# Minutes of Shevington Parish Council Meeting Held Wednesday 28 October 2020 7:00pm – Virtual Meeting

Present: Councillor W McKnight (Vice Chairman), Cllrs C Horridge, J Higham,

V Galligan, M Grimes and M Crosby Dist Cllrs M Whitham and J Brown

Ms L Prescott (Wigan Council's Service Delivery Footprint Manager – Wigan North) and Ms L Murphy (Wigan Council's Community Capacity Officer – Wigan North) were present for Items 311 to 313

A member of the public joined briefly for part of Item 313

Officer in Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

## 311 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs J Ball, I Whiteley and J Whiteley Dist Cllr P Collins

#### 312 Declaration of Interests

None

Standing Orders were suspended.

## 313 Place Based Working

The Vice Chairman welcomed Ms Lynn Prescott (Wigan Council's Service Delivery Footprint Manager – Wigan North) and Ms Lucy Murphy (Wigan Council's Community Capacity Officer – Wigan North), who gave the Parish Council an overview on the work they did normally in the area as part of the place based working initiative, their roles in the local community since the start of the Covid crisis and the current situation in relation to the latter. See Appendix A

The Vice Chairman thanked Ms Prescott and Ms Murphy for their presentations and expressed the Parish Council's appreciation for what they were doing.

Ms Prescott and Ms Murphy left the meeting.

## 314 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

There were no matters raised by members of the public.

#### 315 New Bollards in Broad O'th Lane

The owner of a shop in Broad O'th Lane had asked for an issue to be raised in relation to the new bollards installed in front of the pedestrian crossing at this location. He had no objection in principle to the introduction of bollards to prevent illegal mounting of the

pavement, but he had been disadvantaged by the new bollards because he could not now park his van in front of his shop, but had to park it across the road in the car park, when making a delivery. He had a big van full of goods and it was now taking much longer than before to unload. The staff of neighbouring businesses had previously allowed him to park in front of their shops but the owner of one of them was now going to place a bollard there, which would prevent his doing this.

The owner of the shop wished to discuss the possibility of a removable bollard with a key being installed in place of one of the static ones. (He was willing to fund this, if necessary.) He wished to be the sole on-site possessor of the key to the bollard so that he could access the area with his van when he was making a delivery. The business owner had been hoping to join the Council for the meeting, but, due to circumstances beyond his control had been unable to attend. He had spoken to the District Councillor who had arranged the installation of the bollards. She had suggested that he approach the Parish Council before he approached Wigan Council. He was aware that the Parish Council are not responsible for installing bollards on public highways or footpaths and only have the legal power to support his request. He had asked if the Council would be prepared to do this.

Dist Cllr J Brown had been in touch with the LA and explained Wigan Council's position. It was illegal for vehicles to be driven onto a pavement – hence the reason for installing the bollards at this location, as this was what had been happening. The LA would not allow a bollard with a lock – only static bollards were permitted at this location. The owner had a rear entrance to his shop which he could us, although at present access to it was difficult.

The Council discussed the matter and agreed that they could not support the request. The Clerk was asked to let the shop owner know.

## 316 District Councillors' Reports

Reports were received from the District Councillors present. See Appendix B

The Brighter Borough scheme was focused on community support. A member asked whether it could be used to provide environmental improvements. He observed that an upgrade of the footpath that started across the road from Stockley Park and ended at Newgate Avenue would be well-received. A District Councillor replied that at present actioning things was difficult because many Wigan Council staff were not doing their normal jobs.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

# 317 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council (30 September 2020)

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 30 September 2020, were approved as a true and correct record.

In answer to a question from a member the Clerk replied that she did not yet have any information about whether there would be any charges for introducing additional surface water from Memorial Park to United Utilities' facilities.

# 318 Chairman's Report

There was no report.

## 319 Reports from Councillors

# **Remembrance Day**

Cllr M Grimes reported that he had been contacted by a representative of Appley Bridge Community Association, who had invited him to attend a breakfast she was organising at the Boat House on Sunday, 8 November. He was going to find out more about it and, as long as it was socially-distanced, he would attend, having first laid the wreath from Shevington Parish at Appley Bridge War Memorial. If he was not happy about the arrangements, he would lay the wreath at the War Memorial privately on 11 November.

# 320 Reports from Representatives

## **Shevington & District Community Association**

The Community Association had held a meeting via Microsoft 'Teams' earlier in the week. Nine people had attended. Virtual meetings would continue for the foreseeable future.

It was reported that the windows of the Methodist Church that had recently been smashed would cost £100 per pane to replace and the Church would bee applying for grant funding for help with this.

Helen Hurst had been appointed as the Community Association's representative on the Management Committee of Vicarage Lane Fields' Community Building and was now the Secretary to this Committee.

