

# Minutes of Woore Parish Council Meeting

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022, 7.00pm, Victory Hall, Woore



## PRESENT:

Cllr M. Cowey (Chairman), Cllr K. Davies, Cllr M. Blake, Cllr J. Higgin, Cllr C. Hamilton, Cllr. M. Carter and Cllr. D. Beeston.

## IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs H. Jackson, Clerk to the Council. Guest speaker Tracy Darke, Assistant Director Economy and Place, Shropshire Council.

## PUBLIC:

There were 7 members of the public in attendance.

### **21137 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent**

The Chairman welcomed attendees to the earlier than usual start time, acknowledging also that the meeting is later than usual in the month. The order of items was altered to accommodate late arrival of the guest speaker due to flooding issues. Apologies were received from Cllr Goodman and Cllr Daville due to personal commitments. Cllr R. Aldcroft, Shropshire Council gave apologies due to work commitments. It was unanimously **resolved** to accept all apologies. It was noted that Cllr. Beeston gave late apologies for the January meeting due to personal reasons.

### **21138 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or any other interests**

No pecuniary interested were declared.

\*The order of items was altered to accommodate late arrival of the guest speaker due to flooding issues.

**21141 Approval of the Minutes** of the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 (Local Government Act 1972, s12p41(1)).

It was **resolved** by majority to approve minutes from the meeting 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 noting an amendment to page 21065, item 21129 a) as follows; '*...Cllr Blake offered to share figures for the number of prosecutable instances moving forward.*'

**21142 Matters arising:** to cover any matters arising from Minutes 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022, referred to in 21141.

No matters were raised.

**21143 Committee and Representatives Reports:** for Councillors/representatives to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

#### a) **MVAS & Community Speed Watch Scheme:**

Cllr. Blake confirmed MVAS reports circulated to relevant persons. Cllr. Hamilton noted that CSW activity had taken place this month which is positive. Operation Snap updates have been shared on social media.

#### b) **Village Hall & Queens Jubilee:**

Cllr. Beeston noted café afternoons / book sales continue monthly with good attendance. Confirmed intentions for a Queens Jubilee Tea Party to be hosted free of charge for the community on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. Volunteers needed. Community encouraged to plant

red/white/blue to support the Jubilee theme. Further information to follow at March meeting. Event will be held at the Victory Hall and will include the following;

- Parade of vintage cars, tractors, horse and traps. Children encouraged to join parade.
- Fancy dress, art and baking competitions
- Live music
- Flower festival
- Red Arrows fly past (tbc)
- Jubilee gift for children of the Parish
- Volunteers needed and baking contributions welcomed

**c) Trees & Paths:**

The Chairman noted confirmation from Shropshire Outdoor Partnership that the Churchyard public footpaths were passed to Area Officers 7<sup>th</sup> Feb for review. Trees fallen in Bulkeley Hall to be reviewed as many have a TPO. Update to follow.

**d) North Shropshire Area Committee**

Minutes circulated to Councillors in advance of meeting. Highlights as follows;

- Janet Cobb, founder member of Restoring Shropshire Verges Project (RSVP)
  - Almost all wildflower meadows have been lost in the last 60 years
  - Verges can be a fantastic place for wildflowers
  - Management is required
  - The first success is Shropshire highways manager has agreed a late cut
  - Janet Cobb is happy to help local councils
  - May be a project WPC can get involved in for 2023
- Diane Dorrell stated precept request deadline cannot be extended.
- Face-to-face meetings - NALC working with LGA for online meetings to be allowed
- Road safety on A41 Between Hinstock and Ternhill roundabout
  - Parishes along the route invited to comment
- Future speakers:
  - MP -Helen Morgan
  - Criminal exploitation of children
  - Up-date on flooding

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

Meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Invites included 180no Town & Parish Council Chairman within Shropshire (inc. Telford). The Chairman referred to a report circulated prior to the meeting and requested highlights be included in the Minutes as follows;

- Budget Review – presentation Cllr. Cecilia Motley, Shropshire Council
  - Government not concluded Fairer Funding Agreement
  - Shropshire Council had a Larger & Growing Population for Social Care
  - Growth in Social Care for children was now at 600no.
  - Looking forward Shropshire Council were heading for a Deficit Budget if the Government did not provide further support.
  - Explained as “Middle of a Perfect Storm”
- Boundary Review
  - Town & Parish Council Boundary Review still at negotiation stage, once agreed will go out to Consultation (Very little response from Town & Parish Councils so far)
  - County Boundary review in 2023 this will take preference.
  - All Reviews to take effect from 2025.
- Tracy Darke (SC Assistant Director – Place) presented on Planning Enforcement and Fly Tipping.

