

## Minutes of Woore Annual Parish Council Meeting

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022, 7.00pm, The Victory Hall, Woore



### PRESENT:

Cllr. M. Cowey (Chairman), Cllr J. Higgin, Cllr Hamilton, Cllr G. Daville, Cllr D. Beeston and Cllr R. Goodman.

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs H. Jackson, Clerk to the Council and Inspector Claire Greenaway, PC Alan Ambrose and PC Iain McIntosh, West Mercia Police.

### PUBLIC:

There were 9 members of the public present including Tree and Path Warden, Sally Tyson.

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked those present for their attendance.

**22087 Guest Speakers: Inspector Claire Greenaway & PC Alan Ambrose, West Mercia Police:** to discuss speeding and crime related issues within Woore Parish. \*30-minute slot with Q&A to follow.

The Chairman welcomed guest speakers to the meeting and thanked representatives from West Mercia Police (WMP) for their continued support in relation to all matters, in particular, HS2.

The Clerk had provided Councillors questions to representatives in advance of the meeting and Inspector Claire Greenaway responded accordingly. She noted her awareness of the impact of HS2 construction traffic in the parish and her shared concerns following numerous visits to the sites of particular interest. A great deal of discussion took place on each question, a summary is provided below.

Q: Operation Snap was introduced late 2021 in Woore Parish, is there any data available on how successful it has been?

A: Operation Snap affords the public the opportunity to report incidents of driving offences via dash cam footage and photos. Data is only available county wide and can not be provided for Woore Parish specifically. WMP are aware of the need for an improvement in its data analysis capabilities. As a county, it is well received and in use.

Q: A51/A525 Proposed 30mph Speed Limit Feasibility carried out in May 2022. The Road Safety Team Traffic Management Advisor for West Mercia Police who visited in March 2022 states in his response: ... *I would advise that the character and environment of the roads to a large extent does not lend itself to a blanket 30mph speed limit and therefore such a speed limit will have little or no effect without significant engineering measures to achieve those desired speeds.* What would West Mercia Police Propose in engineering measures so that the 30mph would be supported?

A: Rod Lake is the Traffic Management Officer in this case. WMP does not support the 30mph currently due to high speeds, believing that without engineering works, the public will continue to speed and it will be unenforceable and 'setting it up to fail'. Engineering works could include speed bumps, chicanes, sleeping policeman, to name a few. It is the responsibility of Shropshire Council highways to investigate and propose these works. It was noted that this is high on Woore Parish Council's agenda, with the support of Helen Morgan MP. Rod Lake is in communication with Kier. Woore Parish Council is committed to pressing SC on this matter. Claire Greenaway noted that the argument put forward from WPC to date was strong and it must persevere.

Q: Shropshire Council are introducing 20mph outside schools, Woore PC requested this be included due to HS2, have West Mercia Police been in any consultation with SC in support of this problem particularly for Woore.

A: WMP have had no update to date. 20mph is not enforceable by WMP and the understanding is that engineering works should be in place to naturally lower speeds.

Q: The re-configuration at the Junction of the A51/A525 as part of the HS2 route for HGV's etc., What involvement/consultations have West Mercia Police had regarding the proposals and safety/wellbeing of the residents of the Parish.

A: WMP has not been involved to date in the modification discussions, outside of regular updates from Woore Parish Council and visits to share concerns with the Parish Council directly. WMP is not in favour of the current proposals with particular reference to the crossing points and the pick-up/drop off points for the school children bus services. WMP is willing to attend the Kier site meeting 7<sup>th</sup> November if available. Clerk to action.

Q: HS2 Ltd, as part of the Assurances given to Woore PC are to provide 5no VAS's can West Mercia Police advise on the best suited for the Parish of Woore to assist in the awareness of recognition of the Speed Limits.

A: WMP advise that Woore Parish Council leads this discussion and speaks with other Parish Councils for advise on specifications.

Q: With the recruitment of more Police Officers in West Mercia, will more visual presence be seen in Rural Communities like Woore Parish.

A: Presence is driven by supply and demand unfortunately so WMP is reluctant to make promises it can't keep. The uplift in police officers will take time with no impact until 2023 at the earliest. Mobile police van visits are monthly and will continue whilst requested. Attendance at these from parishioners is poor.

Q: We are told that we can't have enforcement while there is CSW, why? Who has imposed this and on what authority?

A: This is the policy of WMP. The police force can not prosecute a driver one day for 37mph and the next day issue a warning letter to the same driver for the same speed. It is not equitable and would lead to court cases that the Police would lose. The impact would be terrible. The Community speed watch appears to be gaining momentum, thanks for the team for this. If the parish council wishes to return to enforcement, it should advise.

Q: What figures have the Police got on the success, or otherwise, of the current situation and how do they manage it?

