

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council  
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting  
Held Wednesday, 4 October 2023  
7pm - The Community Centre at Vicarage Lane Fields**

**Present:** Councillor William McKnight (Chairman), Councillors John Whiteley and Helen Thompson; Cllrs Michael Crosby and Michael Grimes (via MS Teams)  
Co-opted Committee Members: Mr David Crook and Mr Charlie Neve; Mr Brian Lomas (via MS Teams).

Mr Peter Collins, (Wigan Council's Project Manager for the re-development of the site of the former Shevington Community Primary School) was present for Items 1 to 3.  
Three members of the public

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

### **1. Apologies**

Cllrs Janet Brown, Terry Bridge and Chris Horridge  
Mrs Eileen Longmore and Mrs Ira Whiteley

### **2. Declaration of Interests**

Cllr Bill McKnight w.r.t. Item No.3 (*personal & prejudicial*)  
Cllr Mike Grimes w.r.t. Item No.9 (*personal & prejudicial*)

### **3. Miles Lane Extra-Care Facility - Update**

The Chairman introduced Mr Peter Collins, (Wigan Council's Project Manager for the re-development of the site of the former Shevington Community Primary School), who was attending the meeting in order to report on progress with the project.

The matter of mud from the site being deposited along Miles Lane by departing vehicles was raised. He reported that the road surface had been cleaned the previous Friday, but was asked if this should be done daily.

Mr Collins reported that:

- The site did not have full surface water drainage at the moment.
- The new entrance was in place and the new access road had been built.
- All foundations had been completed.
- The facility was to be called Meadow View Court and the new road would be called Gray Lane.

*Mr Brian Lomas joined the meeting.*

The reason for naming the road Gray Lane was queried. Mr Collins explained that residents had asked if it could be named after Neville Gray – a much loved retired former teacher at Miles Lane Community Primary School, who had died earlier during the year. The request had come from the residents via Dist Cllr Vicky Galligan. The Parish Council had put forward the suggestion that the road should be named after Dr

John Stuart Surman, who had started the GPs' surgery in Shevington and had also been instrumental in setting up Wigan Hospice. After a short discussion the Committee asked if the Parish Council could appeal the decision. Mr Collins reported that he had passed on the Council's suggestion for the name of the road and would feed back about an appeal once he had received it.

A member raised the issue of the school zone signage, which was still in place. Mr Collins agreed to arrange for it to be removed.

The news on the pro bono work to be carried out by the contractor was very positive. This was not a bottomless pit, but the contractor would be here for another year and would be able to provide more support. The list of projects to be supported included:

- The installation of a wheelchair accessible gate and some benches.
- The installation of signage and a soakaway at Vicarage Lane Allotments.
- Support for an Appley Bridge FC project – what form this would take was not yet known.
- Help with Shevington Methodist Church kitchen.

The Committee asked Mr Collins to pass on the Parish Council's thanks to M&Y.

A very basic website had been set up for the scheme, but it showed the layout. Enquiries about placements should be sent to Mr Collins via the Clerk. People with local connections were likely to be prioritised. There would be 32 apartments in all – 2 two-bedroomed apartments, 2 with wheelchair access and the remainder with one bedroom each. The scheme was on schedule to be completed by September 2024, but was very unlikely to be completed early.

*Dist Cllr Vicky Galligan and two other residents joined the meeting.*

There followed a brief discussion with Dist Cllr Vicky Galligan about her reasons for suggesting that the road should be named after Neville Gray.

*Mr Collins was thanked for attending and left the meeting.*

#### **4. Village Issues**

##### **Naming of the New Road Leading to the Extra-Care Facility**

The Committee explained why they would be appealing the decision made by the officer at Wigan Council responsible for naming roads, if that were a possibility.

##### **New Signage at Crooke Park**

The possibility of moving one of the new signs at Crooke Park to a different location within the park was also discussed with Dist Cllr Galligan. The officer responsible for allocating the signage had turned the request down and the Clerk was asked to write to the officer on behalf of the CVRA once she had attended a site meeting with Mr Charlie Neve early the following week to agree the new location for the sign the CVRA wished to be moved.

#### **5. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting (5 September 2023)**

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 5 September 2023 were approved as a true and correct record.

A member observed that the Plough & Harrow's fundraiser in aid of new play equipment for Memorial Park had actually taken place the previous weekend. The pub had then followed this up by selling raffle tickets during the weekend of the Family Fun Day. The Clerk advised that the minutes relating to this item had reflected what had been said at the meeting.

## **6. Remembrance Sunday - Update**

The Clerk reported that Wigan Council had been in touch to confirm the details of the Parade and Service, which would begin at 10:45am. Wigan Council were responsible for publishing it.

## **7. Christmas Shop-Front Competition Leaflets**

A copy of the leaflets to be delivered to local shops informing them that the competition was going ahead had been circulated to members. At the Council meeting the previous week it was agreed that the leaflets would be divided amongst members to distribute to shops in different areas. This was discussed briefly.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that Cllr Mike Grimes would cover the shops at Randall's Corner and Woodnook Road, Mr Brian Lomas would visit the hairdresser's in Shevington Moor and Cllr Helen Thompson would engage with shops in central Shevington.

## **8. November Newsletter**

The text for the November newsletter had been previously circulated and was discussed.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that the second paragraph about parking during the Beer Festival would be removed and the information about additional Remembrance services would be inserted. All other text was approved for inclusion unchanged.

## **9. 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. It was reported that this application was to be considered by the Planning Committee on a date that had yet to be set.

## **10. Dates of Next Meetings**

25 October (Council); 1 November (P&GP Committee)

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7:55 pm.

**Chairman**