

Minutes of Woore Parish Council Meeting

Monday 13th December 2021, 7.30pm, Victory Hall, Woore



PRESENT:

Cllr M. Cowey (Chairman), Cllr K. Davies, Cllr D. Beeston, Cllr M. Blake, Cllr. G. Daville and Cllr. R. Goodman.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs H. Jackson, Clerk to the Council.

PUBLIC:

There were 2 members of the public in attendance, including Woore Parish Tree and Path Warden.

21111 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent

Cllr Cowey welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr R. Aldcroft, Cllr Hamilton and Cllr Higgin due to personal commitments. It was unanimously **resolved** to accept all apologies.

21112 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or any other interests

No pecuniary interested were declared.

21113 Open Forum – to last no longer than 15 minutes.

A member of the public expressed concern over planning developments within the boundary of a property on Candle Lane for which there has been no planning application submitted. It was confirmed that the Clerk would take appropriate steps to report the issue to SC Enforcement Team.

The Chair reported no progress on London Road Enforcement case.

The Chair congratulated Woore Cricket Club on the recent Junior Development Award and the WI for raising £500 for Marie Curie Foundation. The Clerk agreed to write to both on behalf of WPC.

The Chair raised recent roadworks taking place within the centre of Woore. It was explained that WPC were given no prior notice of the works by SC until the day they commenced when contact was made by One Networks, as was the case for all local businesses severely impacted by the works. Dates for further works now shared in letter to residents as 28th Feb 22 – 4th May 22. WPC best endeavours to access further information and complaint made to SC about the lack of communication. No confirmation from SC on road surfacing works referenced in letters to residents. Further information to follow.

The Chair raised recent social media discussion between residents concerning speeding on St. Leonards Way estate. Clerk contacted West Mercia Safer Roads for advice. Further information to follow. Further, social media discussion concerning the noticeboard on St. Leonards Way was also noted, with the Clerk confirming that a response has been provided to confirm that it is currently out of action and a decision will be made in due course as to its repair/replacement/removal.

The Chair reported potential fly-tipping on land on London Road, currently classified as a sensitive gap on the Neighbourhood Plan. Agreed to monitor and engage SC/land-owner as required.

21114 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th November 2021 (Local Government Act 1972, s12p41(1)).

It was **resolved** by majority to approve minutes from the meeting 8th November 2021, noting an amendment to the draft minutes that 'legal action may be taken' in regard to streetlighting item 21099.

21115 Matters arising: to cover any matters arising from Minutes 8th November, referred to in 21114.

The Chairman provided an update on the following;

- Clerk confirmed applications for recycling wheelie bins open in January 2022, further information will be shared when received.
- Grove/Hedgerows Development – still no confirmation on streetlight adoption by SC and no written confirmation from the developer on signage provision. Clerk to write to developer.
- Overgrown brook in Pipe Gate – no response received from John Bellis at SC.
- Drainage – no response from Tim Rogers at SC regarding correspondence to request halt on all planning applications until drainage issue addressed. Noted that recent application consultee comments from water authority on drainage support WPC concerns.
- Flooding – Flash Farm no developments, possible legal action against Cheshire East. SC also failing to maintain gullies appropriately. Audlem Road flooding issues responded to by Cllr Aldcroft.
- Grey box on Audlem Road now removed, the purpose for which remains unexplained.

21116 Committee and Representatives Reports: for Councillors/representatives to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

a) **North Shropshire Area Committee:**

Minutes now received and circulated to Councillors. Cllr Carter to share any comments as required.

b) **MVAS & Community Speed Watch Scheme:**

Cllr Blake referred to the MVAS report circulated to Councillors and all relevant parties prior to the meeting. Update in the absence of Cllr Hamilton that a location in Pipe Gate is now secured for the Community Speed Watch, along with 1 additional trained volunteers. Dark nights restrict activity but work continues and is positive.

c) **Village Hall & Queens Jubilee:**

Cllr Beeston reported community café dates as 28th January and 25th February. A meeting between Parish community organisations to discuss Queens Jubilee celebrations is scheduled for 27th January (remote meeting may need to take place).

d) **Fix My Street:**

3no additional flooding issues raised since last meeting. Report circulated and available on the WPC website.

e) **Trees & Paths:**

No report was provided.

f) **Chairman's Network Meeting:**

The Chairman referred to a report circulated prior to the meeting noting the following;

- Defra consultation issued to burial authorities. Information shared with St. Leonards Church.
- Shropshire Playing Fields Association completing audits of play areas within the parish including sports clubs/associations, to be completed by end January 2022. Further information to be received by the Clerk.
- Boundary review – 3no in progress, correspondence to be sent to Clerks in due course.

