

**Shevington Parish Council
Annual Property Inspection Report
Policy & General Purposes Committee - 7 September 2022**

Shevington Memorial Park & Garden

Monday, 1 August – 6:00pm

Present: Cllr Chris Horridge and the Clerk

- Restoration of the top surface of the trimtrail path continues to be a matter of urgency. The base of the trimtrail is sound, but the edging needs to be reinstated and the surface needs to be replaced. Some sections of the path need to be widened.
- The park continues to have severe drainage problems during periods of heavy rain. Pooling of water makes grounds maintenance at the Church Lane end difficult.
- In general, the litter situation is under control. The play area is checked (and cleared, if necessary) by the contractor, who also inspects the play equipment once a week and arranges for statutory inspections to be carried out and for repairs to be undertaken. Rotovation takes place once a month. All weeds are being treated and removed regularly. All of the signs warning users to 'Beware of the Glass' displayed on the gates of the play area are missing. The bins are emptied twice a week. The Caretaker collects litter on three occasions a week, cleans the benches and sweeps the footpaths from time to time.
- Several of the flags in the Memorial Garden are loose / broken. Others are showing the effects of subsidence. The flagged footpath in the MG needs to be re-laid.
- All footpaths were largely clear of grass and weeds.
- Several very mature trees were felled in 2021. The Trees & Woodlands officer visited the park in late July and identified two/three trees in the bluebell bed that appear to be suffering from herbicide damage. These were examined and are being monitored. Discussions about their future will need to be undertaken with the officer. If the conclusion is that they will need to be felled, they will need to be replaced. In total 16 trees will need to be planted to replace trees removed in the last few years. Removal of a further 3 will raise this number to 19. The Jubilee tree due to be planted in the Autumn will reduce that total by one.
- The trees along the fence line with St Bernadette's school were inspected. A few years ago willow whips were planted along the fence line in an attempt to aid drainage in the park. Some or all of these will need to be removed, as they will cause significant issues in this area in relation to the fence in the future.
- The benches in the park are in good condition at present. All have been either repainted, cleaned with a power-washer or re-varnished since last year's inspection.
- Lichen, which is very difficult to keep under control, continues to be a problem in the Memorial Garden.

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Shevington Recreation Ground

Monday, 1 August – 6:20pm

Present: Cllr Chris Horridge and the Clerk

- The Parish Council's bins are in good condition.
- Grounds maintenance needs to be extended to the border between the footpath and the housing.
- The edging of the footpath is overgrown and needs to be exposed.

Gathurst Lane Car Park

Monday, 1 August – 6:30pm to 6:40pm

Present: Cllr Chris Horridge and the Clerk

- In general the car park surface is in good condition, although there is a small area around one of the drains that is beginning to break up and could create a trip hazard.
- Weeds on around the boundary of the car park need attention and the hedge is due to be trimmed.
- The tarmac at the entrance to the Recreation Ground continues to be in poor condition. This was reported to the Trustees in 2021 and they are seeking quotations for its repair.

Vicarage Lane Fields

Wednesday, 3 August – 6:00pm to 6:30pm

Present: Cllr Chris Horridge and the Clerk

- The sports pitches look very good and are well maintained.
- Plans formulated to expand the car park have not yet been implemented.
- A section of fence to the left of the gate at the entrance to the car park is missing. The Parish Council has agreed to replace this.
- The hedgerows surrounding the site will need to be strimmed in October.
- Rubbish dumped into the fields by residents of neighbouring properties is an H&S issue and will need to be removed once the hedgerows have been strimmed.
- The introduction of a notice board at the entrance to the allotments has been approved, but is still a work in progress.
- There are still a couple of areas of scrubland that are in need of maintenance and a use for them needs to be identified.
- The allotments continue to need a drainage system, as drainage on this part of the site is poor and along the perimeter of the site is poor. This is particularly evident along the footpath between Dixon Avenue and the PROW from Vicarage Lane Fields to Croke Village. This has financial implications.

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Forest Fold Site

Thursday, 4 August – 6pm to 7pm

Present: Cllr Bill McKnight, Cllr John Whiteley, Cllr Chris Horridge and the Clerk

Bowling Green Site

- A great deal of renovation work has been carried out on the bowling green surface since March in order to reduce the thatch layer that continues to cause problems. Lack of rain over a sustained period this Summer has resulted in dry areas. Bowlers are working on a rota basis with the greenkeeper to water the green.
- A temporary repair to a section of the footpath surrounding the green was carried out earlier in the year. Work on the full length is due to be carried out later in the year.
- The peripheral areas are being maintained regularly and weeds are under control.
- The limb of a tree has pushed fence panelling out and a quotation has been sought for the removal of the limb and is awaited.
- The moss in the car park and within the peripheral areas of the bowling green is in need of treatment.
- The weeds within the storage area are being kept under control.
- The hedge is due to be pruned.
- The toilets continue to be cleaned more regularly than previously due to Covid.

