

Shevington Parish Council
Clerk's Report to the Meeting of the Council – 15 December 2021

Development of the Former Shevington Community School Site

Peter Collins of Wigan Council's New Builds Team has been touch about the proposals for the Extra Care facility on the site of the former Shevington Community Primary School. These are currently being developed and they are hoping to be able to consult with the Parish Council and the local community next year.

Christmas Decorations

The Christmas trees were decorated during the week beginning 29 November. The lights were inspected on site by the Street Lighting operatives and some had to be relegated to the 'past their use by date' pile. Replacement stars were ordered for the trees at Crooke Village, Shevington Moor and Appley Bridge, as the existing ones were no longer working or only partially working. The ones at Crooke Village and Shevington Moor are battery operated. The one at Appley Bridge is due to be fitted this week, subject to Street Lighting's time-table. All Christmas lights have been switched on since 2 December.

The trial tree at Woodnook Road has been dressed and is being monitored.

Photographs of the trees at Shevington Moor and at Memorial Park have appeared on social media. Most comments about the trees and the way they have been decorated have been positive. (*See attached.*) The negative comments have tended to focus on the Heras fencing. Members are invited to view the trees for themselves. Photos of the trees are attached.

At a previous meeting questions were raised about the height of the trees. We ordered 18ft trees – the length from the tip to the base of the trunk. Each tree pit is 3ft deep. Hence there should be 15ft above the ground. Cllr Chris Horridge devised a way of measuring the heights of the trees without using a cherry picker and has measured them. Their heights above ground are as follows:

- Appley Bridge (Booth's) – 16ft 5in
- Shevington Moor (Whiteacre) – 16ft 4in
- Crooke Village (Crooke Green) – 17ft 9in
- Shevington (Memorial Park) – 15ft 8in

Photographic proof is available.

Consultation on Wigan Ward Boundary Changes

The Boundary Commission's consultation is now live online and closes to responses in February. This will be an agenda item in the New Year.

Storm Damage

A certain amount of storm damage has occurred at Forest Fold.

The FFTA reported that a large limb of a tree had fallen into the lower allotments car park at Forest Fold from the area surrounding the bowling green and had had damaged a fence panel and a post. A group of allotmenters moved the limb and smaller branches to the side of the car park, as it was blocking the entrance to the main allotments site. A tree surgeon quoted £150 for chipping the fallen limb and tidying up the part of the tree that had not fallen. The quote was accepted and the work has been carried out. It will be funded from allotment income. The woodchip has been left for the plot holders to use.

Several people reported that part of the felt roof of the Parish Council's storage pavilion on the site had been removed by storms. A contractor used by the Parish Council has visited and has assessed the work needed. Not only will the whole roof need new felt, but some of the plywood underneath will also need to be replaced as it has been damaged due to rot. There are also signs of wood rot on a low lying area of one side panel of the pavilion. This will need to be dealt with. The contractor has quoted £600 for all of this work. Following consultation with the Chairman and another councillor, the work was approved, as this was a matter of urgency and the contractor has been instructed. This will require

approval of a virement of £360 from the 'Contingency' cost centre to the 'Upgrades at Bowling Green / Allotments' cost centre.

A new fence panel will be needed to replace the one damaged when the tree limb fell into the allotments car park. A larger fence panel further along this stretch is falling out of its position and the some adjustment work needs to be carried out in relation to the posts. Several of the fence posts either need to be replaced or repointed. The contractor who is carrying out the work on the storage pavilion roof has quoted £200 for this work. Following consultation with the Chairman and another councillor, the contract has been awarded. A further £200 will need to be vired from 'Contingency' to the 'Upgrades at Bowling Green / Allotments' cost centre to cover this.

December Newsletter

The December edition of the newsletter has been delivered.

K.M.P. 12.12.21