 'Safer Roads Partnership' team is the body that operates the speed camera van which is in high demand but the police force have their own speed gun and are more than happy to visit the parish and conduct speed enforcement. They will also be more than happy to deal with any unacceptable behaviour dished out to the CSW while they are there.

Cllr C. Hamilton would welcome the police forces assistance in reducing speeding in the parish. The Chair seconded this and would really appreciate a more noticeable police presence.

PCSO Carruthers mentioned 'Neighbourhood Matters' which is a platform that the police force are now using alongside the Safer Neighbourhood team. This platform is to keep residents informed about all the things the police are getting up to. It's also a way for residents to tell the police what issues they are having and would like the police to help with. Residents are urged to sign up to www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk to get these updates. The Parish Council will continue to share updates via social media.

PSCO Tara Carruthers and PC Iain McIntosh left the meeting

23133 Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th February 2024 (Local Government Act 1972, s12p41(1)).

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the minutes of meeting 12th February 2024.

23134 Matters arising: to cover any matters arising from Minutes referred to in 23133.

The Chair informed Councillors that the work on the Village Green has now been completed and favourable feedback has been received.

One resident has requested 'No Parking' signs be displayed to ensure people don't damage the newly seeded areas. The Clerk is to order some.

The Chair stated he needs to look at the noticeboard on the Green as residents have noted that its faded and is just looking a bit tired.

One final note on the Village Green is that Shropshire Council may announce a scheme for free hedge plants in the Autumn and if so, the Chair would like the Parish Council to apply if the plants on offer are not conifers.

The Chair has had no response from Shropshire Council regarding the breakdown of CIL money. He will continue to chase and will mention it at the Chairmans meeting later this week.

Unfortunately, there is still no update from Sam Patel on the fibre broadband pledge programme. The Chair hopes that the scheme is not dead especially as over 60% of residents would like it to be implemented.

23135 Shropshire Council Representative Report for Cllr R. Aldcroft to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

Cllr R. Aldcroft stated that due to being the end of the financial year there aren't many actions to report on.

Shropshire Council are working very hard to make the required cuts to spending without impacting residents. Cllr R. Aldcroft hopes this will mean a closer working relationship with the Parish Councils going forward.

Cllr R. Aldcroft updated Councillors that the planning application for the swimming pool in Onneley has been refused.

However the Flash Farm safety barrier is still ongoing.

A discussion took place regarding HS2. The Parish Council still hope for compensation for all the time and expense incurred by the Parish in fighting HS2 but would appreciate more support from Shropshire Council as both Staffordshire and Cheshire East Councils are fighting but Shropshire Council do not appear to be backing parishes affected.

Cllr R. Aldcroft left the meeting

23136 Planning

a) Applications: to adopt comments submitted via delegated powers in response to the following applications and as approved by Councillors prior to the meeting

N/A

b) Decisions: to acknowledge all planning decisions made between 13th February 2024 and 10th March 2024.

- i. Reference: 24/00155/FUL (Validated 15th Jan 2024)
Address – The Orchards, Northlands, Woore, CW3 9SH
Proposal - Erection of a single storey annex extension
Decision: Permission Granted
- ii. Reference: 23/02373/FUL
Address: Land South Of, Audlem Road, Woore, Shropshire
Proposal: Erection of one dwelling and associated works
Decision: Permission Granted

23137 Committee and Representatives Reports: for Councillors/representatives to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

The Chair produced the Footpath and Tree report included below –

Public Footpath and Trees Report

“Public Footpaths

Further to the report in February 2024, it has now been established that the Consultation from Cheshire East Council for the additional bridleway from the A525 to Cheshire East discovered (with evidence) that no footpath was recorded on the Definitive Map of a track in the area of Shropshire.

The next steps are that Shropshire Council will enter into a dedication agreement for a footpath which is a legal process under Section 25 of the Highways Act 1980 so that it can be added to the Definitive Map.

