

Minutes of Woore Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting

Tuesday 1st September 2020

Held Remotely

PRESENT:

Cllr M. Cowey (Chairman), Cllr A. Allison, Cllr K. Davies, Cllr J. Higgin, Cllr J. Clarke, Cllr. M. Blake

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs H. Jackson, Clerk to the Council.

PUBLIC:

No members of the Public were in attendance.

20058 Apologies for absence

Cllrs H. Blake and Cllr. G. Irwin (Vice Chairman) had sent their apologies for absence, which were due to personal commitments. It was unanimously **resolved** to accept the apologies. Apologies were received from Cllr. Carter following the meeting and were due to technical difficulties accessing the remote meeting site. No apologies were received at the time of the meeting from Cllr. K. Chell.

20059 Declarations of Pecuniary Interests

No Councillor declared a pecuniary interest.

20060 Open Forum – To last no longer than 15 minutes

No members of the public were present to raise any matters in the Open Forum.

No Councillors raised any matters in the Open Forum.

20061 Matters Arising

No Councillors wished to raise any matters in the meeting.

20062 HS2 Dispensation

The Chairman referred to an email sent to all Councillors by Cllr. Irwin dated 23rd August 2020, whereby Cllr Irwin referred to an agreement having been reached between her family and HS2 and reassured Councillors of her desire to continue to

represent WPC in the impending HS2 House of Lords Select Committee on 14th September 2020, after 3 years of fighting the construction traffic route. Cllr Irwin explained that if Councillors found this situation unacceptable that she was prepared to step down from the petition presentation and therefore awaits a decision by WPC.

The Chairman began by reminding all Councillors of the importance of using wooreparishcouncil.org email addresses for all correspondence. Additionally, that all Councillors must have the disclaimer added to emails. Cllr Allison commented that it was her understanding that Cllr Irwin's use of a private email address was due to technical difficulties in accessing her WPC email.

The Chairman explained that the email from Cllr Irwin must be addressed in the public domain and that WPC must be fully transparent in its operations, reminding Councillors that the matter of Cllr Irwin's involvement in the HS2 Petition following this email, could not take place via proxy vote or email. The Chairman posed the question to all Councillors that this matter be discussed and requested comment from Councillors.

Cllr Davies asked if resolutions between Cllr Irwin's family and HS2 were in conflict with the detail of the WPC petition. The Chairman stated that information relating to Cllr Irwin's private agreement with HS2 was not available and that views and comments must be made without further information. Cllr Allison commented that the private agreement referred to in Cllr Irwin's email is actually on behalf of her daughter and that WPC are not entitled to request any details regarding this petition or any other.

Cllr M. Blake questioned how Councillors can make judgements without further information and discussion took place around about this point. Cllr M. Blake also questioned whether current HS2 Dispensation covering all Councillors for Pecuniary Interests also covered this matter.

Cllr Allison remarked on Cllr Irwin's commitment to the WPC petition, referring also to her specialist knowledge in logistics and the added value that this brings to the WPC petition. Cllr Allison stated that Cllr Irwin's only motivation is to act in the interests of the Parish, which the Chairman supported. Cllr. Allison stated that it is her belief that there is no personal gain to Cllr Irwin, from fighting for and on behalf of the Parish.

Cllr Davies questioned what the outcome of Cllr Irwin not continuing her role in the petition would mean for the WPC petition specifically. Cllr Allison stated that other representatives would in turn step down as it leaves too much responsibility 'on the shoulders of those left'. Cllr Clarke responded to this by recommending that in that instance, those Councillors who do not support Cllr Irwin continuing in her role should then step forward to replace those representatives that step down.

The resolution that WPC consider that Cllr Irwin continue to represent WPC with the HS2 petition as it stands, was passed by majority vote.

The meeting closed at 9.17pm.

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

14th September 2020 and 12th October 2020 (both @ 7.30pm)

Signed.....(Chair)

Dated 14th September 2020

FOR THOSE ITEMS THAT THE VOTING WAS SPLIT

Agenda Item	Motion	Cllr	For	Against	Abstain
20062	Woore Parish Council consider that Cllr Irwin continue to represent WPC with the HS2 petition as it stands.	Cowey	X		
		Allison	X		
Prop: Cowey, M.		Davies			X
Second: Higgin, J.		M, Blake			X
		Clarke	X		
		Higgin	X		