- SC are looking for improvement of advising Town & Parish Councils on Closure of any Enforcement.
- Section 106 Agreements fall within Enforcement Team & Legal remit.
- Fly Tipping
  - Environmental Services to issue via SALC information on its disposal & collection and if the material tipped is examined in any way to help identify the owners.
  - One of the Chairs asked why it was called Fly Tipping - to throw out of a vehicle, and on the fly, meaning "on the wing" – to throw away carelessly or casually.
- Chairman's Joint Working Group Meeting.
  - Minutes from latest meeting to be circulated covering, Safeguarding, CIL Update, Queens Jubilee, Seven Trent Water.
- Other Matters:
  - Police reporting was raised, and it was noted that a number of councils have joined with others to establish Police & Crime Panels (Woore, Worfield & Rudge & Pontesbury gave examples and are willing to share information).
  - Speeding raised as an issue, invite to Chief Supt Stuart Bill to the next meeting with a highways representative agreed.
  - Damage to lanes by heavy vehicles raised at the first meeting. The Agricultural Reference Group set up by Scrutiny will be meeting again later this month and will report back.

**21139 Shropshire Council Planning Discussion** - Guest speakers Tracy Darke (Assistant Director Economy and Place) and Tim Rogers (Area Planning and Building Control Manager at Shropshire Council). To discuss the relationship between WPC and SC Planning and issues relating to Woore Neighbourhood Plan, Enforcement, CIL and Drainage.

The Chairman thanked Tracy Darke for her attendance and acknowledged Tim Rogers absence due to unnecessary travel risk with flooding in the area. Tracy Darke introduced herself as Assistant Director for Economy and Place at Shropshire Council, noting this included economic growth and investment, digital strategy, planning and policy. Tracy has over 40 years of experience in planning.

Discussion highlights for the session were as follows;

#### **Woore Neighbourhood Plan (WNP)**

- Local Plan, SAM Dev & NP all statutory documents but sit within hierarchy.
- Local Plan series of consultations, now in hands of inspectors for evaluation over Summer 2022. Covers all Shropshire.
- WNP designed in conjunction with Local Plan policies to give weight with support from Eddie West, Shropshire Council. Resident led, adopted following referendum 2018.
- Government encourages NP, provides funding to facilitate.
- All planning policies are guidance documents and are a starting point for considerations. Any deviance must be supported by best practice. Must be weighed in balance of all.
- Councillors expressed concerns WNP not being used by SC Case Officers noting examples where no reference is made to WNP. TD asked to see examples stating it is her understanding that this is not accurate. Chairman expressed that PC observations are overlooked. Hours of wasted time responding to planning applications using WNP as framework for guidance to be ignored.
- Woore also has a Place Plan.
- Councillors expressed feeling that granting applications is an easy way out for planners. Seemingly they always have time for developers (pre-planning process). Sense from online planning portal that agreements are not transparent to all. TD explained that confidentiality is important in some cases and not all information can be shared in the public domain. Can be subject to freedom of information act.
- TD stated planning team working hard and adjusting to process changes due to COVID. Best efforts to make all information available online asap in all cases.

- Woore PC has used Planning Committee in some cases with no success as decisions are made by the Chair/Vice Chair only.
- Councillors' consensus that WNP is a statutory document and must be given due consideration and full weight. CPRE support view.
- Resident commented that there has been a democratic deficit regarding the WNP; when residents vote as they did at referendum for the plan, they expect their vote to count. Details are important and it is these details that are being ignored.

## **Enforcement**

- TD confirmed not offence to have no planning permission unless building is listed or conservation area.
- SC Enforcement Team must consider if expedient and proportionate to act.
- 4-person team covering the whole of Shropshire. Working hard to release capacity and time.
- Chairman raised development London Road, Woore. Issues with dangerous parking, hedge removal in bird nesting season, ignoring of conditions, failure to pay CIL, blocking of pathways and now road closure requests. TD responded that developer insists hedges will be planted in next planting season. Highways /vehicle issues must be referred to Police. Hedge removal must be referred to Habitat regulations, Wildlife and Countryside Act. Damage to highways requires evidence. Traffic management plans are part of planning application review process. TD confirmed 50% CIL paid 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022 with remaining due 1<sup>st</sup> March, plus late payment fees.
- Noted recent communication from Eddie West, Shropshire Council reference 'pause' on CIL funding applications. Developers failing to pay is losing SC money. Must work with Parish & Town Councils.
- TD – Planning conditions are tested to ensure they can be complied with. Enforcement is reactive only, where as planning is proactive.
- Emma Green and Dave Sambrook are Shropshire Council Enforcement Team representatives for Woore Parish.