On behalf of Woore Parish Council in response to both Cheshire East as well as Shropshire Council due to a quick response required submitted the following:

*“Woore Parish Council would **support** the process of a public footpath as stated and for this to be added to the Definitive Map once the agreement is reached with the landowner.”*

With reference to the Public Footpath 0236/36/1 Ireland’s Cross to Dorrington, the Rights of way Officer reported:

I appreciate that the public footpath is still narrow at points, however, as there is no legally recorded width for this public footpath, I cannot insist that the highway is opened up to a set extent. As I am sure you are aware, there is no legal minimum width for a public footpath. When addressing an issue, we have to work with the legally recorded particulars for that highway, if there are any. As the public footpath is now passable, I am happy that the immediate issue that this encroaching vegetation was causing has been resolved, so the matter will be closed.

I am looking into measures that we can implement to prevent the regrowth of this vegetation from obstructing this highway again too quickly and potentially increasing the available width for the public to use.

There is an issue at the northern end of this highway. At national grid reference SJ 7324 4153 there is a stile that has a large step up to it. SC were asked if they could install an additional step to aid users passing over this stile. SC negotiated with the landowner to have this stile replaced with a gate. This will help to improve accessibility along this public footpath.

Also, at the southern end of this public footpath, the legally recorded location of the highway and the route that is open and used by the public differ. The route is unfortunately incorrectly signed as a public footpath where it meets Dorrington Lane. This location is part way through a horse paddock. This public footpath is a cul-de-sac with no legally recorded outlet.

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Looking through SC records, it appears that when this public footpath was originally claimed by the Parish Council in 1950, the southern end of this highway connected to a short, unnamed lane. This lane then connected into Dorrington Lane, providing the public footpath with an outlet. At some point in the intervening period, this lane has been lost.

SC have contacted the landowner and asked if they would be willing for them to divert part of this public footpath - that is currently obstructed - on to the route that is open & used. SC met with a representative of the landowner on the 27.02.24 and the early signs are promising. This proposed public path diversion would ensure that this highway has a legally recorded outlet and can be used as a through route.

WPC will continue to track progress as well as liaise and report accordingly over the next few months.

Trees

No issues to report."

Cllr R. Goodman provided an update from the Victory Hall as follows –

Woore Victory Hall – March 2024

"Regular bookings seem relatively stable going into the next financial year.

A report (and speaker) will be provided for the Annual Parish Meeting on 8th April.

WVH AGM will be on 20th May 2024.

Tickets for the fundraising Barn Dance event (27th April) are available from committee members - please come along / promote the event for vital Hall funds.

Film nights and Community Café dates have been arranged up to June 2024 and will be available in the next Parish Newsletter."

The Chair informed Councillors that the SALC meeting is on the 25th March 2024 and would like Cllr M. Carter and Cllr J. Higgin to attend as representatives.

The Chair will be attending the Chairmans meeting on 14th March 2024 where he will be raising the issue of the CIL payment.

23138 Manor Bed Fencing Update

Cllr R. Goodman informed Councillors that there have been no formal updates received. The fencing is still in disrepair, but work has been undertaken on the overgrown plants reaching over the top of the fence.

The Chair deferred this matter to the next meeting as Cllr J. Higgin's thoughts would be of value.

23139 Parish Recreation Equipment Refurbishment

Cllr R. Goodman informed the newly co-opted councillors of the project for the recreation areas which involves general maintenance of the play equipment as per the RoSPA report and also moving the play equipment from the Victory Hall carpark to St Leonards play area as it is felt that it would be used a lot more by residents if located there.

This would save the Parish Council money in the long run as maintaining one site is cheaper than two.

Also looked into was the idea of moving the shelter currently on the Village Green up to St Leonards but this was quickly deemed too expensive a task. However it was noted that the shelter will be painted in 2024 to help improve its look.

Cllr R. Goodman pointed out that there is a discount on the quote because Woore Primary School is also requiring some work to be done on their play equipment and if both projects are completed on the same day, it will really benefit the Parish Council.

A final quote will be received by mid-March after which Councillors can then instruct the work via delegated powers as it is likely this will need to be done before the next ordinary meeting which is not until June as April is the APM and May the AGM.

The Chair reminded Councillors that the cost of this project will come from the recreation fund and not the general fund.

All Councillors will be kept informed.

23140 Grant Application for Woore and District Vegetable and Produce Show

A discussion took place regarding the figure requested of £1,500 to repair the original cup from the 1960's.

