

Minutes of Woore Monthly Parish Council Meeting



Monday 11th December 2023, 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

PUBLIC:

There were two members of the public present including Tree and Path Warden; Sally Tyson.

23089 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent

The Chair welcomed councillors to December's Parish meeting and stated that numbers were low this evening. He hopes a recruitment drive will help boost the numbers.

Apologies were received from Cllr M. Blake due to illness and Cllr J. Higgin.

Apologies were received from Cllr R. Aldcroft due to Shropshire Council duties.

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

23090 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.

22091 Requests for Dispensations of DPI's

No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared.

23092 Open Forum: to last no longer than 15 minutes

A resident raised a concern regarding planning for a garage extension being built near their property. The chair got further information from the resident to ascertain which property and confirmed the Parish Council has indeed contacted this property in the past and the owners have confirmed all works are within the permitted planning already granted.

The same resident asked about the planning permission that has been submitted for the additional house on the land south of Audlem Road near the Manor House. The Chair replied that the Parish Council has objected to this and to date, Shropshire Council are yet to make a decision.

The same resident asked the Chair if the junction by the Village Shop would still be altered now HS2 has been scrapped. The Chair replied that he has requested that Shropshire Council still distribute the HS2 money out to the Parish that it is rightly due. This includes the £114,500 for improving the safety of London Road. He is still awaiting a response.

This issue is occurring across multiple parishes.

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Cllr M. Carter confirmed he has drafted a letter regarding the Village Green that will be delivered to the residents of Ash Mount. This issue will be on January's Agenda where a decision will be made by Councillors. All residents with an interest on the Village Green matter are invited to attend January's meetings to express their views.

The Chair informed Councillors that Woore Primary School has been rated Good by OFSTED. It was noted in the report how friendly and welcoming the school is and this is a great source of pride to the village.

The Chair thanked the Village Hall for their very successful Christmas Quiz held on Saturday the 9th December. The Chair personally thanked Peter for his hard work.

The Chair reminded Councillors that the bi-monthly Church Magazine insert requires to be submitted by the 10th January. Cllr R. Goodman agreed to finalise the insert and will include an advert for new councillors, a reminder that the village still needs more Community Speed Watch volunteers and information to residents about the campaign for Fibre Broadband. The Chair is also to produce a quick summary of recent speeding data collected.

23093 Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th November 2023 (Local Government Act 1972, s12p41(1)).

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the minutes of meeting 13th November 2023.

23094 Matters arising: to cover any matters arising from Minutes referred to in 23093.

The Chair informed Councillors that Cllr R. Aldcroft has not provided any updates on the Knotweed that has been sighted in the village.

The Chair told Councillors that the Lengthsman has started working with the Parish Council and has helped erect the Christmas Tree. The Lengthsman will be meeting with The Chair and The Clerk in the New Year to confirm a list of duties and to formally introduce him to the village. Both the Councillors and the Lengthsman are keen to get on tidying up the village.

The gullies in Pipe Gate have been cleaned by Shropshire Council however the white lining has not been completed. The Chair is awaiting an update confirming when the lining will be finished. The Chair informed Councillors that Shropshire Council has a 23-month cycle for cleaning gullies and drains.

A resident in Pipe Gate has raised concerns to The Chair about a drain that is overflowing into their garden. This drain is owned by Shropshire Council but the Parish Council is continuing to assist the resident to get the resolution they need.

The Chair informed Councillors that work is being carried out on the Manor Bed after receipt of the letter agreed upon in November's meeting. The Chair asked if Cllr R. Goodman could inspect the area with Cllr J. Higgin.

The Chair will report the leaning street sign on 'Fix My Street'.

The Place Plan has all been submitted to the new online Portal. Some small changes are needed, and the Clerk will liaise with Lucy Roberts to arrange this for the new year.

The Chair has received no updates in regard to the trees and paths outstanding issues, including Cherry Tree Lane nor Islands Cross and Dorrington Lane. The Chair will continue to chase Outdoor Partnerships paying particular attention to the footpath to Dorrington as this is now completely impassable.

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He did note that the overgrown hedge on London Road in Islands Cross has been cut back and is the pavement is now wider and safe to walk on.

The Chair attended a meeting on the Fibre Broadband some residents would like to have in the village. There is a lot of support in the village for this but more information is required to gather more support and see the campaign successfully implemented.