## **Drainage**

- Chairman explained that correspondence to Tim Rogers, August 2021 remains unanswered. Critical issue within Parish. 2012/13 Place Plan flagged as critical. Noted 10 days prior to meeting action taken to put cameras into the drains, no update provided.
- TD – team under significant pressure due to COVID and reallocation of staff within Shropshire Council to support grants team. 20% increase on planning applications. Significant amount of change to process and procedures. Trying to get the balance right. Ian Kilby left August 2021, improvement plan set out including communications and customer service. Improvements will take time, agree it isn't perfect.
- Seven Trent wrote to SC early September 2021 to request a moratorium until issues with drainage are resolved. WPC unaware of this, have not been sent correspondence. TD – Seven Trent can not do this. It is not up to planning to resolve the issues with drainage and the water authority can not make an application of this nature. Chairman requested sight of correspondence, stating this request can not go ignored and if Seven Trent have acknowledged this then WPC should have sight.
- Residents referred to serious flooding issues in Pipe Gate with raw sewerage, Seven Trent acknowledged system out of date and requires replacement. TD – new developments can not replace and repair existing systems, can only provide for new development requirements. Councillors and residents responded that it was new developments that exacerbate the issue, and it can not be ignored. Major towns see investment, but rural areas are constantly

overlooked. Expansion continues and planning are overlooking major issues such as drainage.

#### **21140 Open Forum – to last no longer than 15 minutes.**

HS2 - A resident referred to recent HS2 communications showing the map of mitigations. Access road signage in Pipe Gate is incorrect and should say HS2 Prohibited Traffic, there have been assurances given for these already. Chair responded that all mitigation detail is still under discussion and WPC are aware of this error and others on the map. HS2 have been asked to amend accordingly. The Clerk directed residents to the WPC website for the latest updated mitigation progress spreadsheet.

HS2 – Resident questioned if Knighton Road is included in the speeding consultation. Chair responded that WPC has requested this but SC maintain that this is not on the construction traffic route and may not be included.

HS2 – A resident questioned whether there was opportunity for anything in return for the level of disruption caused by HS2. Chair responded that the working party agreed at the beginning of the petition that any agreement would weaken bargaining power. However, there is a guarantee of £114,500 road safety fund for safety improvements over and above the mitigations. Community and Business funding pots also exist for community organisations and businesses with the application process already open. The Chair noted that a HS2 newsletter will be sent to residents soon and updates are made available in the Parish noticeboard. It is hoped that a community meeting will be called to provide an update once mitigations are agreed. The Chair reminded attendees that the Annual Parish Meeting takes place 11<sup>th</sup> April, at which there will be an update on HS2.

Roadworks – The Chair referred to the growing amount of roadworks notices impacting many areas of the Parish. Western Power notice to all residents for works 28<sup>th</sup> February 22 – 4<sup>th</sup> May 22. Residents can use the One Network mapping system which provides a contemporary and updated view of works and road closures which have been agreed – giving a ‘today’, ‘next two weeks’, ‘next three months’ and ‘next 12 months’ view of works on the road network. Visit <https://one.network/>.

\* The Chairman thanked Tracy Darke for her taking the time to attend the meeting in person. TD left the meeting.

**21144 Shropshire Council Representative Report:** for Cllr R. Aldcroft to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

In his absence, Cllr Aldcroft provided a report to the Clerk with key points as follows;

- County resources are currently working night and day to keep roads clear, clearing building damage and of course dealing with extensive flooding throughout the County. Three storms in quick succession have had a dramatic effect on the county but fortunately thanks to efforts by emergency teams hopefully damage will be minimal. Well done Steve Brown and teams.
- Still awaiting responses from SC regarding culvert works on Audlem Road and Nantwich Road which have been outstanding for far too long.
- Good Food Charter looking at food costs, local affordable supply, land & water use, serious reduction of food waste, (we currently waste 30% of our food production). Finding Inflation, wages, fuel prices, withdrawal of £20.00 uplift on UC, quality food, rural isolation, transport, and victim stigma, all place sections of our communities unable to feed their families without assistance. Food Poverty Alliance are looking for ‘Champions’ from Town and parish councils to improve communication with vulnerable families and promote schemes locally through use and creation of allotments, education, and use of common areas as community gardens, i.e., fruit trees etc.
- Arriva buses are having problems having lost drivers; therefore, some services are being cut at short notice.

