

Shevington Parish Council
Clerk's Report to the Meeting of the Council – 26 January 2022

Christmas Decorations

All elements relating to the Christmas decorations have been removed with the exception of the Heras fencing. The instruction to do this cannot yet be actioned, as Street Lighting have not yet secured the metal plate covering the connection point for the black box they install each year at Croke Green.

The trial tree at Woodnook Road seemed to work well. Cllr Chris Horridge had to change one of the sets of batteries used once only. The lights were on a timer. The batteries for the waterfall stars at Shevington Moor and Croke Green lasted all season and did not need changing despite the fact that the timers were not in use.

Despite being asked to wait until Street Lighting had removed the lights from the trees, Joseph Noblett's sub-contractor removed the Christmas trees before this had been done and left the lights in situ. I discovered this when driving past the tree in Shevington a couple of hours after they had done this and Cllr Horridge disconnected and moved as many of the sets of lights as he could to a secure location. This was reported to Street Lighting, who attended early the next day and disconnected the remaining lights and secured each site as far as was possible.

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 for the Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting in February.

January Newsletter

The January edition of the newsletter is in the process of being delivered.

Prime Minister's Announcement on Plan B

NALC have sent the following advisory:

“On 19 January 2022, the prime minister confirmed the [Plan B measures](#) in place in England will come to an end. That means from 27 January 2022 there will be no legal requirement to wear face coverings in public indoor spaces. Although face coverings will no longer be mandated, people are still advised to wear them in enclosed or crowded spaces, particularly when meeting strangers. The end of the government advice on home working has immediate effect and local (parish and town) councils are free to permit staff to continue to work from home. Councils concerned about an increase or prevalence in Covid cases can ask for face coverings to be worn by councillors, staff and members of the public attending council meetings, but they cannot insist.”

NALC is supporting a [petition](#) by colleagues at the Association of Democratic Services Officers (ADSO) and Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) calling on the government and parliament to allow councils in England to have the choice to hold formal Council meetings remotely and would be grateful if members could support the collective campaign on this important issue by signing the petition and promoting the petition as widely as possible, including on social media. The petition is on www.change.org. Councils in Scotland and Wales are allowed to have this choice.

K.M.P. 21.01.22