

**Minutes of the Shevington Parish Council  
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting  
Held Wednesday, 7 April 2021  
7pm Virtual Meeting**

**Present:** Councillor Ira Whiteley (Chairman), Councillors William McKnight, Christopher Horridge, John Whiteley, Michael Grimes, Michael Crosby, Vicky Galligan and Jessica Higham

Co-opted Committee Members: Mrs Eileen Longmore

No members of the public were present.

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

**1. Apologies**

Cllr John Ball

Dist Cllr Janet Brown and Mr Brian Lomas

**2. Declaration of Interests**

Cllr John Whiteley re Item No.5 (*personal & prejudicial*)

Cllr Ira Whiteley re Item No.5 (*personal*)

**3. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting  
(3 March 2021)**

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 3 March 2021 were approved as a true and correct record.

**4. Village Issues**

**Damage to Installations at Randalls Corner**

A Co-opted Committee member reported that a group of young people from outside of the area had damaged some of the installations belonging to Appley Bridge in Bloom at Randall's Corner. On the same day the group had created issues at East Quarry and had indulged in shop-lifting at the Premier supermarket. The incident had been reported to Wigan Council via the Report It app.

*Cllr Mike Grimes joined the meeting.*

**Tree IMO Barry King**

It was reported that the tree had not yet been installed.

*Cllr Vicky Galligan joined the meeting.*

## 5. Parish Council Websites

The future of the two Parish Council websites was discussed. The Clerk advised that transferring information from one website to the other would involve a great deal of work. After a long discussion it was agreed that the working party should meet again for further discussion on how to move forward. Cllr Jess Higham agreed to join the working party.

## 6. CCTV for Memorial Park Play Area

Several weekends ago a considerable amount of anti-social behaviour was reported in the centre of Shevington. It happened on a Saturday night and a resident collected several bags full of litter the following morning from Memorial Park and Shevington Recreation Ground. A planter in the Rec belonging to Wigan Council was also reported to have been wrecked, with the contents strewn in the vicinity. SinB had agreed to tidy this up.

Reports of this and other occasions of ASB had also appeared on social media. One of the areas most at risk from ASB and deposits of litter was the play area in Memorial Park. There had also been requests on social media about the possibility of introducing CCTV to maintain a watch over activities in the play area. Cllr Vicky Galligan had held an informal poll via the Council's Facebook page and had received 41 replies, 37 of which had been in favour of the idea.

The suggestion of introducing CCTV to monitor the play area was discussed at great length. It was agreed that enquiries would be made into the costs, location and other possibilities. Cllrs Vicky Galligan and Mike Crosby and the Clerk would look into it. Further discussion would take place during the May Committee meeting.

## 7. Forest Fold Allotments Notice Board

During the working party meeting with the FFTA Committee on 11 March a request for a notice board for the use of the FFTA was put forward. The FFTA Committee asked whether they could use the existing one in the lower allotments' car park and were given permission to do that. They also asked whether this could be moved to the upper allotments' car park and were willing to do this.

The FFTA's request was discussed.

The notice board in question currently served two purposes:

- (a) To carry notices for both allotment activities and Parish / community activities.
- (b) As a sign letting people know that they were at the allotment car park.

Both were important factors.

If the notice board were to be moved to the upper car park, there would no longer be a provision for (b) or for notices to do with Parish / community activities.

**Resolved:** The notice board in the lower car park at the Forest Fold Allotments would remain at its current location. Permission for its use by the FFTA was approved. An open notice board frame similar to the one in the car park was currently in stock. This would be given to the FFTA to install in the upper car park purely for their use.

**Resolved:** An enquiry would be sent to the Planning Department to establish whether planning consent would be needed for the new notice board. In line with the requirements of the Parish Council's lease, permission would be sought from the LA to install a new notice board in the upper car park.

## **8. National Forest Scheme**

At the March meeting of the Committee attention was drawn to Wigan Council's project to plant one million trees (mostly whips) across the Borough. The Parish Council had been informed that the project was part of the National Forest strategy and the member who had raised the matter had reported that the officer responsible was waiting for offers of suitable locations to be proposed.

It was originally suggested that the Parish Council might wish to consider arranging for some to be planted at Vicarage Lane Fields. Issues experienced after a previous exercise of this nature and how they could be avoided were discussed. Other areas where tree planting could take place were suggested.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that the Council would let the LA officer know that they were willing to accept 100 whips in March 2022. These would be planted in pots and nurtured into larger trees for planting at locations to be agreed in the future.

## **9. Damaged Grass Verge at Crooke Village Green**

The southern verge of Crooke Village Green had over the past year suffered damage caused by vehicles driving over it. Concerns about this were brought to the Parish Council's attention by several residents in February and the issues had been discussed at the Full Council meeting at the end of that month. The Council had noted the issues and had observed that solutions would need to be discussed with Wigan Council.

**Resolved:** Cllrs Jessica Higham and John Whiteley would discuss the matter with the CVRA and forward it to Wigan ward councillors for action.

## **10. East Quarry**

### **(a) Draining and Infill of East Quarry**

The Committee were informed that the Council had received several complaints about the article in connection with the proposals for the future of East Quarry published in the March edition of the newsletter. The complainants had considered the article to be very partisan in nature, as not all residents were opposed to the proposals to develop the site. The subject had created serious divisions amongst the residents of Appley Bridge on both sides of the Wigan / West Lancashire boundary.

The Committee discussed the matter. The May edition of the newsletter would carry a statement to the effect that the article in the March edition had represented the views of the pressure group opposed to the developments, but that the Council recognised that there were residents who held a different view.

**Resolved:** The Council would continue to oppose the draining, infill and development of the East Quarry site.

A member requested a recorded vote.

FOR: Cllrs I Whiteley, J Whiteley, McKnight, Horridge, Crosby, Grimes, Galligan

AGAINST: Cllr Higham

### **(b) Parbold Hill Group**

At the February Council meeting (attended by members of the East / West Quarries and Parbold Hill Groups) members were asked if they would consider making a donation towards the costs of the legal challenge being mounted by the Parbold Hill Group to the decision made by Lancashire County Council with regard to the plans proposed for Parbold Hill. No decision was taken at the time. A proposal that a contribution be made was now discussed further.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that the Parbold Hill Group would be invited to submit an application for a grant and to clarify the identity of the recipient of a potential grant.

A member requested a recorded vote.

FOR: Cllrs I Whiteley, J Whiteley, McKnight, Horridge, Grimes, Galligan

AGAINST: Cllrs Higham and Crosby

### **11. LALC Training Survey**

The Lancashire Association of Local Councils had asked member councils to complete a training survey. This was part of ensuring that LALC continued to provide the best possible training programme and support to their member councils. Cllr Bill McKnight agreed to complete the training survey.

### **12. Mobile Phone Mast Consultation (Gathurst Farm)**

A pre-application consultation letter and plans in relation to the proposed upgrade to the existing telecommunications installation at the Gathurst Farm site were noted. No comments would be submitted.

### **13. Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications to consider.

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

28 April (Council); 5 May (Policy & General Purposes Committee)

**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.

*There were no members of the public present.*

## **15. Community Service Awards**

A final nomination for the Community Service Awards was discussed.

**Resolved:** The final recipient of the Community Service Awards was approved.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8:43 pm.

**Chairman**

DRAFT