

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council
Finance Committee Meeting
Held Wednesday 7 June 2023
8:20 pm - The Community Centre at Vicarage Lane Fields**

Present: Councillor William McKnight (Chairman), Councillors Michael Grimes, Helen Thompson, Jessica Diggle and John Whiteley
One member of the public

Officer in Attendance: Mrs Krystyna Pilkington (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs Mike Crosby, Janet Brown, Terry Bridge and Chris Horridge

2. Declaration of Interests

The Clerk w.r.t. Item 11 (*personal & prejudicial*)

3. Minutes of the Last Finance Committee Meeting (1 March 2023)

Resolved: The Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 1 March 2023 were approved as a true and correct record.

4. Quarterly Budget Monitoring

The quarterly budget monitoring report was received and discussed. The Committee noted that the budget was currently on target.

5. Trophy for Shevington Annual Show

The Policy & General Purposes Committee had agreed that the Sienna electro-plated silver rose bowl from the Trendsetting Awards & Trophies catalogue should be ordered and had recommended to the Finance Committee that the expenditure of £190 should be approved. The recommendation was considered.

Resolved: The Committee approved the purchase of the above trophy at a cost of £190.

6. Coffee Stand in Gathurst Lane Car Park

Because of the decision taken by the Policy & General Purposes Committee earlier in the evening, this item was withdrawn.

7. H&S Risk Assessments

The previously circulated risk assessments were reviewed. As the World Health Organisation had declared that the Covid-19 pandemic was over, the need to include references to Covid as a risk factor and to its mitigation was discussed.

Resolved: Subject to the removal of references to Covid-19 as a risk factor and to its mitigation, the risk assessments were approved.

8. Community Ownership Fund

It was reported that for the first time the government had extended its £150m Community Ownership Fund to local councils and was now inviting expressions of interest. Aimed at assisting the purchase or renovation of local assets, thereby safeguarding their future, the Fund was expected to be of great interest and value to local communities wishing to apply. Along with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) had been pressing for direct access to government funding for some time, so this was a real step forward. In their view it would provide opportunities for moving projects forward where, perhaps, a public works loan may have been considered as a route to project success, but now fitted the Community Ownership criteria.

Expressions of interest in applying had to be submitted in the near future. The Committee considered the way forward with respect to this funding opportunity.

Resolved: It was agreed that Cllr Mike Grimes and the Clerk would look into the matter and, if appropriate, the Clerk would submit an expression of interest with regard to the Memorial Park Development project by the deadline.

9. Financial Aid Applications

Two grant applications were considered.

- **Standish High School Y9 Rugby Team**

Resolved: The Committee refused an application submitted on behalf of Standish High School Y9 Rugby Team for a grant towards the costs of their participation in their second National School Cup Final in Newcastle.

- **Shevington Sharks Under 14s**

On Sunday, 4 June 2023 Shevington Sharks' Under 14s Reds qualified for the Barla National Cup Final - the first team from Shevington to have reached the National Finals, which were to be held on 2 July in Featherstone.

Resolved: The Committee approved a s137 grant of £250 towards the cost of a coach for the day.

10. Date of Next Meeting

28 June (Council)

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

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 Clerk withdrew from the meeting.

11. Discretions Policy

There was a legal requirement that every employer operating a local government pension scheme should have a Discretions Policy. The proposed Policy, which had been prepared by Cllr Mike Grimes from information and advice provided by external professional agencies, had been circulated previously and was discussed.

Resolved: The Committee agreed that the Discretions Policy should be recommended to the Full Council for adoption. Once adopted, it would be lodged with the Greater Manchester Pension Fund. It was also recommended that the Policy should be reviewed annually and whenever new personnel eligible for membership of the GMPF were appointed in the future.

The Clerk re-joined the meeting and was informed of the Committee's decision.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:55 pm.

Chairman