## **Crooke Village Residents' Association**

There was no report.

#### **Shevington Youth Club**

There was no report.

## **Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees**

There was no report.

#### 'in Bloom' Groups

Shevington in Bloom were selling tea-towels to raise funds. They cost £5 each. Anyone wishing to buy one was advised to contact the SinB Co-ordinator.

The Vice Chairman reported that Cllr John Ball had asked him to speak to the Appley Bridge in Bloom Co-ordinator about the possibility of the group adopting a small specific area of Back Lane, Appley Bridge, to cultivate. She had agreed to look into it.

#### **Patient Participation Group**

The representative had circulated information to members on several occasions and would continue to do so.

## **Audit, Governance & Standards Committee**

There was nothing to report.

#### **Shevington Rugby & Football Clubs**

There was no report.

## **Vicarage Lane Fields Developments**

The Community Building was due to be handed over this weekend and part of it would be opening at the weekend. The remainder of the building would need to made Covid compliant before it could be introduced into use.

Cllr J Ball had sent a message reminding the Parish Council about the drainage at the allotments.

#### **Friends of Shevington Memorial Park**

Representatives of the FSMP had met with three different companies on site to discuss new play equipment and had made arrangements for a 3D plan to be drawn up. Once this had happened one of the companies would be asked to provide an itemised list of costings. In view of the cost of each piece of equipment, the FSMP would have to fundraise and, as part of this, had set up a Crowdfunding page, the link to which would be shared with the Clerk, so that she could include it in the newsletter, etc.

Research was also being carried out into fundraising for adult outdoor gym equipment.

# 321 DRAFT Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes & Finance Committees (7 October 2020)

The DRAFT Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7 October 2020 were received.

With reference to the removal of the refuse at the rear of properties on the boundaries of Vicarage Lane Fields: it was agreed that once the refuse had been removed the Clerk should write to the owners / tenants of the properties to let them know that, if more refuse appeared, the Council were prepared to take out legal proceedings against them.

## 322 Tree from Queen's Commonwealth Canopy

Approximately 2 years ago a lady had donated two birch saplings to the Shevington in Bloom Co-ordinator. The saplings were from the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy. One of the saplings had died earlier this year. The other one was healthy, but was getting too big for the pot it was planted in and was becoming too heavy to repot. The SinB Co-ordinator had asked if it might be planted in the Memorial Garden to replace one of the two trees that had died about two years ago. The request was discussed.

**Resolved:** The Council agreed that the birch sapling could be planted in the Memorial Garden to replace one of the two beech trees that had died.

## 323 Remembrance Sunday Design Stickers

Wigan Council's Sign Shop were making poppy directional signs this year to allow for social distancing at war memorials. The Council considered the suggestion that some should be ordered for use in the Memorial Garden, but decided not to go ahead.

The Clerk reported that a company called Leisuretec (UK) Ltd would be illuminating war memorials in the Wigan area on a rota basis from 1 to 11 November in the run up to Remembrance Day. Democratic Services had added the war memorial in the Memorial Garden to the list and, subject to permission from the Parish Council, it would be illuminated for two hours – from 7pm until 9pm – on Thursday, 5 November. There

would be no cost to the Parish Council, as Wigan Council would cover the cost. The equipment would be supervised throughout the evening.

# 324 Parish Council Awards

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

**Resolved:** Members agreed that the awards would go ahead in 2021 with the caveat that, subject to the Covid situation, the manner in which they were presented might have to be different to that in previous years. Nominations would be sought in the usual ways and according to the usual time-table.

(b) The suggestion that the name should be changed to something like Community Service Awards was discussed.

**Resolved:** Members agreed that the awards should be called the Shevington Parish Council Community Service Awards.

(c) Most members had heard about the recent experiences of the Chairman of Shevington Garden Club, whose life was saved by the quick action of a passer-by - a resident of Chorley. It had been suggested that the passer-by should receive an award from the Council. This was discussed.

**Resolved:** The Council agreed to present the passer-by with a Community Service award and asked the Clerk to find out if there were any established civic awards for which the Council could nominate him.

Dist Cllr M Whitham offered to also look into this.

## 325 Asset Register 2020-21

The Asset Register was reviewed.

**Resolved:** The Asset Register 2020-21 was approved, subject to a change to the description of Item 039 from 'agricultural land' to 'playing fields & allotments'.

### 326 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was received. See Appendix C.

#### 327 Financial Aid Applications

None.

## 328 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure schedules for September / October were received.

See Appendix D.

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

In view of the current electricity costs, it was suggested that a new supplier of electricity should be looked into.

# 329 Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications to bring to the Parish Council's attention.

# 330 Next Meetings

4 November (Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees); 25 November (Council)

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:30 pm.

Chairman