

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shevington Parish Council
Held Wednesday 27 September 2023
7:00pm – The Community Centre at Vicarage Lane Fields**

Present: Councillors William McKnight (Chairman), Christopher Horridge, Helen Thompson, John Whiteley and Jessica Diggle (via MS Teams)
3 members of the public

Officer in Attendance: Mrs Krystyna Pilkington (Clerk)

94 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Mike Crosby, Janet Brown and Mike Grimes

95 Declaration of Interests

Cllr John Whiteley w.r.t. Item No.107 (*personal*)
Cllr Chris Horridge w.r.t. Item No.116 (*personal and prejudicial*)

Standing Orders were suspended.

96 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

History of Shevington Community Primary School

A resident, who was a member of an old Shevington family address raised concerns about the research carried out in recent years into the history of Shevington Community Primary School and the proposed inclusion of this in the new Extra Care facility at Miles Lane. Although the resident had no formal connection with the research into the history of the Primary School, she was very interested in the project, as at least 5 generations of her family had attended the school.

The resident did not wish to challenge any of the facts and figures involved, but wished to ensure that the past communities of the village who attended the school should be accurately represented (particularly if a book was ever written about it) and she wished to bring these concerns to the notice of the Parish Council. In her view it was essential that readers should be made aware of the special value of the school to the local community over several generations, how central it had been and the great esteem in which it had been held.

Cllr Jess Diggle joined the meeting.

A discussion followed. The resident was advised that, as far as the Council were aware, there were no plans in the pipeline for a book on the history of the school to be written. At present the only thing under discussion was the inclusion of displays of photographs and artefacts relating to the school within the new building. It was suggested that perhaps the resident should make contact with the person who had carried out the research into the school's history and to discuss matters further with her, if that was what she wished to do.

97 District Councillors' Reports

The Clerk had received a report from the Wigan ward councillors earlier that day and read it out to the Council. *See Appendix A*

*Standing Orders were reinstated.
Cllr Terry Bridge joined the meeting.*

98 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council (30 August 2023)

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 30 August 2023, were approved as a true and correct record.

99 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that there were two things that were concerning him:

- The parking on the corner at Mill Lane, Appley Bridge on a daily basis at 5pm was horrendous, yet no one ever seemed to raise the issue.
- Unwanted material from the old school site at Miles Lane was regularly spilling over into the road. It needed to be removed daily, but this did not seem to be happening. He would raise it with the project manager when he attended the Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting the following week.

100 Reports from Councillors

e-Bikes on Council Estate

A member reported that a several residents of the Council estate had raised concerns about the number of e-bikes being used on the estate. He was advised that this was an ASB matter and that he should advise residents to report the sightings to the Police via 101. The 101 reporting system only worked effectively if a specific issue was reported by many people. e-bikes were only legal in areas where they were being trialled. In such areas they had to be company owned.

Concrete Wagon Parking in Manor Road, Shevington

Another member reported that the concrete wagon was still parking illegally in the area, this time on double yellow lines in Manor Road. Members were reminded that they should report all illegal parking (accompanied by photographic evidence) to Wigan Council.

101 Reports from Representatives

Shevington & District Community Association

The representative reported that twelve people had attended the meeting the previous evening. The following were discussed:

- new tech courses available at Shevington Library once it had re-opened;
- up-coming Gardening Club sessions;
- the next Quiz Night, which would be held on 26 January to raise funds for the Association;
- Shevington Fete on 22 June 2024;

- the digital display screen.

Crooke Village Residents' Association

The representative reported that:

- Dist Cllr Vicky Galligan was confident that she could persuade Wigan Council to move one of the new signs to another entrance to Crooke Park and the CVRA, for their part, would move one of the older signs to another location;
- the key to the new notice board would be lodged with the Chair of the CVRA;
- further news about the replacement for the bench that had been removed and not replaced was awaited – if necessary the Wigan ward councillors could use Brighter Borough funds to do this;
- the Remembrance wreath for Crooke Village was on the agenda for the next CVRA meeting – the possibility of a short ceremony being held was to be discussed.

Shevington Youth Club

It was reported that 25 had attended the Youth Club session the previous evening. The representative reported that sessions were held once a week and three youth workers were required to run a session with that number of attendees. The youth workers employed by the Youth Club were very good.

Friends of Shevington Memorial Park

It was reported that the two wood carvings had collapsed very recently and needed to be removed. The bench next to them had been refurbished and was now in excellent condition.

There were no reports from

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

'in Bloom' Groups

Patient Participation Group

Vicarage Lane Fields Developments

Vicarage Lane Allotments

Forest Fold Allotment Tenants Association

Shevington Fete

102 DRAFT Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees (6 September 2023)

The previously circulated minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committee meetings held on 6 September 2023 were received.

