

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Held Wednesday, 6 September 2023
7pm - The Community Centre at Vicarage Lane Fields**

Present: Councillor William McKnight (Chairman), Councillors John Whiteley, Christopher Horridge and Michael Crosby; Cllr Helen Thompson (via MS Teams)
Co-opted Committee Members: Mr David Crook, Mr Charlie Neve and Mr Brian Lomas (via MS Teams).
Four members of the public

In Attendance: Mrs Krystyna Pilkington (Clerk to the Council)

1. Apologies

Cllrs Mike Grimes and Janet Brown
Mrs Eileen Longmore and Mrs Ira Whiteley

2. Declaration of Interests

None

3. Village Issues

Hedge at Whiteacre Park

It was reported that the hedge at Whiteacre Park had still not been cut.

**4. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
(7 June 2023)**

Resolved: The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 7 June 2023 were approved as a true and correct record.

5. Annual Inspection of Property

The report on the Annual Inspection of Property, which contained the observations of the members of the Committee during the inspection and their suggestions with regard to the way forward, was received. *See Appendix A*

It also included information about issues that had been addressed to date and others that would soon be addressed and was discussed in depth.

Mr Neve updated the Committee on issues at Crooke Village:

- Following the introduction of the new signs by Wigan Council there were now four signs close to each other which all said the same things. Dist Cllr Vicky Galligan had recently met with representatives of the CVRA and her attention had been drawn to this. She had undertaken to try to make arrangements for one of the new signs to be moved to a different location. The CVRA would move the one installed

on the instruction of Mrs Janet Brown when she was a Wigan ward councillor to another location.

- Now that Wigan Council had established that they were the owners of the land on which the missing bench that had been taken away for repair had once stood, Cllr Vicky Galligan had agreed to ensure that it was replaced.
- City of Trees representatives had originally planted 600 saplings. They had visited in 2022 and had replaced those that had died. Although very small, 80% of the saplings were still there.

Cllr Helen Thompson observed that the Highways grid installed by Wigan Council at the entrance to Memorial Park next door to the school needed to be re-set, as it was a trip hazard. The Clerk would write to Wigan Council to ask them to do this. She was also asked to write to Wigan Council about the poor maintenance of both Stockley and Whiteacre parks.

Cllr Mike Crosby reported that in 2022 he had been assured that the hedge at Whiteacre Park would be cut over the Winter. As to date it had still not been cut, he would deal with the matter in his capacity as a Wigan ward councillor.

Resolved: The Committee accepted the report on the Annual Inspection of Property and approved the actions taken to date and proposed going forward.

6. Agreement Between the Parish Council and the Friends of Shevington Memorial Park

This item had been deferred from the August Council meeting. The FSMP had revised the document in line with a matter raised during the Council meeting in June. One or two minor amendments to the wording had been introduced by the Clerk and the document has been sent to the FSMP for their consideration.

It was reported by the member who had been liaising with them that the FSMP had accepted all of the amendments.

Resolved: The Committee accepted the revised agreement and recommended to the Council that they should approve it for signature.

The member acting as liaison reported that the FSMP wished to thank the Parish Council for their support of the Family Fun Day, especially Cllrs Chris Horridge and John Whiteley, who had between them supervised the car park. The Fun Day had raised £560. In addition the Plough & Harrow pub had held a fundraiser in aid of the park development over the same weekend and had made a donation of £1,100 towards their funds.

7. Remembrance Sunday - Update

There were no updates at this time.

8. Christmas Decorations

Information about the cost of supplying, fitting, removing and disposing of four Christmas trees was received and discussed. The supplier had agreed to retain the same prices as in 2022.

Resolved: The Committee recommended to the Finance Committee that an order should be approved for 1 x 22ft tree (for the centre of Shevington) and 3 x 18ft Nordmann trees (for the other three locations), delivery, installation and removal at the prices quoted.

9. Litter Bin in Longbrook

Following a request from residents of a property in Longbrook that a litter bin on the pavement outside their home should be moved, the Clerk had been asked to identify a similar alternative location close by for the bin, which was also at the entrance to a footpath into Elnup Wood.

Relocation had been looked into. The nearest alternative points of access via a footpath into Elnup Wood were at the junction of Longbrook with Parkbrook Lane to the north and at the kick-about in High Park to the south. Both already benefitted from litter bins provided by Wigan Council nearby.

Another suggestion had been put forward at the Council meeting in June. This was to use the bin to replace the Parish Council's bin on the kick-about at the centre of Longbrook, as this bin was in very poor condition, and to reduce the litter collection contract by one bin. The Clerk advised that the cost of this action would be £50 for removing the old bin and replacing it with the nearly new one. A saving would be made with regard to the Litter Collection contract. This was discussed.

Resolved: The Committee recommended to the Finance Committee that the old, rusty litter bin in the Longbrook kick-about should be replaced by the much newer bin located on a pavement in Longbrook at a cost of £50.

10. Liverpool City Region & West Lancashire Recreation Mitigation on the Coast SPD Scoping Report Consultation

The Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) of the Liverpool City Region (Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, St Helens, Sefton and Wirral) and West Lancashire were jointly preparing a Recreation Mitigation on the Coast Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), in partnership with Natural England and the National Trust. The purpose of this consultation was to engage stakeholders in considering the scope and content of the SPD.

Further information, including the SPD Scoping Report and Comment Form, could be viewed online. The link had been provided. The SPD consultation had commenced on Monday 14 August and would end at 8am on Monday 9 October 2023 and the Parish Council had been invited to consider responding.

Members noted the consultation.

11. LJLA Airspace Transition – Update

An information sheet, the objective of which is to bring members up to date with the Liverpool John Lennon Airport (LJLA) Airspace Change Proposal (ACP), was received. The Parish Council had been consulted about the proposed changes from time to time and Cllr John Whiteley had taken part in some of the sessions associated with consultations in the past. Members noted the contents of the information sheet.

12. Planning Applications

- **A/23/96023/PDQ - Wood Farm, Back Lane, Appley Bridge, Wigan, WN6 9LE**

Prior notification for change of use from agricultural building to 5 dwelling houses. The application was discussed. It was reported that the structures for which the Change of Use had been applied had originally been breeze block stables before they had become sheds, which currently housed agricultural machinery. This apparently meant that they would be perceived as buildings of structure if they had been in place for seven or more years and be considered part of the footprint.

There was considerable opposition to the application for a variety of reasons. Residents were of the view that some of the landowner's past activities had resulted in having a negative impact on neighbouring properties, eg causing flooding.

The impact on wildlife of any future development was giving rise to concern. The land in question was at the rear of properties in Hullet Close. These neighbouring properties were at a significantly lower level and would be overlooked by the properties in any new development at this location at Wood Farm.

Resolved: An objection would be submitted on behalf of the Council.

13. Dates of Next Meetings

27 September (Council); 4 October (P&GP Committee)

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7:43 pm.

Chairman