The Chair has invited Sam Patel from OpenReach and Ben Walker from Shropshire Council to the January Parish Council Meeting to allow residents to discuss this issue with the experts. Both invitees have confirmed their attendance.

Shropshire Council has replied to The Chair regarding the naming of the new properties on Audlem Road. It has been stated that the addresses are permitted as they contain 'Audlem Road' and are therefore in keeping with the village.

23095 Shropshire Council Representative Report for Cllr R. Aldcroft to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

No report submitted due to absence.

The chair reminded councillors that eh 20MPH speed limit outside the school is still a priority for Cllr R. Aldcroft.

23096 Budget 2024-2025 for discussion and approval

a) Budget for Financial Year 2024-2025

The Clerk presented the proposed budget (Shown in Appendix 1) noting that the information had been circulated prior to the meeting for comments from Councillors. Only one amendment was requested – Cllr J. Higgin requested an additional £350 to be allocated for Christmas 2024.

Adjustments had been made accordingly.

b) Precept request figure for Financial Year 2024-2025

With reference to the proposed budget, discussion took place with Councillors noting that in the current climate an increase in the precept is undesirable. It was acknowledged that WPC should look for funding from alternative means for projects where possible.

It was unanimously **resolved** to maintain the precept percentage from Financial Year 2023-2024.

The Clerk is to complete the formal request from Shropshire Council in January 2024.

23097 Planning

It was noted that there was an error on the Agenda – Planning application 23/04779/FUL was omitted.

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

i. Reference: 23/04779/FUL (validated 11th November 2023)

Address: High Corner Nantwich Road Woore Crewe Shropshire CW3 9SR

Proposal: Erection of a single storey rear extension, a first-floor side extension and installation of solar panels

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.

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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. Planning application to be dealt with via delegated powers due to Christmas -
Reference - 23/05104/FUL (validated 1st December 2023)
Address – Penrhyn, London Road, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire, CW3 9SQ
Proposal - Two Storey Side Extension and Removal of Existing Carport.

Decisions: to acknowledge all planning decisions made between 14th November 2023 and 10th December 2023.

- i. Reference: 23/04252/FUL
Address: 4 The Boundary Woore Crewe Shropshire CW3 9QY
Proposal: Conversion of existing garage to kitchen
Decision: Permission Granted

23098 Committee and Representatives Reports: for Councillors/representatives to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

Cllr C Hamilton informed Councillors that the Community Speed Watch has not been out monitoring speeds recently due to low volunteer numbers and bad weather. The group cannot operate in darkness.

However West Mercia Police have sent an Enforcement Officer to the Parish due to concerns raised by Councillors.

The reports have been sent to The Chair and he will request that the Police come to the Parish again at a different time and location.

The Chair informed Councillors that he has just received an email from John Campion regarding an increased investment in the Road Safety Fund. West Mercia Police are asking Councils for their views on where the money is best spent. The Clerk is to post on social media inviting residents to comment.

There are no Village Hall updates from Cllr R. Goodman.

The Chair is to invite Helen Morgan to the Coffee Afternoon's in 2024 now the dates have been formalised.

The Chair updated the Councillors on the Shropshire Chairmans meeting, stating there was nothing on importance to Woore.

The next meeting is on January 9th and The Chair asked any Councillors to get their comment over to him so he can raise them on their behalf.

Woore United Charities met on 6th September. The Chair informed Councillors that all donations have been signed off and the money will be with the residents who need it before Christmas.

The Chair attended a HS2 meeting at Yarnfield in Stone and informed Councillors the our HS2 representative (Michael Curtwood) has confirmed that "no general vested declaration notice has been made on land for the purpose of HS2 works in Woore Parish." There has unfortunately been a substantial amount of land acquired in Madeley and neighbouring parishes but Woore remains untouched.

The Chair ended his report thanking the Councillors that were involved in the successful scrutineering held in November 2023.

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23099 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
11/12/2023	Chelsea Burnard	Clerk Salary (Nov month): Gross Pay - NI deduction	1941	£530.64 £0.00 -£106.00 £424.64		LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LG (FP)A 1963 s.5 LG (FP)A 1973 s.5
11/12/2023	Woore Victory Hall	Room Hire 2023 Q4 Storage 2023 Q4	1942	£114.00	£0.00	LGA 1972 s. 134 (4)
11/12/2023	Tony Seabridge	Grassing Cutting Services 01/08/23 – 31/10/23	1943	£750.00	£0.00	HA 1980 s.96

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

b. Bank Reconciliation completed to November month end. No errors however The Chair raised a comment regarding the funds split in the bank reconciliation.