21117 Shropshire Council Representative Report: for Cllr R. Aldcroft to provide a report to the Clerk in his absence.

HS2: I visited Bucks last weekend, pandemonium on the A41 twixt Aylesbury and Bicester, single file traffic and traffic lights providing Christmas atmosphere! I dread to think what'll happen in our area, the A51 and 525 particularly at the Swan with Two Necks and centre of Woore. I have asked Steve Brown for a progress report on HS2 work, particularly the 30mph, but to date have not had a reply.

Shropshire Covid highest in region.

Along with other County Councillors, I attended **Shropshire goes electric event** at Shrewsbury Football Stadium. Many electric cars to look at full electric motors need to increase the mileage range.

Active Travel Experiment commences in Shrewsbury, Streets blocked to prevent rat runs and alternative routes created.

There is now a **new code of conduct for councillors** I am trying to obtain the slideshow and will pass to your Clerk.

SC Spending on **new pool at Sundorne** to Olympic standard to draw competitions and provide high standard of training, then refurbish Quarry with a leisure pool. Both with health suites, gym and sauna facilities and of course a cafeteria! Simultaneously, a **new pool at Whitchurch**. The original pool is now closed as the building and actual pool have deteriorated beyond repair.

****Item 21120 was moved to earlier in the meeting due to priority.**

21120 Streetlighting

- a) To receive an update on Streetlight ownership discussions ongoing with Shropshire Council

The Chairman provided a summary of the actions to date and correspondence sent by the Clerk to SC, making reference to Cllr Blake's report to Councillors, circulated prior to the meeting. In summary, no adequate evidence had been received from SC to date to support its claim that WPC are responsible for streetlighting within the Parish. In particular, reference was made to the explanation provided by SC that streetlighting does not meet highway standards and therefore can not be adopted. Councillors were all in agreement that the response by SC to date was unsatisfactory and priority must be given to the safety of the streetlights along with the discussions regarding ownership.

A great deal of discussion took place with all Councillors making a contribution.

It was **resolved** by majority that the Clerk will write to Shropshire Council to state the following;

Woore Parish Council take no responsibility for streetlighting within the Parish of Woore, including as follows;

- Electricity supply of 24no streetlights
 - o 15no on St Leonards Way estate (including Westfields Rise, Fairfield Rise, Blaizefield Close)
 - o 4no on The Grove (old part)
 - o 2no on Pipe Gate (old road)
 - o 3no on Dorrington Lane

- Repair and maintenance of streetlight columns, lamps, bulbs and all related parts for all streetlights as listed above
- Annual safety/maintenance inspections for all streetlights as listed above including all associated repairs
- All associated responsibilities (not detailed above) in relation to streetlights as listed

Further, Woore Parish Council will cancel the contract and Direct Debit mandate with the electricity provider (Southern Electric) for said streetlighting with immediate effect and will complete a Change of Tenancy application stating that electricity provision for 2no unmetered supplies (total 24no streetlights) within the Parish is to be handed to Shropshire Council. Additionally, all repairs and maintenance of streetlights listed will be referred to Shropshire Council for actioning as of 13th December 2021 and Shropshire Council should carry out these repairs as it is responsible for the safety on the Highways and Footways.

The Clerk noted that advice would need to be sought regarding the need for contingency saving for electricity supply and associated legal fees should WPC be confirmed as responsible for streetlights. Information would be shared in due course.

- b) To discuss electricity supply contract renewal with SSE, following contract end 31st December 2021, with a proposal or support or reject the renewal, including agreement of all associated actions thereafter.

This item was no longer required given the action taken in item 21120a).

21118 Planning

- a) Applications: to adopt comments to be submitted in response to the following applications and as circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting;
 - i. Reference: **21/04913/FUL** (4th November 2021)
 Address: Proposed Residential Development Land To The South Of, Audlem Road, Woore, CW3 9RJ
 Proposal: Erection of 1No dwelling to include integrated garage (revised scheme)
 *comments submitted in advance of meeting via delegated powers, 19th November 2021.

The Chairman referred to reports circulated prior to the meeting. It was unanimously **resolved** to approve comments submitted in advance of the meeting via Delegated Powers and detailed in Appendix 1.0, in support of the application. It was noted that notice of the application being granted has now also been received.

- ii. Reference: **21/02985/REM** (6th October 2021)
 Address: Proposed Residential Development Land To The South Of Audlem Road, Woore, Shropshire.
 Proposal: Approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to outline permission 20/05302/OUT comprising 4no detached dwellings
 *comments submitted in advance of meeting via delegated powers, 16th November 2021, in response to further re-consultation notice. Additional correspondence sent to Case Officer 6th December.