A: Inspector Claire Greenaway agreed to share these with the Clerk following the meeting.

Q: In the past I've been advised the police used to work with the CSW. On days when the watch were operating, a police vehicle would be in attendance. When the CSW caught a speeding vehicle the police pulled them up and issued a ticket. Can this be done again? If not, why?

A: Police presence at CSW visits has been done previously but evidence suggest that this was no more effective. The Police are unable to prosecute alongside the CSW. Repeat offenders are monitored via ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) and visited by WMP. This has happened for a repeat offender in the Parish of Woore.

Q: I [a Councillor] have reported vehicles parking on the junction of Grove crescent. Firstly, I was asked for photos and then received a request for reg numbers. I'm not a police person but felt I was doing the role. Can the police increase their presence in the village and police these kinds of activities?

A: The Police can only deal with issues of obstruction. In this case, you will be asked for as much information as possible. An incident like this can be reported via Operation Snap.

Q: Why can't we have the traffic light breaking system they have in Scotland?

A: PC Alan Ambrose referred to this case; a village on the A75 which is on the main Euro route. They received funding for traffic lights. A scheme like this would require support and funding from the local authority.

Q: Is there some mechanism by which people can be photographed recorded and prosecuted, maybe by a permanent speed camera? I would welcome any police experience as to how to solve our concerns.

A: Mr Campion (Police & Crime Commissioner) has deployed a speed camera in the south of the county as a trial.

The Clerk queried the disconnect between the messages on speed data. In one hand the Parish Council is told speeds are too high to implement a 30mph speed limit and on the other, too low to cause concern (i.e., MVAS data reported). This adds to the debate over whether the parish council should implement the Community speed watch or police enforcement. Inspector Greenaway agreed that this is misleading, and she would investigate.

The Clerk referred to average speed cameras in use in Woodseaves (Staffordshire) and the positive impact seen there. It was noted that should the parish council wish to investigate this further it could write directly to Mr Campion to request further discussion.

Q: It is accepted that once recorded and sent to Mark Booth, data from the CSW is classified. It is noticed that some vehicles have certainly been caught more than once. Without knowing who these people are could we have a report back of the outcomes, especially with multiple offenders?

A: The Safer Roads Partnership are responsible for reporting on data, Inspector Greenaway to investigate.

The Chairman opened up the Q&A session to Councillors and members of the public; queries were raised on the following topics;

- Sight lines on Audlem Road to A51. If a car is parked visibility is restricted. The Chair noted this had been raised with Kier as part of the HS2 road modification plans and a proposal to narrow the junction.
- It was confirmed that speeding tolerances are set at a county level and there is discussion internally to lower these.
- Smartwater marking – dates can be made available for session in Woore, Clerk and PC Alan Ambrose to action.

#### **22088 Welcome / Present, Apologies and/or absent**

Apologies were received from Cllr M. Carter due to sickness and from Cllrs M. Blake and K. Davies, due to personal commitments. Apologies were also received from Cllr R. Aldcroft, Ward Member Shropshire Council, who provided a report to the Clerk prior to the meeting. It was unanimously **resolved** to accept apologies.

#### **22089 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 disclosable pecuniary interests were declared.

#### **22090 Requests for Dispensations of DPIs**

No requests for dispensation were received.

#### **22091 Open Forum: to last no longer than 15 minutes**

A resident queried work beginning on the Audlem Road development. The Chair confirmed that this had been noted and the Shropshire Council has been notified for the benefit of CIL commencement. Updates to follow.

A resident queried if the 2 new houses built on London Road fulfil planning conditions. The Chairman confirmed that the issue had been raised with SC enforcement and that the planting of the hedge remains outstanding. Further, there is an additional road access to what was detailed in the plans. Further updates to follow.

The Chairman noted the fantastic achievements of both Woore Bowling Club and Woore Cricket Club in recent months, requesting that the Clerk write on behalf of the Parish Council to congratulate all involved.

Gravenhunger Lane is currently closed under 4 way-lights due to works by Western Power, however residents were not advised directly by WP as promised.

**22092 Approval of the Minutes:** of the Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022, with no amendments.

**22093 Matters arising:** to cover any matters arising from Minutes referred to in 22092.

The Chairman referred to the response from Cllr Aldcroft to the Clerk, following the reference at the September meeting to the positioning of his report on the agenda. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to this matter as appropriate. Councillors noted their disappointment regarding this matter. The Clerk reminded Councillors of the importance of contacting Cllr Aldcroft as required via email rather than waiting for monthly meetings.