- Climate Change - currently on a course regarding Carbon Literacy. Shropshire Council has declared a climate emergency and is determined to reduce its carbon footprint to zero through its activities, policies and working practices. This includes those it contracts work to. Have you considered a policy yet at Woore particularly in view of HS2 activity? Well, worth considering this 3 x 3-hour on-line course, via your clerk.
- SC Funding - currently 86% of the County budget goes to Adult and Children Care which amounts to 3% of its population. Government has not to date, added funds to our settlement figure which still leaves Shropshire with a big hole in its budgets which continues to affect projects, recruitment and infrastructure repairs.
- Thanks to the Canal & River Trust at the beginning of the month, I found myself at the bottom of Grindley Brook staircase locks. The locks are being refurbished along with a small part of the canal. It was a unique opportunity to appreciate the Victorian workmanship and the skills needed to maintain it. This part of my Tourism brief to promote liaison with all forms of transport within the county.

## 21145 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: **22/00042/VAR** (17th January 2022)

Address: Holiday Let At, Flash Farm House, Nantwich Road, Woore, Shropshire, CW3 9RH

Proposal: Removal of Condition No.6 (occupation) attached to planning permission 14/01444/FUL dated 16/05/2014 (resubmission)

\*comments submitted via delegated powers, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022.

It was unanimously **resolved** to support the application subject to consultee comments, with comments submitted via delegated powers in advance of the meeting and noting, '*...The Electric Charging Point & Heat Pump Technology support the Woore Neighbourhood Policy HOU3-Design.*'

ii. Reference: **22/00459/FUL** (11th February 2022)

Address: Proposed Development Land NE Of College Fields Farm, Audlem Road, Woore, Shropshire.

Proposal: Works to existing vehicular access to include creation of 215m visibility splay and provision of three passing places; to serve conversion of barn to three residential properties (in neighbouring authority)

Lead Councillor referred to a report circulated prior to the meeting. It was unanimously **resolved** to support the application with the following comments; '*...Woore Parish Council Supports the Application subject to Consultee Comments which should include Ramblers Association and Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships response to ensure that the Public Footpath 236/68/1 as well as 0236/52/3 Bridleway situated in the vicinity of the Development and are subject to modifications are not detrimental, they must also always remain open for use.*'

b) Decisions: to acknowledge all planning decisions made between 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 and 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022.

Reference: **21/04881/FUL** (validated: 09/12/2021)

Address: Onneley Hall Farm, Newcastle Road, Woore, CW3 9QJ

Proposal: Erection of single storey extension with link

Decision: **Grant Permission**

c) Tree Preservation Orders: to adopt comments to be submitted in response to the following applications;

- i. Shropshire Council (Land at St Leonards Church, Woore) TPO 2022  
Ref: SC/00484/22

It was unanimously **resolved** to support the TPO inclusive of 8no trees on the St. Leonards Church yard, noting Officers' comments that they are well established and should be protected.

**21146 HS2:**

- a) To receive an update from the HS2 working party on Traffic Calming/Mitigation discussions/next steps and HS2 Consultation.

The Chairman provided an update as follows;

- Remote meeting with Helen Morgan MP 25<sup>th</sup> January 22, followed by visit to Woore 4<sup>th</sup> February to visit significant areas of concern for the construction route. Helen Morgan very supportive of working party concerns, in process of arranging meeting with SC, WPC and Helen Morgan to review mitigations. Helen Morgan raised Woore Parish at meeting with SC Chief Executive Andy Begley. Appointed new Office Manager, full support given to WPC to date by Helen Morgan team.
- Remote meeting 31<sup>st</sup> January with Steve Brown (covered for Steve Smith), Tracy Darke and WPC at which Woore Speed Consultation and HS2 mitigations were discussed at length.
- Remote meeting 19<sup>th</sup> January with Rebecca Lewis, HS2 Community Engagement Officer to discuss various actions including community newsletter and meeting in due course.
- Remote meeting scheduled 2<sup>nd</sup> February with SC / Kier and WPC to discuss road modifications / mitigations. SC usual representatives declined to attend.
- ATC (traffic counters) installed at various points in the parish in advance of speed consultation. Data will be requested in due course.
- HS2 virtual meetings 28<sup>th</sup> February 22 6-8pm advertised with online booking. Event to detail design of line and works currently underway.
- Remote meeting 21<sup>st</sup> February with SC / Kier / HS2 and WPC to discussion road modifications / mitigations. WPC invite retracted by HS2 but since agreed to be included. First point of discussion is passing points proposal.
- Cheshire East Checkley Lane haulage route planning application granted approval. SC failed to respond, WPC objected along with Madeley and Betley Parish Councils. This is the alternative route for Junction 16 traffic in the event of a motorway closure, providing HS2 traffic the option to divert to the A51, left at Checkley Lane heading through Woore. The Chairman reminded attendees that all planning of this nature related to HS2 will come via Staffordshire County Council and timescales for response will be short as a result.
- Falcon Inn parking – recent dangerous incident on the car park means arrangements between the school and Falcon for school parking are currently under discussion, extension to review end Easter Term. Alternative arrangements must be sought for parents parking. SC previously pushed for the Falcon to provide resident parking and a solution is still outstanding.
- On 16<sup>th</sup> February, HS2 arranged a Safety on the Roads play to be performed for Class 3 children at Woore Primary school which was well received and should be repeated in 12 months for other years.
- Confirmation received from Rebecca Lews at HS2 Community Engagement that The Coopers has not been leased or purchased by HS2, as confirmed with HS2 acquisition team.
- Balfour Beatty / Kier remote meetings successful in building those relationships. Kier have promised adequate warning of road works planned via the Parish Council in coming weeks/months.