The Chairman referred to reports circulated prior to the meeting. It was unanimously **resolved** to approve comments submitted in advance of the meeting via Delegated Powers and detailed in Appendix 1.0, in objection to the application. It was noted that notice of the application being granted has now also been received.

Discussion took place regarding SC dismissal of the Woore Neighbourhood Plan in this case and the option of a judicial review was dismissed due to costs and the risk of setting a precedent for

future applications. It was unanimously **resolved** that the Clerk will write to SC to express its dissatisfaction and request the case be reviewed by Tracy Darke.

- iii. Reference: **21/05051/FUL** (29th October 2021)
Address: Farcross, London Road, Woore, CW3 9RQ
Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension together with internal alterations and conversion of existing garage to form self-contained annex.
*comments submitted in advance of meeting via delegated powers, 28th November 2021.

The Chairman referred to reports circulated prior to the meeting. It was unanimously **resolved** to approve comments submitted in advance of the meeting via Delegated Powers and detailed in Appendix 1.0, in support of the application. It was noted that notice of the application being granted has now also been received.

- b) Decisions: to acknowledge all planning decisions made between 8th November and 13th December 2021.
- i. Reference: **21/04147/FUL** (validated: 23/09/2021)
Address: Oak Farm, Dorrington Lane, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire, CW3 9RR
Proposal: Conversion of existing outbuilding into habitable space installation of decking and pergola and replacement vehicular entrance gates
Decision: Grant Permission
 - ii. Reference: **21/04148/LBC** (validated: 23/09/2021)
Address: Oak Farm, Dorrington Lane, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire, CW3 9RR
Proposal: Conversion of existing outbuilding into habitable space installation of decking and pergola and replacement vehicular entrance gates affecting a Grade II Listed Building
Decision: Grant Permission
 - iii. Reference: **21/05051/FUL** (validated: 22/10/2021)
Address: Farcross, London Road, Woore, CW3 9RQ
Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension together with internal alterations and conversion of existing garage to form self-contained annex
Decision: Grant Permission
 - iv. Reference: **21/02241/FUL** (validated: 24/05/2021)
Address: Station Yard, Pipe Gate, Market Drayton, Shropshire
Proposal: Erection of four detached dwellings with detached garages; formation of estate roads; Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the formation of access road and infrastructure (sewer)
Decision: Grant Permission
 - v. Reference: **21/04913/FUL** (validated: 04/11/2021)
Address: Proposed Residential Development Land To The South Of, Audlem Road, Woore, CW3 9RJ
Proposal: Erection of 1No dwelling to include integrated garage (revised scheme)
Decision: Grant Permission
- Reference: **21/02985/REM** (validated: 15/06/2021)
Address: Proposed Residential Development Land To The South Of, Audlem Road, Woore, Shropshire
Proposal: Approval of reserved matters (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to outline permission 20/05302/OUT comprising 4no detached dwellings
Decision: Grant Permission

c) Reviews: to discuss actions associated with the following applications:

- i. Reference: **21/02241/FUL** (validated: 24/05/2021)
Address: Station Yard, Pipe Gate, Market Drayton, Shropshire
Proposal: Erection of four detached dwellings with detached garages; formation of estate roads; Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the formation of access road and infrastructure (sewer)
*8th November meeting resolved to assign working party to respond to comments by the applicant, via delegated powers. This was superseded by granting of permission and actions therefore need addressing. Proposal for action to be made by working party for discussion.

Lead Councillor for the application referred to draft correspondence prepared in response to granting of the application and specifically, SC failure to respond to concerns regarding the impact on drainage within the Parish. Discussion took place with the majority of Councillors contributing. It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the draft letter prepared by the Lead Councillor to be sent by the Clerk to detail these concerns.

21119 HS2:

- a) To receive an update from the Chairman on Traffic Calming/Mitigation discussions/next steps and HS2 Consultation.
- b) To receive an update from the Chairman on actions from the meeting with Owen Paterson, Lezley Picton, Steve Charmley and Roy Aldcroft, 22nd July 2021

The Chairman addressed all the above. The HS2 Annual Parish Meeting was attended by the WPC HS2 Working Party although attendance was poor generally, with no representation from SC.

A remote meeting with Balfour Beatty, the Working Party and Clerk has taken place. Discussion around highways works / timeframes and issues experienced in the Parish to date. Also, potential funding streams for community organisations. More information to follow.