**22094 Planning:**

- a) **Decisions:** to acknowledge all planning decisions made between 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

No decisions were reported between 26<sup>th</sup> September and 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

- b) **Northern Planning Committee Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022:** to receive an update if available, on action in response to the granting of permission for the following application, including resolution 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022, to engage Ashtons Legal to act on behalf of the Parish Council in respect of this matter. (Station Yard, Pipe Gate, Market Drayton, Shropshire (22/01789/OUT))

The Clerk provided an update that the terms of service had been approved and a formal letter was expected to be drafted on behalf of the Parish Council imminently.

**22095 Committee and Representatives Reports:** for Councillors/representatives to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters as required.

**Shropshire Council Remote Meetings** – the meeting focussed on flooding/drainage matters only with an update provided on all matters the Parish Council is monitoring on behalf of residents. In reference to the surface water system report conducted earlier this year, Shropshire Council does acknowledge that this requires capital spend and is investigating next steps. Updates to follow.

**Village Hall** – Cllr Beeston referred to a report circulated in advance of the meeting and noted the following;

- An application for HS2 funding had commenced with a committee formed. Updates to follow.
- A music player is now available for use in the hall, which works for Bluetooth, CD or MP3.
- Parish Council document storage feasible, to be picked up by the Clerk.
- Film nights: 15<sup>th</sup> Oct - Belfast, 12<sup>th</sup> Nov - Operation Mincemeat, 10<sup>th</sup> Dec – TBC, 14<sup>th</sup> Jan – TBC
- Cafe and book sale: 28<sup>th</sup> Oct, 25<sup>th</sup> Nov, 24<sup>th</sup> Jan.

**Fix My Street** – Cllr Daville referred to a report circulated in advance of the meeting that is also available on the PC website. The number of streetlights currently on in daytime hours was noted for Cllr Daville to report. FMS is to be the primary agenda item for the upcoming SC remote meeting.

**Community Speed Watch / MVAS** – Cllr Blake shared a report in advance of the meeting, noting that data from the MVAS located at Woore School on the A51 (30mph) was circulated to the Crime Commissioner, West Mercia Safer Roads, Shropshire Council and interested parties. Further analysis of the MVAS Data shows 3,529 prosecutable incidents (vehicles travelling at 35mph or more) at this location during the period, giving a running total of 89,971 prosecutable incidents YTD. It was noted that due to a battery failure on the MVAS, this is unlikely that this is the total number of prosecutable incidents. It was also noted that this location (the school entrance) has had the MVAS located there for 137 days YTD in Jan, Feb, Mar, July, August, September and October, showing a total of 39,406 prosecutable incidents YTD.

Cllr Hamilton noted that applications for new volunteers for the CSW were still in progress. Posters to encourage more volunteers were placed in the Parish noticeboard and Village Shop. Please contact the Clerk for more details.

**Trees & Pathways** – The issue concerning the electric fence on Cherry Tree Lane is ongoing. New markers and finger posts are required also. The condition of the footpath joining the A525 and St. Leonards Play Area was also reported as requiring attention due to deterioration of the ground causing a bank on one side and limited access to pushchairs/wheelchairs. It was requested that Cllr Daville report both issues via Fix My Street for SC to investigate/action accordingly.

**22096 Shropshire Council Representative Report:** for Cllr R. Aldcroft to provide reports/updates on any relevant matters.

The Clerk referred to a report circulated in advance of the meeting and provided below;

*I have a police panel meeting with Clare Greenaway and PC Ambrose this coming week, an opportunity to reinforce issues raised at Woore and within the Division. I have noted the issues raised on the agenda and will discuss with the Chairman and Clerk the morning after the meeting.*

- *In answer to the previous meetings question, regarding Acton Scott working farm. Following a public survey and review it is very unlikely that the financial support from SC for this project will be there in the future. I am given to understand that SC Officers are still looking at non fiscal support should the project find alternative funding.*
- *In respect of works which finally took place at the property in question on Audlem Road last week, the resident awaits the winter to test the repairs and new pipework, however I am preparing a formal complaint to submit to the CEO of Shropshire Council, regarding the length of time and poor communication during the three years it took to complete the job.*
- *The Chief Fire Officer is retiring in the new year, and the Fire Authority of which I am a member will be meeting prospective candidates in November. I am also aware that employers have offered the Fire Unions 5% rather than the 2% previously offered, they are considering their response.*
- *The LED lighting gangs are out and about again, please remind residents also that they need to contact Shirehall if they want a new purple bin, which will stop all the plastics from being blown across the highways and they can keep the black bins.*
- *The Parliamentary Boundary review is due to report within the next weeks, which will set the numbers of seats in parliament and the areas they cover.*
- *Local Plan is due to be published and local Information sessions will be held in October/November. Local presentation at 2.30pm on 8th November at Festival Drayton.*
- *There has also been a cabinet reshuffle at SC, when the dust settles, I'll let you know who is doing what where and how.*

**22097 HS2:** to receive an update from the HS2 working party on Traffic Calming/Mitigation discussions/next steps and HS2 Consultation.