**21147 Grant Application – Woore Cricket Club:** to consider the application for a grant of £1,440 from Woore Cricket Club towards the replacement of existing boundary netting.

Councillors referred to the grant application form submitted and circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting, with supporting documentation. Discussion took place and it was unanimously **resolved** to support the application for a contribution of £1,440 towards the replacement of boundary netting at the Cricket Club in Woore, under Section 137.

It was noted that WPC appreciate the huge value that Woore Cricket Club contributes to the Parish and its Parishioners, particularly those young cricketers that attend the many events held at the Club and wish to support the Club with maintaining the facilities in this instance, noting in particular the difficult circumstances in which the Club has continued to operate over the last 24 months.

The Council would like to encourage the Club to seek information regarding alternative funding initiatives too and it was agreed that the Clerk would make available the most recent Funding and Grants bulletin from the National Association of Local Councils.

**21148 Finance:**

a) Invoices/payments & receipts: to resolve to approve the below detailed expenditure:

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve payments as follows;

Date	Recipient	Reason for Payment	Cheque Number	Amount (Ex. VAT)	VAT Amount	Power of Expenditure
21.02.22	Helen Jackson	Clerk Salary (Nov): Gross Pay Holiday Pay NI deduction Income Tax deduction Expenses Sundry *Inc stamps, Clerk phone, printer ink and domain renewal.	1832  (PAID)	£592.41 £2.19 £0.00 £0.00 £45.42 £27.67  (£667.69)	4.77	LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LGA 1972 s.112 (2) LG (FP)A 1963 s.5 LG (FP)A 1973 s.5 LGA 1972 s.111 LGA 1972 s.137
					<u>£672.46</u>	

b) 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: £109,598.27

Unpresented cheques: £1039.15

Balance 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022: £108,679.12

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

Split as follows;

Recreational fund: £10,346.00

CIL fund: £52,063.24

General fund: £46,269.88

The Clerk noted that the process for internal audit had begun with information having been provided to the auditor remotely.

### 21149 Clerk's Report and Correspondence

- a) To receive a summary of Reports and Correspondence for the period from 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

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

- Confirmation that Woore Bowls Club has been removed from Shropshire Councils Register of Assets of Community Value on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022. The reason for this is that the 5-year period of listing as laid out in the legislation has now expired. This was originally sought in relation to the Swan Apartments development but is not a concern now.
- Confirmation from Gary Evans at Shropshire Council that CIL payment for April 2022 is zero as no CIL was collected in the calendar year 2021 for Woore.
- Confirmation from Oakengates Management Company on 10<sup>th</sup> February, of the installation of a street sign on the Hedgerows/Grove development expected end February 2022.
- SSE electricity bills received for month. Copies of all outstanding bills to be circulated to Councillors. Change of Tenancy declined by Western Power due to no written confirmation of adoption by Shropshire Council. Jason Hughes passed to Linda Morris (Legal, Shropshire Council) for comment. Agenda item for meeting with Steve Brown and Tracy Darke 28<sup>th</sup> February. Councillors requested agenda item March meeting to discuss.

The meeting closed at 10.00pm.

### DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

14<sup>th</sup> March 2022, 7.30pm and Annual Parish Meeting 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 7.30pm

Signed.....(Chair)

Dated 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
<b>21141</b>  <b>Prop:</b> <b>Davies, K</b>  <b>Second:</b> <b>Goodman, R</b>	<b>Approval of Minutes of meeting held 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021: resolved</b> by majority to approve minutes from the meeting 10 <sup>th</sup> January 2022.	Cowey, M	X		
		Davies, K	X		
		Hamilton, C	X		
		Carter, M			X
		Blake, M	X		
		Higgin, J	X		
		Beeston, D			X