No response from Shropshire Council to actions from the meetings 22nd July and 4th November. No response to letter dated 2nd December chasing a response from the Chief Executive of SC. Discussion took place as to the options available to WPC regarding Shropshire Council's failure to respond and the impact on mitigations/interventions being agreed prior to HS2 work commencing. It was unanimously **resolved** for the HS2 Working Party to look into contacting the Ombudsman.

The Chairman confirmed that the Village Hall is provisionally booked for 20th January 2022 for a community meeting organised by WPC / SC. To date however, SC have failed to respond regarding arrangements.

Very little interaction from Woore Parish Action Group for HS2 (WPAG) recently, uncertainty over what activity is taking place.

A planning application has been received from Cheshire East in relation to HS2 Phase 2a lorry routes relating to Community Area 5 for authorised sites. This could result in additional HGV's/LGV's using the A51 through Woore Parish. A response will be prepared by the HS2 Working Party, and a request made to SC for their response also. It was noted that Cheshire East do not have authority to approve wagons on the A51, this lies with SC, unless authority has been abdicated. Discussion took place and Councillors noted concerns that SC continue not to be forthcoming with a response as to whether SC have abdicated responsibility to Staffordshire County Council.

The Clerk noted a meeting with the HS2 Working Party and Inspector Claire Greenaway of West Mercia Police, to discuss lack of progress with the speed limit consultation due by SC (provisional

date of early January 2022) and for an update on other speed related mitigations. Inspector Greenaway confirmed no contact had been made by SC to WMP with confirmation of the consultation. The Chair noted WMP's continuing support in relation to HS2 mitigations where possible.

21121 Budget 2022-2023:

- a) To discuss and determine the budget for financial year 2022-2023.
 - b) To approve the precept request figure for financial year 2022-2023.

The item was deferred until the January 2022 meeting due to time constraints.

21122 Finance:

- i) Invoices/payments & receipts: to resolve to approve the below detailed expenditure:
It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the following payments as presented.

		Cllr Daville				
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Date	Payee	Reason for Payment	Cheque Number	Amount (Ex. VAT)	VAT Amount
02.11.21	HMRC	VAT Refund Q4 20/21	n/a	£194.24	£0.00

Note:

£805(ex VAT) Grounds maintenance cost to be deducted from Recreational fund and not general fund.

Increase of £25 to planting costs approved 8th November 21, to include an extra tub.

Increase of £5(ex VAT) to Christmas tree costs approved 8th November 21, as regular supplier unable to provide a tree.

Additional cost of £150(ex VAT) for installation/removal of tree as regular contractor unavailable.

Usual cost of £100.

(VAT refund 2/11/21 not shown on agenda in error)

ii) Bank reconciliation: for the Council to receive and accept the month end bank reconciliation

The Clerk provided a report as follows;

Current Account: £100.00

Reserve Account: £113,504.87

Unpresented cheques: £3,158.87

Balance 8th November 21: £110,466.00

*Note £20 difference applies to overpayment identified from previous month, yet to be adjusted

Split as follows;

Recreational fund: £10,546.00

CIL fund: £52,063.24

General fund: £47,856.76

21123 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

To receive a summary of Reports and Correspondence for the period from 8th November to 7th December.

The Clerk confirmed that all correspondence for the period had been circulated, noting the below;

- ROSPA Annual Inspections due for St. Leonards Play Area and the Outdoor Gym at the rear of the Village Hall. scheduled for late December 2021.
- Further issues relating to flooding on the boundary of the Parish have been chased with SC.
- The process for Internal Audit has begun already, with further information to be shared in due course.

The Chairman closed the meeting by wishing Councillors a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

10th January 2022, 7.30pm and 14th February 2022, 7.30pm

Signed.....(Chair)

Dated 10th January 2022

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
21114	Approval of Minutes of meeting held 8th November 2022: resolved by majority to approve minutes from the meeting 8 th November 2021, noting an amendment to the draft minutes that 'legal action may be taken' in regard to streetlighting item 21099.	Cowey, M	X		
Prop: Blake, M	Davies, K	X			
Second: Beeston, D	Beeston, D	X			
	Goodman, R	X			
	Blake, M	X			
	Carter, M				X
	Daville, G	X			

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
21120	Streetlighting: Woore Parish Council take no responsibility for streetlighting within the Parish of Woore (as detailed above).	Cowey, M		X	
Prop: Blake, M	Davies, K	X			
Second: Beeston, D	Beeston, D	X			
	Goodman, R	X			
	Blake, M	X			
	Carter, M	X			
	Daville, G	X			