

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council  
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting  
Held Wednesday, 1 March 2023  
7pm - The Community Centre at Vicarage Lane Fields**

**Present:** Councillor William McKnight (Chairman), Councillors Chris Horridge, Michael Grimes, John Ball and John Whiteley (via MS Teams)  
Co-opted Committee Members: Mrs Janet Brown, Mrs Eileen Longmore, Mr Charlie Neve and Mr Brian Lomas (via MS Teams)  
Three members of the public

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

**1. Apologies**

Cllrs Mike Crosby, Ira Whiteley and Vicky Galligan  
Mr David Crook

**2. Declaration of Interests**

The Clerk wrt Item No.10 (*personal*)

*Mr Brian Lomas joined the meeting.*

**3. Village Issues**

**Grass Verges in Miles Lane (Near Broadriding Road)**

It was reported that the issues in connection with the damage to the grass verges outside certain properties in this area had still not been addressed. The matter was supposed to be under investigation. The Clerk was asked to write to Wigan Council to ask for an update.

**Bin Missing from Crooke Park Entrance**

Mr Neve reported that the litter bin usually located at the entrance to Crooke Park, which had been missing since 26 January, had still not been traced. He had reported its disappearance twice to Wigan Council, but had not received a response. Meanwhile, bags of dog litter continued to pile up at the spot where it had once stood. More recently, Dist Cllr Mike Crosby had submitted an enquiry and had been told that Wigan Council did not own the bin and their operatives had not removed it. The Clerk reported that she too had submitted an enquiry to Wigan Council about the fate of the bin, but had not received a reply.

**Miles Lane Old School Site Security**

It was reported that, after Cllr Jess Higham reported recently that the school fence had been breached, Dist Cllr Vicky Galligan reported the issue to the Police Sergeant and also to Wigan Council officers. The Police had told her that the security was wholly the responsibility of Wigan Council, as they owned the land. The Police would nevertheless respond to 999/101 calls and patrol the area when possible.

The Wigan Council officer responsible for the development project had replied that the Education team were currently responsible for the security, so he would flag the current issue with them. The Major Projects Team were proposing to enter into a contract with M&Y on 13 March 2023 and from that date forward M&Y would be responsible for the safety and security of the site. They would instal fencing around the scheme and also CCTV, which would be monitored 24 hours a day. They would also employ a security firm, who will be used to visit the site and respond to any call-outs arising from the CCTV information.

Hopefully, demolition should commence in April, which meant that the draw to the site would be reduced when the buildings had been dropped, but the Major Projects Team had and would again flag up security issues with the contractor.

Wigan Council's officer had also mentioned that they had suspicions that rough sleepers might have been inside the scheme at some point. The officer had liaised with the Brick homeless outreach service over this, so that, if anyone were found within the building prior to demolition, they had someone on hand to provide support and guidance.

#### **Road Surface at Junction of Old Pepper Lane with Almond Brook Road**

The road surface between Old Pepper Lane and Almond Brook Road looked as though it had been destroyed. A Co-opted committee member asked if an enquiry could be made to find out whether this had been reported.

*Mr Brian Lomas left the meeting.*

#### **4. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting (1 February 2023)**

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 1 February 2023 were approved as a true and correct record.

#### **5. PC Bin Survey & Stock Take**

A condition survey and a stock take of the Parish Council's 28 bins had recently been undertaken. The Clerk's report was received and its contents were discussed.

Ten of the existing bins were in poor condition and would sooner or later need to be replaced. The bin at Crooke Park would also need to be replaced, as its absence was creating H&S issues. A member had been asked by residents if a new bin could be introduced at the entrance to Vicarage Lane Fields.

*Standing Orders were suspended.*

The representatives of Shevington Sharks and Shevington FC were consulted about the introduction of a litter bin at the entrance to Vicarage Lane Fields. They indicated that they had no objection.

*Standing Orders were re-instated.*

**Resolved:** The Committee recommended to the Finance Committee that:

- the bin at Crooke Park and one of the bins that were in poor condition should be replaced using funds from the 2022-23 budget
- a new bin should be introduced at the entrance to Vicarage Lane Fields using funds from the 2022-23 budget
- three of the bins in poor condition should be replaced using funds from the 2023-24 budget.
- going forward three or four bins should be replaced per year.

## 6. Plaques for Platinum Jubilee Trees

The Sign Shop at Wigan Council had provided details about the cost of a plaque of the design previously. The cost of the plaque included the wording on the plaque. Members were invited to suggest what they would like to see written on the plaque and put forward proposals. After a short discussion it was agreed that Mr Neve would compose something suitable and send it to the Clerk.

## 7. Memorial Park Drainage Matters

At the Council meeting on 22 February 2023 it had been reported that the enquiry about the possibility of discharging surface water from the park into United Utilities assets had been re-submitted and that a UU manager was reviewing the position in line with the supporting documents provided by the Parish Council.

It was reported that the manager had been in contact with the Clerk on the day following the Council meeting and had provided the following clarification:

- In line with the guidance from the Sewerage Sector Guidance Appendix C - Design and Construction Guidance v2-2: **A9 LAND DRAINAGE**, sewerage companies had no duty to accept land drainage runoff, flows from natural watercourses or groundwater to the public sewer system, and this was not normally permitted.
- Furthermore, United Utilities' policy was that they would not take any land drainage into their sewers. Therefore, United Utilities would not take the land drainage from Shevington Memorial Park & Garden into their sewers.