The Clerk will amend.

Closing Bank Balance at 30 November 2023			
Current Account	100.00		
Business Reserve Account	145,960.25	146,060.25	
Less unrepresented Cheques			
Cheque 009146	44.77		
		(44.77)	
Closing bank balance		146,015.48	
Split as follows			
Closing Balances			
Recreational fund	10,106.00		
CIL Neighbourhood Fund	69,456.84		
General Fund	66,497.41	146,060.25	0.00

The Chair requested that the Clerk look into the VAT Return due dates to ensure all returns are submitted on time.

23100 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

No correspondence to share that has not already been dealt with by Councillors from the Clerk.

The Chair ended the meeting by informing Councillors that a letter has been received from Helen Morgan to Town and Parishes giving Councils the opportunity to raise matters affecting the Parish. The Chair will draft a response for Councillors to approve.

The matters to be raised are HS2 monies due, the lack of bus services in the Parish, the reduction of the speed limit outside Woore School and the campaign for Fibre Broadband. Councillors will await the draft letter.

Meeting Closed 9pm

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Appendix 1

	Proposed Budget 2024-2025	Actual Budget 2023-2024	Reason for Change
INCOME			
Precept	31,249.00	31,249.00	
Bank Interest	1,800.00	650.00	Interest rate increased to 2.85%
CIL / Neighbourhood Fund	-	-	
VAT received	1,500.00	2,500.00	Less VAT Reclaimed due to reduced speeding -mainly legal fees
Grants	-	-	
Misc.	-	-	
	34,549.00	34,399.00	
EXPENDITURE			
Clerk salary	10,000.00	14,500.00	Lower due to new Clerks lower salary. Includes back dated pay rises to both Clerks.
Postage	300.00	-	
Office Expenses	1,300.00	-	Includes Office 365 subscription
Office Stationary	100.00	-	
Expenses	-	700.00	Split out in above for 24/25 (plus Out of Pocket Expenses)
Lighting Maintenance	-	10,400.00	Issue resolved so no funds allocated
Lighting Energy	-	-	
Subscriptions	700.00	650.00	Nominal increase of SALC Affiliation fees
Computer Costs	100.00	1,000.00	New Laptop purchased. No major expenditure expected in 24/25
Section 137 Grants	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Insurance	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Bank/Audit Fees	600.00	600.00	
Grounds Maintenance	5,000.00	4,500.00	Nominal Increase
Planting	2,000.00	2,000.00	
Lengthsman	1,000.00	500.00	Funds allocated to allow new Lengthsman to catch up from work not done in 2023/24
Room Hire	1,100.00	1,000.00	Nominal Increase
Training	800.00	800.00	
Newsletter	700.00	1,200.00	Over budgeted in 2023/24
Clerk Out of Pocket Expense	-	1,000.00	Included in Office Expenses for 24/25
Neighbourhood Plan Expense	1,500.00	1,500.00	No HS2 costs so keep the same
Remembrance Day / VEDay	500.00	2,000.00	Moved into Section 137 Grants
Christmas	750.00	600.00	£500 for Christmas tree. Remaining for lights and power.
Coronation	-	3,500.00	N/A for 2024/25
Speed Group Costs	2,000.00	350.00	New batteries required for current system if not upgraded
Misc.	3,500.00	3,500.00	Contingency
Legal Fees	-	2,600.00	No predicted expenditure in 2024/25
Village Green	-	-	See Below
Streetlighting	-	-	See Below
	34,450.00	55,400.00	
Possible additional items of expenditure			
Street Lighting	-	28,000.00	Issue Resolved in 2023/24
Play area and Gym Upgrade	8,000.00	-	Moving of gym equipment to St Leonards - Rachel has received quotes already.
MVAS / SIDS	8,000.00	-	2 new monitoring systems.
Village Green	10,000.00	20,000.00	Sensory garden. Current green costs a lot
Newcastle Road Project	10,000.00	-	Consultancy Fees - multi sports/allotments/ nature trail
Benches	1,500.00	-	Coronation benches for Village Hall
	37,500.00	48,000.00	