

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shevington Parish Council  
Held Wednesday 29 March 2023  
7:00pm – The Community Centre at Vicarage Lane Fields**

**Present:** Councillors William McKnight (Chairman), Ira Whiteley, John Whiteley and Vicky Galligan (via MS Teams)  
Five members of the public

**Officer in Attendance:** Mrs Krystyna Pilkington (Clerk)

**936 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs John Ball, Mike Grimes, Mike Crosby and Chris Horridge

**937 Declaration of Interests**

Cllrs Ira Whiteley, John Whiteley, Bill McKnight and Vicky Galligan wrt Item 952  
(*personal & prejudicial*)

*Standing Orders were Suspended.*

**938 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public**

**Great British Spring Clean 2023**

A resident raised an enquiry about group litter picking events in the area. The Keep Britain Tidy initiative was running from 17 March to 22 April, but nothing seemed to have been organised this year. The Clerk explained that, because the 2023 elections had been called on 24 March, all councillors were now in Purdah and there were certain things that they could not do during this period. Running new campaigns of this nature was one of them.

Another resident reported that the West Lancashire side of Appley Bridge had had a litter picking session the previous week.

**Dr Surman**

A resident reminded the Council about their agreement to find a way of remembering Dr Surman.

**Trophy for Shevington Annual Show**

A resident asked about progress with the trophy being donated by the Parish Council as an award for the winning exhibit in one of the classes at the Annual Show. The Clerk advised that research was being carried out into a new trophy and also into the old trophies in the Council's possession. The matter would be an item on the agenda the following week.

**939 District Councillors' Reports**

Dist Cllr Vicky Galligan reported that Wigan councillors were now in Purdah and could no longer make decisions about expenditure on new projects.

The ward councillors had allocated all of their remaining Brighter Borough funds as follows:

- £7,000 for the new kitchen at Shevington Methodist Church
- Funding for the cost of the coach taking the Art Group that met every Saturday to the Lowry Gallery at Salford
- Funding for the cost of herbicide for the pitch at Shevington Recreation Ground.

Councillors could still make reports and deal with mundane enquiries.

The CVRA representative asked about the bench from Crooke Park that had been taken away for repair. It had been due to be returned in December 2022, but was still not back.

Dist Cllr Galligan said she would submit another enquiry.

*Standing Orders were re-instated.*

## **940 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council (22 February 2023)**

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 22 February 2023, were approved as a true and correct record.

## **941 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman wished all fellow councillors who were standing in the forthcoming elections the very best of luck.

## **942 Reports from Councillors**

### **Memorial Park Improvements**

A member reported that she had recently met someone who was very interested in becoming involved with the Memorial Park improvement project. The resident knew of others who would be interested. In view of this the member wondered whether perhaps a new Friends group could be set up. The suggestion was discussed.

## **943 Reports from Representatives**

### **Shevington & District Community Association**

The representative reported that he had provided the Community Association with an overview of what the Parish Council had done in the past few weeks.

### **Crooke Village Residents' Association**

The CVRA representative reported that:

- a. The Committee had recently heard that another shed had been broken into in March.

- b. A decision had recently been taken by the Committee to go ahead with the CCTV project. £2,000 had been secured from the Brighter Borough Fund towards the cost.
- c. The Committee had been told that the missing waste bin was being replaced in mid-April by the Parish Council. Meanwhile bags of dog poo were still being left at the bin's former location and were being moved by residents.

A member of the public asked whether the CVRA still needed the green cabin. The representative replied that they did in principle. He asked the Parish Council to allow another four weeks for arrangements to be made for it to be removed. If it had still not been removed after that, then the CVRA would relinquish all claims to it.

#### **'in Bloom' Groups**

The representative reported that Appley Bridge in Bloom would be holding its annual fundraising stalls outside Booth's on 20 May. There would be a cake stall and, hopefully, a plant stall. They were hoping to raise funds for a new bridge (to be made by the blacksmith in UpHolland) to replace the one currently there.

#### **Patient Participation Group**

A member asked those present how visitors to Shevington Surgery were coping with the exit route from the surgery and clinic being closed. He was told that people were taking things in their stride and entering and leaving via the same route.

#### **Shevington Fete**

It was reported that the Fete was going ahead.

#### **Shevington Village Bowling Club**

It was reported that six members had recently undergone DBS checks with a view to holding training sessions for accompanied school groups. A class of Y6 children from a local primary school would be attending once every two or three weeks for taster and training sessions. If things went well, they would consider extending the offer to other local schools.