Main Allotments

- The allotments are largely in very good condition, but one stood out as not having been cultivated. The enforcement procedure has been initiated and the relevant tenant has received a first warning letter. So far he has not responded.
- The grass along the centre of the road through the allotments is being strimmed regularly by the contractor and weeds in both car parks are being kept under control.
- The green cabin in the lower car park is due to be moved to a site in Crooke Village by members the CVRA.

Raised Bed Allotments

- The raised bed enclosure and the 'Edible Appley Bridge' raised beds were admired.
- The boundary wall along the entrance to the site was repaired in 2021.
- The woodchip surface between the raised beds has largely been replaced by grass, which is strimmed regularly.

Stockley Park

Thursday, 4 August – 7:05pm to 7:30pm

Present: Cllr Bill McKnight, Cllr John Whiteley, Cllr Chris Horridge and the Clerk

- The overall quality of grounds maintenance, particularly grass cutting and weeding is poor.

Appendix A

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- The footpaths need to be treated with weedkiller and edged to help prevent grass from encroaching onto them. At present they are disappearing and the tarmac is deteriorating.
- The sand in the play areas shows signs of having recently been replaced and cultivated and the weeds growing in it have recently been removed.
- Grass around the play enclosures has recently been treated.
- The suggestion that lighting should be provided along the narrower footpath through the park from Back Lane to Woodnook Road was discussed.

Whiteacre Park

Thursday, 4 August – 7:40pm to 8pm

Present: Cllr Bill McKnight, Cllr John Whiteley, Cllr Chris Horridge and the Clerk

- The hedge has not been pruned so far this year, but the overall quality of grass cutting and weeding continues to be very poor.
- The footpaths need to be edged to help prevent grass from encroaching onto them. One or two have been addressed, but the rest are disappearing.
- The maintenance of the sand in the play areas is not as good as that in other parks.
- No work appears to have been carried out on the Shevington Moor in Bloom planter this year. In view of this, it has been suggested that the maintenance of the planter should be added to the responsibilities of the contractor.
- A location for the Jubilee tree has been identified.

Planters

All planters owned by the Parish Council are in good condition and well-maintained by the contractor. The concrete planters at Crooke Village were re-painted in May. Those at the stations need to be re-painted.

Bins

Most bins are in good condition. Some are showing signs of increasing rust erosion and will need to be replaced at an appropriate time.

Notice Boards

The notice board at Gathurst Station is in need of repair. The door to one of the casings has come off and is in storage and the door to the other casing is hanging on for dear life.

Crooke Village and Otters Croft & Crooke Wood

Monday, 3 October 2022 – 10:00am till 11:30am

Present: Cllr John Whiteley, Cllr Jess Higham, Mr Mike Thomas (CVRA Chair), Mr Charlie Neve and the Clerk

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- The group walked through the field opposite Crooke Marina and witnessed the Wigan Council Grit bin (Filled), the 2 x Litter Bins (One Parish Council and one Wigan Council), the new Wigan Council signs, the Wigan Council Play Park, the areas where trees have been planted and the 4 Wigan Council benches. The general condition of the ground on the field is good. The paths continue to be overgrown with grass and are becoming narrow. The play park is in good working order. The bins are in good condition. One of the benches needs repair, or replacement, due to rusting causing an arm to be broken and has become a hazard. The field is generally clear of litter.
- The Group walked into Lawns Wood to witness the amount of fallen trees. The path here is deteriorating due to winter flooding and the bridge has been stabilised by Wigan Council so it does not move in afore mentioned flooding. The wood is clear of litter.
- The Group walked up Shevington path towards Otters Croft & Crooke Wood. Rather than entering via the “vehicular access track” the Group walked to the Northwest entry point to witness the burnt-out tree and the debris remaining from its felling. Continuing south, down to the canal, the group were shown the well-worn path, the amount of fallen trees and the route to the southernmost part of the wood, beside the canal. From here they walked along the canal before crossing the valley and turning north up the path to exit the wood at the point of the “vehicular access track”. The wood is generally clear of litter. As part of the Tree Management Plan the trees will be monitored in the future.
- The Group walked the vehicular access track and noted the southern fence has fallen in a couple of places. After emerging onto Shevington Path the Group walked back down to Crooke village. The fence at the entry to the Shevington Footpath has a fence rail and post missing. These areas are clear of litter.
- Mr Mike Thomas left the group to attend another appointment. The remaining Group walked East through Crooke Village and witnessed the Parish Council’s 6 Planters that have been repainted this year and are flourishing with blooms. Thank you to Moss Bank Nursery. Three benches on the land adjacent to Crooke Hall Inn are in good condition. The Green Grit bin by the Crooke Hall Inn is full and ready for use. The area is generally clear of litter.
- Plastic planters on the Crooke Hall Inn wall enhance the look of the village and the residents are responsible for the upkeep with a small amount of funding from the Pub itself.
- Finally, the Parish Council Notice Board on the Village Green was found to have a problem with the hinges. Having swollen, the hinges are causing it to be very difficult to open the door to the Notice Board. The locks are sound, but a bit of maintenance is required to get the door to open more easily.