Following a telephone discussion on the same day, he had confirmed that UU's records showed that the Highway drain to which the proposed drainage system would be connected ran all the way from Shevington Lane to the junction of Gathurst Lane with Randall Avenue. From there it changed to a culverted watercourse that followed the line of Gathurst Lane and eventually entered an open watercourse, which followed a southwards path all the way to the Liverpool and Leeds Canal near Gathurst Bridge. Mapping provided to the Parish Council had been misleading, as it had appeared to show the Highway drain merging with a UU sewer at the junction of Gathurst Lane with Randall Avenue, this was not the case. The two sewers had been laid vertically, one above the other, and actually ran in parallel.

The matter was discussed.

**Resolved:** The following next steps were agreed:

1. An enquiry would need to be submitted to Planning to establish whether the Council needed planning permission for the drainage system.

2. Maps of the local sewer system would need to be ordered.
3. The owners of the properties through which the watercourses passed would need to be identified.
4. Whether any further permissions were required needed to be clarified.
5. Any further permissions should be sought, as appropriate.
6. Updated quotations should be sought from the Council's preferred contractor.
7. Once all of the above had been addressed to the Committee's satisfaction, the necessary information should be submitted to the PWLB.

## **8. Memorial Park Play Area**

As requested, the Clerk had obtained quotations from Wicksteads for like-for-like replacements of play equipment in the existing play area. The cost of replacing the sand with Wet Pour had also been provided by Wicksteads. One item of larger equipment for older children – for location outside the enclosures - had been included amongst the quotations to give an idea of how much a provision for older children might cost.

A report on the condition of the equipment in the play area and the costs of like-for-like replacements was received. Taking the funding available to the Parish Council into account, the way forward was discussed.

**Resolved:** The Committee recommended to the Finance Committee that four of the items of equipment in the play area enclosures should be replaced.

## **9. March Newsletter**

The proposed text for the March newsletter had been previously circulated and was discussed. Shevington Fete were currently seeking volunteers and had asked if an appeal could be included in the newsletter. This was agreed.

**Resolved:** The proposed text for the March newsletter was approved.

## **10. Discretions Policy**

The Parish Council was an employer member of the Greater Manchester Pensions Fund and in 2022 had been told that the Council had, by law, to have a Discretions Policy in place. Three documents had been previously circulated:

- (a) Guide to LGPS Employer Discretions
- (b) Discretions Policy Template
- (c) An Example Discretions Policy

Members discussed the way forward. It was agreed that a Discretions Policy could not be prepared without consulting external advisors about the potential financial impact on the Parish Council of selecting different discretions. The Clerk was asked to contact Wigan Council and find out if they could help in any way. Cllr Mike Grimes, who was the Parish Council's authorised super-user, would meet with Wigan Council's nominated representatives with a view to seeking advice.

## 11. Tree Risk Management Plan

Cllr Mike Grimes presented the completed the Plan. He had highlighted the changes and new additions to the document since its last review in yellow. The Committee reviewed the Plan and briefly discussed it. Cllr Grimes was thanked by the Chairman for all of his hard work in preparing the document.

**Resolved:** The Committee recommended the Tree Risk Management Plan to the Full Council for adoption.

Members were asked to note that the Parish Council was registered with DEFRA's Rural Payments Scheme. If there was a Woodland Management Plan in place, the Council would be eligible for refunds for work carried out on woodland, provided the work involved met the criteria.

## 12. Maybrook Investments Appeal

On 18 August 2022, Maybrook Investments Ltd submitted an application to Lancashire County Council for a Certificate of Lawful Development in relation to East Quarry. Documents relating to the application had been previously circulated.

As this application had still not been determined, towards the end of January 2023 Maybrook Investments Ltd submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate, who had validated the appeal. Because the Parish Council had previously lodged representations with regard to applications made in connection with East Quarry, Lancashire County Council had notified the Council of the appeal.

The contents of the documents relating to the appeal, the rationale behind it and the likely impact on the locality of approval of the application were discussed in detail. So too were the views of Lancashire County Council Planning Development Department on the precedent that upholding the appeal would have nationally.

**Resolved:** The Committee agreed that a representation objecting to the appeal citing the reasons mentioned in the discussion should be sent to the Planning Inspectorate.

## 13. Planning Applications

- **A/22/94648/OUT: Owd Barn Service Station, 50 Wigan Lower Road, Standish Lower Ground**

**Outline application for residential development of up to four dwellings and associated development following demolition of existing buildings**

It was reported that one of the statutory consultees had objected to the application on the grounds that the junction of the entrance to the small development with Wigan Lower Road would be on a bend with poor visibility and that this objection had been upheld by the planning officer. A short discussion followed. The only alternative would be an entrance along the narrow approach to Crooke Road. Members were of the view that it was unlikely that this would receive planning permission. The progress of this application would be monitored.

#### **14. Dates of Next Meetings**

29 March (Council); 5 April (Policy & General Purposes Committee)

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 9:01 pm.

**Chairman**