There were no reports from

**Shevington Youth Club**

**Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees**

**Vicarage Lane Fields Developments**

**Vicarage Lane Allotments**

**Forest Fold Allotments Tenants Association**

#### **944 DRAFT Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committee Meetings (1 March 2023)**

The draft Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committee meetings on 1 March 2023 were received.

#### **945 DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (15 March 2023)**

The DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 15 March 2023 were received.

#### **946 Tree Risk Management Policy**

**Resolved:** Following the recommendation of the Policy & General Purposes Committee, the Tree Risk Management Policy was adopted.

## **947 Asset Register**

The Asset Register was reviewed. In answer to questions from members the Clerk reported that the old and faulty Tannoy system and the obsolete Lanier photocopier had both been written-off. The Co-opted Committee member for Crooke Village was provided with information about the street furniture in Crooke that was owned by the Parish Council.

**Resolved:** The revised Asset Register 2022-23 was approved.

## **948 Forest Fold Allotments Pest Control Contract**

Wigan Council's Pest Control unit had recently provided the Parish Council with the cost of the contract for 2023-24. The cost of the contract for 12 months would be £354 - £17 more than in 2022-23.

**Resolved:** The Pest Control contract was approved.

## **949 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk's report was received. *See Appendix A*

## **950 Financial Aid Applications**

None.

## **951 Payments, Income & Bank Balances**

The Income / Expenditure schedule for March 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.

*Standing Orders were suspended.*

## **952 Planning Applications**

**A/23/95111/LA: Shevington High School, Shevington Lane, Shevington** – Single storey extension to existing dining hall, layout new macadam playground and erection of 2.4m high fencing and gates.

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed that this item would be deferred to the Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting on 5 April 2023.

*Standing Orders were re-instated.*

## **953 Next Meetings**

## **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 members of the public left the meeting.*

### **954 Memorial Park Play Area**

Replacement of four of the older items in the play area was discussed and recommended by the P&GP Committee earlier this month. The Finance Committee approved the expenditure of £22,500 using reserves designated for Memorial Park development and the play area. However, there was also the cost of re-laying the paving in the Memorial Garden to be taken into consideration

The Clerk reported that £6,779.05 had recently been transferred by the Friends of Shevington Memorial Park from their account to that of the Parish Council. The FSMP had stipulated that these funds should be used for the development of Memorial Park and had been added to the Memorial Park Development reserve.

The matter was discussed briefly.

**Resolved:** The Council approved the Policy & General Purposes Committee's recommendation that four of the older items in the play area should be replaced by like for like equipment from Wickstead's and ratified the Finance Committee's decision to approve an expenditure of £22,500 on that equipment.

### **955 Memorial Park Paving**

Quotations for the re-laying of the paving in the Memorial Garden were considered by the Finance Committee earlier in March. The sources of funding potentially available to the Parish Council were taken into account.

**Resolved:** The Finance Committee's recommendation to the Parish Council that the contract – to the value of £13,365 - for re-laying the paving in the Memorial Garden should be awarded to Masterplan.

**Resolved:** A virement of £6,158 from the 2023-24 General Reserve to the Memorial Park Development reserve was approved to ensure there were sufficient funds in the reserve to meet the cost of the work.

### **956 Fly Tipping at Vicarage Lane Fields**

The Clerk reported that she had started to look into the possibility of the fly tipping being carried out by a company working in the area as part of its social / environmental responsibilities programme. Contact had been established through a member of Shevington FC with a civil engineering company based in Manchester. The company's Civils Director had confirmed that this was something they might be able to do.

When the company could do the work would depend on the availability of their teams to do it. One of the company's site managers had been asked to arrange a meeting on site to assess what needed to be done and how much time it would take.

### **957 Forest Fold Grounds Maintenance Contract**

Quotations for the grounds maintenance contract at Forest Fold were considered.

**Resolved:** The contract – to the total value of £2,392.44 – was awarded to Envirocare MS Ltd.

### **958 Plants & Planters Contract**

Quotations for the Plants & Planters SLA were considered.

**Resolved:** The Plants & Planters SLA for 2023-24, which would cost £9,330, was awarded to Moss Bank Nurseries.

**Resolved:** A virement of £1,828 from the 2023-24 General Reserve to the 'Plants & Planters' cost centre was approved to ensure there were sufficient funds in the cost centre to meet the cost of the SLA.

### **959 Crooke Village Notice Board**

It was reported that it was often impossible to open the door of the poster box at Crooke Village. A quote for a replacement box was considered.

**Resolved:** The fitting of a replacement poster box and refurbishment of the header by 1<sup>st</sup> Northern Signs at a cost of £1,050 was approved.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:20 pm.

**Chairman**