



## Minutes of Woore Monthly Parish Council Meeting

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024, 7.30pm, The Victory Hall, Woore

### **PRESENT:**

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

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Ms C. Burnard, Clerk to the Council

Cllr R. Aldcroft (Ward Councillor Shropshire Council)

### **PUBLIC:**

There were nine members of the public present.

In addition guest speakers from Openreach (Sam Patel) and Shropshire Council (Ben Walker) were present.

### **23101 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent**

The Chair welcomed councillors to January 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.

Apologies were received from Cllr M. Carter due to work commitments.

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

### **23102 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.

### **23103 Requests for Dispensations of DPI's**

No disclosable pecuniary interests were declared.

### **23104 Open Forum: to last no longer than 15 minutes**

The Chair welcomed the guest speakers and invited them to speak.

Residents are aware of a campaign to get Fibre Broadband to the Parish. In order to do this, Openreach have asked households to 'pledge' their interest in getting Fibre Broadband linked up to their property. So far 50% of the households in the Parish has pledged their interest.

Sam Patel and her colleague are present to answer any questions from residents as asked below -

**Q:** Does the exchange boundary include Woore?

**A:** Yes, on the pledging website, Pipe Gate was the main focus purely because of the location of the exchange box. The website will be updated at the earlier opportunity to put more emphasis on Woore.

**Q:** How does Fibre work that's makes it faster than the current internet?

**A:** Fibre uses a different type of cable coming from the poles or exchange boxes to the property directly. Fibre optic cables are able to transmit data using light instead of electrical pulses allowing the data to travel a lot further a lot faster.

**Q:** What's the point of the pledging exercise?

**A:** When you pledge, you are informing Openreach of your interest in the broadband and of your address. The address is critical as Openreach can then come out and assess the property. From this they will be able to cost up the exercise of getting the optic cable to the property. If, for example, the property is a rural farm, this could involve digging a trench and running the cable underground.

By pledging on the website, Openreach guarantee to get fibre to your property by whatever means are necessary, no matter how rural. However, this can only be done if the required pledges are

reached Parish wide.

This is why it is one pledge per property, not per person.

**Q:** What the point in upgrading internet if everything works fine at present?

**A:** The key message is that by supporting and pledging to this scheme, residents are contributing to the future resilience and efficiency of the village network. While it might not be immediately apparent to everyone, especially those who don't currently experience connectivity issues, the advancements in technology and our move toward a fully digital environment make this initiative crucial. As we progress into a future dominated by digital services, remote work, and innovative technologies the demand for ultrafast internet connectivity will undoubtedly increase. By pledging to this scheme, residents are preparing the community for the technological landscape that lies ahead. Early support ensures that our village stays ahead of the curve and remains competitive in a digitally driven world.

One top of that, there may be properties in the Parish who are experiencing connection issues. The pledge helps your neighbours if it don't directly benefit you.

**Q:** Why Openreach and not the previously appointed 'Freedom Fibre'?

**A:** Openreach already have all the infrastructure in place. They own the telegraph poles and the network. All current internet providers use the Openreach network already. Openreach enable the parish to cut out the middleman.

**Q:** What is the timescale for completion of the project?

**A:** There is a 12-month time frame from hitting 70% of the pledge target to connecting their first properties. Once this target is hit, the surveyors will start to get an idea of costs. The areas that are deemed cheaper to connect will be completed first. Once 100% of the pledges are reached and all funds are received from the Government, the whole parish will be connected.

If pledges don't reach a high enough number by December 2024, the project will not be started.

**Q:** There is a reference in the information sent out to residents about a contribution. What does that mean?

**A:** Each pledge represents £4,500 of Government money. Openreach predicts they need about £1,000,000 to complete this project. Once the surveys are completed and they have the final costs submitted, one of two things happen.

If the costs are under the amount pledged, the work is completed 100% even if not all households have pledged.

If the costs are higher than the pledges, Openreach will seek to source the shortfall from households that have not pledged. If 100% of households have already pledged, the money will be found by Openreach, not from residents.

**Q:** Will my internet costs increase?

**A:** Unfortunately, that is at the discretion of the provider, not Openreach. It may go up but if you shop around, you may find your costs decrease.

**Q:** What happens in the event of a power cut with the new broadband?

**A:** Unfortunately, Openreach are only responsible for the lines outside of the properties. If this is of concern, it will be worthwhile contacting your current or future internet provider as they can provide back up power sources if their customers are vulnerable, for example have internet connected medical devices.

**Q:** If a resident moves house how will that affect the pledging?

**A:** Timing is critical in this. If the network is fully commissioned, the new resident won't be able to pledge. If the pledging is still open, they are very welcome to pledge.

If the Woore property is pledged and connected on full fibre and the new property is not in a fibre area, the internet package will need to be downgraded.

**Q:** Is there a strategy of rollout in terms of a heatmap for connecting areas of the parish that have had more pledges?

**A:** How the network is connected is based on the ease and costs of connections, not the number of pledges.

**Openreach and Shropshire Council representatives left the meeting.**

The Chair continued with Open Forum and pointed out the accumulation of litter around the village. Cherry Tree Lane and the Bus Shelter on Dorrington Lane are the worst hit. The Clerk was asked to reach out to the village litter pickers and the Lengthsman to help resolve.

The Bar Hill Road Closure is causing concerns for residents. The Chair will keep councillors informed of any updates.

**23105 Approval of the Minutes** of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023 (Local Government Act 1972, s12p41(1)).