The working party noted that all actions since the previous council meeting had been circulated to Councillors. A summary was provided as below;

- Only Gary Parton was present to represent Shropshire Council on the Kier monthly meeting.
- Shropshire Council appear to only just be recognising their responsibility to monitor and maintain all mitigations / road modifications once implemented.
- Notice from Kier for ground boring work to commence 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023, proposed night working 7pm-5am on A525 to start, with junction works in early Jan. Updates to follow. It was noted that HS2 had not advised Shropshire Council of these dates prior to Kier reaching out to WPC.
- Community Fund webinar was very helpful and attended by the Village Hall, as referred to in the early report. It was agreed that this was very positive news. It was noted that funding applications should use the CA5 reference and not CA4 (Woore) for the purpose of meeting the application criteria, as advised by Groundworks.

**22098 Streetlights:** to receive an update on the response from Shropshire Council to correspondence relating to the adoption of streetlighting in Woore Parish.

The Clerk referred to the response from Shropshire Council noting its disappointment that the proposal to take full responsibility for all streetlights from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 was not accepted by the parish council.

Discussion took place with all Councillors contributing. Councillors were reminded that the resolution to object to the proposal had been passed and therefore the request from Shropshire Council to provide streetlight related expenditure since October 2019 would be carried out by the Clerk. A draft response would be provided to Cllr Blake for approval.

## 22099 Finance

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

It was unanimously **resolved** to approve the following payments as presented, including those already paid. The Clerk noted the addition of two payments received (as reported below). The VAT refund was paid in error in relation to a previous claim that HMRC advised was 'lost' in the post. The Clerk to investigate and refund accordingly. The compensation from Natwest was received in relation to poor customer service for online banking set up; yet to be resolved.

Date	Recipient	Reason for Payment	Cheque Number	Net Amount	VAT Amount	Power of Expenditure
10.10.22	Helen Jackson	Clerk Salary (Sept): Gross Pay Bank Holiday Pay (nil) Holiday Pay Accrued (6 months Apr-Sept 22) NI deduction Income Tax deduction Mileage Expenses Sundry *stamps, flowers QEII memorial, printer ink	1876	£556.61 £0.00 £441.25  -£8.60 -£23.17 £0.00 £45.42 £26.92  <u>£1043.44</u>	£5.01	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 LG A 1972 s.111 LGA 1972 s.137
01.10.22	Tony Seabridge Grounds Maintenance	Grass cutting 01/09/2022 - 30/09/2022	1877	£150.00	£30.00	HA 1980 s.96(5)
04.10.22	British Legion	Donation to Poppy Appeal *Section 137	1875	£100.00	£0.00	LGA 1972 s.137**
Date	Payee	Reason for Payment	Cheque Number	Net Amount	VAT Amount	Power of Expenditure
07.09.22	HMRC	VAT Return payment	n/a	£855.16	n/a	n/a
22.09.22	Natwest	Compensation	n/a	£300	n/a	n/a

b) Bank reconciliation: for the Council to receive and accept the September month end bank reconciliation.

The Clerk circulated a full report prior to the meeting and presented the months bank reconciliation figures as follows;

Current Account	£100.00
Reserve Account	£126,898.13
Total Balance	£126,998.13
Unpresented Cheques	£2,123.44
Closing Balance	£124,874.69
Split as follows;	
Recreational Fund	£10,346.00
CIL Fund	£52,063.24
General Fund	£62,465.45

- c) Budget 2023-2024: for the Clerk to provide a brief on the preparations for budget discussions at the November meeting.

The Clerk explained the process for budget setting and agreed to circulate all relevant documents in advance of the November meeting for comment/discussion. Remote Teams sessions will be scheduled to provide Councillors with the opportunity to discuss actual, projected and forecast figures with the Clerk. Councillors were reminded of the importance of including draft costings with any budget items they wish to propose. The Clerk referred to the Clerk and Chairman list of duties/projects circulated in advance of the meeting for reference.

It was noted that support for no further increase to last years' precept was agreed in principle for the purpose of the Clerk providing forecast figures.

**22100 Clerk's Report and Correspondence**

To receive a summary of Reports and Correspondence for the period from 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

The Clerk noted that the official notice for the 'Notice of Conclusion of AGAR' was provided on Parish noticeboards on 27<sup>th</sup> September as dated but there was a delay on upload to the website due to a technical issue.

The Clerk noted an update from Shropshire Council that the issue regarding white lines on the junction at the new Grove development had been assigned to the development control team for competition, as confirmed by Shropshire Council.

All other correspondence for the period stated above was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

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The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Parish Council Meeting Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022, 7.30pm and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022, 7.30pm

Signed.....(Chair)

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