The Chair stated that the Parish Council need to be careful how they spend their grant money. The Chair asked Cllr R. Goodman to discuss this figure with the Secretary of the Produce Show and report back.

The Parish Council are keen to support the show but are uncertain on spending that high an amount. The decision was deferred.

23141 Summer Planting; Update from Councillor J. Higgin to agree plans to the Village planters.

The Chair noted that as Cllr J. Higgin is not present at the meeting, the other Councillors will need to agree on the spend for next year.

The below items were discussed, and it was agreed that Cllr J. Higgin will work on them with Cllr R. Goodman's help.

- The static planters / troughs need to be surveyed and topped up with compost where needed.
- Some of the barrels may need refurbishment or replacement so we will need to know what is needed and the costs.
- The spare planters need to be moved to the village green.
- Any spare plants left from planting should be donated to the Village Hall for their planters / hanging baskets.

An updated list of volunteer plant waterers needs to be produced by the Clerk to assist Cllr J. Higgin.

It was unanimously **resolved** to keep the 2024/25 budget the same as 2023/24 as the number of planters remain the same and there is predicted an underspend in the current year budget at year end.

23142 Annual Maintenance contracts to be discussed.

The Chair told Councillors that the Groundsman employed by the Parish has not had a price increase since 2021 but has now increased his price by £10 to cover the petrol getting to and from the parish to perform his duties.

Cllr R. Goodman added that he does a really good job maintaining the hedges and grass sections he is responsible for so is happy with this new price.

It was unanimously **resolved** to accept the new contract and Woore Parish Council look forward to working with him for another year.

23143 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
11/03/2024	Chelsea Burnard	Clerk Salary (Feb month): Gross Pay - Income Tax deduction Expenses Wheelie Bin Speed Stickers	001957	£530.64 -£106.00 £429.98 <u>£854.62</u>	£0.00	LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LG (FP)A 1963 s.5
11/03/2024	St Leonard's Church	Parish Magazine Content for 2024	001958	£150.00	£0.00	LGA 1972 s.142 (1A)
11/03/2024	Fred Owen	Lengthsman duties Nov 23 – Dec 23	001959	£200.00	£0.00	LGA 1972 s.134 (4)
11/03/2024	SALC	Chairmanship Skills Training	001960	£85.00	£0.00	LGA 1972 s.143
11/03/2024	Woore Victory Hall	Room Hire Q1 2024	001961	£144.00	£0.00	LGA 1972 s.134 (4)
27/02/2024	Liam Barry Sheperd	Electrical work on Chetwode Defib	001956	£105.00	£0.00	LGA 1972 s.137
11/03/2024	Wilcox Landscapes	Final Works on Village Green	001952	£3,832.79	£766.56	HA 1980 s.96
11/03/2024	Tony Seabridge	Groundsman Duties Summer 2023	001953	£95.00	£19.00	HA 1980 s.96

Cllr R. Goodman explained the cost included in the Clerks salary for Wheelie Bin stickers.

The Parish Council has purchased a large number of 30MPH and 40MPH stickers for residents to put on their wheelie bins to try and slow down speeding drivers. The stickers will primarily be for residents on London Road and Newcastle Road, but other residents can have some if there is surplus.

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

b. Bank Reconciliation completed to February 2024 month end -

Closing Bank Balance at 29 February 2024			
Current Account	100.00		
Business Reserve Account	143,462.02	143,562.02	
Less unpresented Cheques			
Cheque 001950		-	
Cheque 001952		-	
		143,562.02	
Split as follows			
Closing Balances			
Recreational fund	10,106.00		
CIL Neighbourhood Fund	69,456.84		
General Fund	63,999.18	143,562.02	0.00

No errors nor comments were received.

23143 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

No correspondence to share that has not already been dealt with by Councillors from the Clerk. However the Chair added that the next months meeting will be the Annual Parish Meeting and invited Councillors to suggest people they would like to invite. Suggestions were made and the Clerk is to formally invite them this coming week.

Meeting Closed 10pm

Date of Next Meeting: Woore Parish Annual Meeting 8th April 2024