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the minutes of meeting 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

**23106 Matters arising:** to cover any matters arising from Minutes referred to in 23105.

The Chair requested an update on the Manor bed. Cllr R. Goodman confirmed the Parish Council has not received a response from the owner of the property after the Council sent out a letter.

Cllr R. Goodman and Cllr J. Higgin have inspected the area. While some work has been completed some additional work may be required.

The Parish Council Precept request will be submitted within the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024.

**23107 Shropshire Council Representative Report:** for Cllr R. Aldcroft to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

Cllr R. Aldcroft informed the Parish that Shropshire Council are asking local councils for advice on which of 16 projects are to be prioritised going forward on view of recent budget constraints. The Parish will be updated in due course which are to receive full funding.

No updates on 20mph zone however the police force is back up to full recruitment requirements so hopefully speed enforcement will be made a top priority.

Cllr R. Aldcroft confirmed that when 'Fix My Street' portal states a reported issue is fixed, it actually just means it's been transferred to a different department, usually the department that will resolve the issue.

The Chair raised the issue of the 20mph limit outside the school again and asked for an update as it seems we have been forgotten about again by Shropshire Council. Cllr R. Aldcroft will chase up. There is also an issue with the School Sign outside being of very poor quality. Cllr R. Aldcroft will follow up.

The Chair added that the Quiet Lane sign on Gravenhunger needs some attention. Cllr R. Aldcroft stated that Shropshire Council doesn't do the Quiet Lane scheme anymore. He will enquire if that means all the quietening measures will be removed or if current quiet lanes will be maintained as such.

It was added by the Chair for Cllr R. Aldcroft to remind Shropshire Council that the crossing needs changing outside the school for the safety of the pupils.

**Cllr R. Aldcroft left the meeting.**

**23108 RoSPA report:**

The Chair stated that the RoSPA report has come back, and all equipment is in the good condition category so the Parish Council are fully covered by their insurance policy.

Cllr R. Goodman will be providing a summary of work and costs needed in moving the equipment from the Victory Hall to St Leonards at a later date. These estimate costs are in the 2024/25 budget.

## **23109 Planning:**

- a) 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.

It was unanimously resolved to support the application with comments submitted via the Clerk as below.

*Woore Parish Council **SUPPORTS** this application.*

*Woore Parish Council request that during the building phase, due to the busy nature of the A51, there is a requirement such that associated vehicles, vans and deliveries are parked off the road in the ample front garden.*

- b) Decisions to report -

Reference – 23/03956/FUL (22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023)  
Address - Barn India, Newcastle Road, Woore, Shropshire CW3 9RE  
Proposal - Elevational alterations to dwelling and erection of detached garage with room above.  
Decision – Permission Granted

Councillors are pleased that conditions raised by the Parish Council have been taken into consideration when granting the permission.

Reference - **23/04557/FUL** (Validated 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023)  
Address - Moss Cottage, Gravenhunger, Woore, Crewe, Shropshire.  
Proposal - - Erection of single storey outbuilding, gate and pillars  
Decision – Permission Granted

Reference - **23/04779/FUL** (Validated 13<sup>th</sup> 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  
Decision – Permission Granted

## **23110 Committee and Representatives Reports:** for Councillors/representatives to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

No reports however Cllr R. Goodman will have a Victory Hall report for next month's meeting.

The Chair added that there was one Tree and Path comment. Footpath 0236361 in Ireland Cross, Dorrington. The path is passable, but it is getting worse. The Shropshire Council enforcement officer is on the case and is working on getting the landowners to take responsibility.

A HS2 meeting will be taking place in February 2024. The Chair will be requesting information about where the funds have gone that were allocated to the village.

No activity to report on the Community Speed Watch. However, the Parish Council is applying for funding for new SIDS speed monitoring systems to support our current MVAS systems. The Chair will update accordingly.

## **23111 Village Green** to be discussed in regard to tree maintenance.

A discussion took place between The Chair and a resident regarding the overgrown trees blocking a streetlights and encroaching across the road as well as destroying the grass on the Village Green. The Chair is still waiting on a second quote for the maintenance work. Upon receipt of a second quote for the cutting back of the trees on the village green, work will commence, voted by delegated powers. One of the main causes of the delay in action is the encroachment by a resident onto the village Green.

## **23112 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
08/01/2024	Chelsea Burnard	Clerk Salary (Dec month): Gross Pay - NI deduction Income Tax deduction Expenses Stamps	001949	£530.44 £0.00 -£106.00 £0.00 £16.00 <u>£440.44</u>	£0.00	LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LG (FP)A 1963 s.5 LG (FP)A 1973 s.5  LG A 1972 s.111
08/01/2024	William Friend	Christmas Tree	001950	£50.00	£0.00	LGA 1972 s.137
08/01/2024	Westholme Nurseries	Winter Planter	001951	£475.00	£95.00	LGA 1972 s. 137
08/01/2024	Woore Methodist Chapel	Donation for Electric for Christmas Tree Lights	001952	£50.00	£0.00	GA 1972 s. 137**

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

b. Bank Reconciliation completed to December month end. No errors, comments nor queries were raised.

Split as follows		
Closing Balances		
Recreational fund	10,106.00	
CIL Neighbourhood Fund	69,456.84	
General Fund	66,081.81	<b>145,644.65</b>
		0.00

## **23113 Clerk's Report and Correspondence**

The Clerk brought up the queries from concerns residents regarding the disruption on the Boxing Day hunt. The Chair stated that this is not a Parish Council event and the Parish Council has no authority to comment on the actions of individuals.

**Meeting Closed 10PM**

**Date of next ordinary Parish Council meeting is 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 7.30PM**