103 Agreement Between the Parish Council and the Friends of Shevington Memorial Park

The FSMP and the Policy & General Purposes Committee had agreed the revisions to the document and the Committee had recommended that the Council should ratify the agreement.

Resolved: The agreement between the Parish Council and the Friends of Shevington Memorial Park was approved.

104 Remembrance Sunday Arrangements - Update

It was reported that the wreaths for Remembrance Sunday had been ordered.

The Clerk reported that a suggestion had been made that the Chairman of the Parish Council should attend the annual service held by Shevington Vale Community Primary School at 11am on Friday, 10 November and lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council. As the Chairman would be at work, the Vice Chairman had agreed to attend in his place.

Resolved: It was agreed that the Vice Chairman would lay the new wreath for Shevington Vale during the above service, if that was feasible.

The Clerk would apologise to Cllr Mike Grimes and explain the change in plans to him at the appropriate time.

105 Christmas Shop-Front Competition

Arrangements for the Christmas Shop-Front Competition were discussed.

Resolved: It was agreed that the competition would once again be held in 2023. Mrs Pam Powell was to be invited to judge the competition. The shops would be informed via a leaflet, which would be distributed to them in person by members. An announcement would also be made in the newsletter.

106 Annual Community Awards

For the past six years the Parish Council had been presenting awards to residents who had done something outstanding for the local community. The awards had usually been presented by a local dignitary during the Annual Parish Meeting in March.

Resolved: It was agreed that Annual Community Awards would be presented in 2024 and nominations would be invited in the next edition of the newsletter.

107 Digital Notice Board

Cllr John Whiteley explained that his application to The Lottery on behalf of Shevington & District Community Association for a grant for a digital notice board to be located at Shevington Library had been turned down on the grounds that he had not consulted a sufficient number of people about it. As he intended to submit a fresh bid, Cllr Whiteley had approached the Parish Council for a letter of support for the application.

Two documents had been circulated prior to the meeting. One showed what the board would look like. The other was the consultation notice. Both signs were currently on display in the Library foyer. The Council discussed the request and considered a draft of the letter of support.

Resolved: Members agreed that the project was a good idea and approved the letter of support.

Cllr Jess Diggle left the meeting.

A discussion about the cost of the project followed. Cllr Whiteley explained that they grant application had included the initial costs of the equipment, installation and set up and several years of maintenance and running costs.

Resolved: Members agreed that the Parish Council's logo could be used on the digital notice board and that a page relating to it could be set up on the old website.

108 November Newsletter

The November edition of the newsletter is due to be distributed during the last week of October.

Resolved: The following were approved for inclusion:

1. Remembrance Sunday
3. Christmas Shop-Front Award
5. Annual Community Awards
6. Shevington Annual Show
7. Official Opening of New Play Equipment / Family Fun Day
8. Flooding in Crooke Village
9. Annual Parish Walk
10. Digital Notice Board

109 Clerk's Report

There was nothing additional to report.

110 Financial Aid Applications

None.

111 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure schedule for September was received.
See Appendix B

Resolved: That the accounts be approved, the cheques signed and internet transfers be made in payment, due notice being given to the bank statements exhibited.

112 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to bring to the attention of the Council.

113 Next Meetings

4 October (P&GP Committee); 25 October (Council)

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Resolved: That, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

The remaining members of the public withdrew from the meeting.

114 Christmas Decorations

The Council considered quotations from Wigan Council's Street Lighting section for dressing the four Christmas trees with Christmas lights, connection and removing them after Christmas and also for installing and removing the 11 wraparound garlands in Appley Bridge and Shevington Moor. Street Lighting had confirmed that £1,100 would be available from Wigan MBC's Christmas decorations budget for the Borough towards the costs covered by the Parish Council.

Resolved: The Council approved a gross expenditure of **£3,663.22** on the decoration of the four Christmas trees and the lamp posts specified above.

Together with the cost of **£3,000** previously approved for the lamp post motifs in the centre of Shevington this gave a grand total of **£6,663.22**. When the £1,100 assigned from Wigan Council's budget was taken into account, this gave a net cost of **£5,563.22** to the Parish Council.

115 Play Area Gate Signage

Members considered proposed new signage for the gates to the play area in Memorial Park. Members observed that most of the information on the signage should be on the outside of the gates to the play area, so that users were aware of the warnings and of their responsibilities BEFORE they entered the enclosures.

Resolved: The Clerk was asked to review the possibilities and, if she considered the costs to be acceptable, was authorised to order the new signage and its fitting.

116 Forest Fold Allotment Issues

The report from the FFTA Committee was considered and discussed.

Resolved: The recommendations made by the FFTA Committee were accepted and the Clerk was asked to action them.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:54 pm.

Chairman