

**Shevington Parish Council  
Annual Property Inspection Report  
October 2020**

**Vicarage Lane Fields**

**Monday, 12 October – 6pm to 6:30pm**

Present: Cllr J Higham, Cllr C Horridge, Mr D Crook and the Clerk

- The sports pitches were now in use and looked very good and well maintained.
- The community building was nearing completion, but was behind schedule. It looked very impressive.
- A section of fence to the left of the gate at the entrance to the car park was missing. The Parish Council had agreed to replace this.
- The hedging surrounding the site was in need of maintenance.
- Rubbish dumped into the fields by residents of neighbouring properties was an H&S issue and needed to be removed.
- New sports related notices had been installed on the site.
- The introduction of a notice board at the entrance to the allotments had been approved.
- There were a couple of areas of scrubland that were in need of maintenance and needed a use.
- The allotments were in need of a drainage system, as drainage on this part of the site was poor. There had been much rain in recent weeks and many allotments were drenched with water. Committee members present were of the view that more detailed information would be helpful about what was required. To obtain this the Council would need to engage in greater depth with the allotmenters. Quite possibly professional advice would need to be sought, but this would have financial implications.

**Crooke Village**

**Tuesday, 13 October – 2pm to 2:10pm, then 2:35pm to 2:45pm**

Present: Cllr J Higham, Cllr C Horridge and the Clerk

- The play area was, on the whole, well-maintained and, bearing in mind its small size, well-equipped. This was helped by the fact that it had a WetPour play surface, which was in good condition.
- The quality of the grounds maintenance in Crooke Park was poor.
- The inspection team were disappointed in the quality of the maintenance of the area around the pit tub. This had previously been very well maintained, but very little seemed to have been done this year. Members observed that the members of the CVRA did not seem to be doing as much as they had in the past.
- The Parish Council's planters, in contrast, were in good condition and were looked after well by the contractor.
- The Parish Council's litter bins were in good condition as was the notice board on the village green.

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**Crooke & Otters Croft Woods**

**Tuesday, 13 October – 2:10pm to 2:35pm**

Present: Cllr J Higham, Cllr C Horridge and the Clerk

- The route into the woods looked well-used by local residents and was being maintained by the landowner.
- In line with Parish Council policy the woodland was kept in its natural condition and no maintenance was being carried out. Consequently, there were many beech saplings obstructing passage through the wood.

**Shevington Memorial Park & Garden**

**Wednesday, 14 October – 6pm to 6:15pm**

Present: Cllr J Higham, Cllr C Horridge, Mr D Crook and the Clerk

- Restoration of the top surface of the trimtrail path continued to be a matter of urgency. The base of the trimtrail was sound, but the edging needed to be reinstated and the surface needed to be replaced. The flags along the paved footpaths also needed re-laying, with edging being introduced to restrict movement – the extremes of weather experienced during 2018 and the recent heavy rains had led to further deterioration. The movement of the flags had resulted in the creation of trip hazards, but these were not of such a depth as to be actionable. The pathways at the lower end of the park would need to be raised, as, following periods of heavy rain, they were often flooded and impassable.
- The park has severe drainage problems. Investigations into a solution had been carried out a couple of years ago, designs for a new drainage system had been approved and the contract had been awarded to a drainage contractor. A bid for funding for the project was being prepared.
- In general, the litter situation was under control. The play area was checked (and cleared, if necessary) by the contractor, who also inspected the play equipment once a week and arranged for statutory inspections to be carried out and for repairs to be undertaken. The sand had been rotovated in September, when more had been added. Following several complaints made to Greenspaces managers responsible for play area maintenance earlier in the year, the weeds had been treated and removed. All of the signs warning users to 'Beware of the Glass' displayed on the gates of the play area were missing. Other areas of the park are checked and tidied when the bins were emptied (twice a week) and when litter was picked. The caretaker was also involved in this process on three occasions a week.
- Several of the flags in the Memorial Garden were also loose and needed re-laying.
- All footpaths were largely clear of grass and weeds.
- The two new beech trees planted in the Memorial Garden in November 2016

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had been affected by the drought and had died. They had been removed and would need to be replaced. Several mature trees had also suffered from the drought conditions prevalent during 2018. These were slowly dying and would need to be felled. Several other trees had faults and would also have to be felled. In total 18 trees needed to be planted.

- The bin near the benches outside the play area was replaced in 2018. All of the benches in the park needed attention. Two needed to be repainted and a third has three slats missing from its back. One bench needed to be cleaned, while four others needed to be re-varnished.
- There was a great deal of lichen, which is very difficult to keep under control, in the Memorial Garden.
- The grass in the Memorial Park and Garden had recently been difficult to cut because of the poor ground conditions.
- In 2019 it had been noted that the owners of a neighbouring property along the northern boundary had introduced a gate which provided them with a private entrance into the park. At the request of the Council the owners of the property had removed the handle from the outside and had secured the gate.

**Gathurst Lane Car Park**

**Wednesday, 14 October – 6:15pm to 6:20pm**

Present: Cllr J Higham, Cllr C Horridge, Mr D Crook and the Clerk

- In general the car park surface was in good condition, although there was a small area around the drain that was beginning to break up and could create a trip hazard.
- The rear of the salt bin was cracked and the bin was being used as a repository for litter. The bin needed to be removed.
- The areas around on the boundary of the car park were generally well-maintained, but the hedge was in need of a trim.

**Shevington Recreation Ground**

**Wednesday, 14 October – 6:20pm to 6:30pm**

Present: Cllr J Higham, Cllr C Horridge, Mr D Crook and the Clerk

- The Parish Council's bins were in good condition.
- The hedgerows along the northern boundary needed attention.
- The pothole in the Recreation Ground car park had been reported to the Trustees in 2019.

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**Forest Fold Site**

**Tuesday, 20 October – 6pm to 6:40pm**

Present: Cllr J Whiteley, Cllr C Horridge, Mr D Crook and the Clerk

**Bowling Green Site**

- The bowling green surface was in very good condition. Autumn renovation had been completed in early September and the green had been fed with seaweed extract the previous week. The greenkeeper was making regular visits to ensure that falling leaves were removed from the green surface. Fusarium patch was visible on some parts of the green surface – common in the Autumn in the weather conditions experienced in the recent past.
- The peripheral areas were being maintained regularly and weeds were under control.
- One fence panel, a bench and the gate were in need of either repair or replacement.
- The moss in the car park and within the peripheral areas of the bowling green was in need of treatment.
- The weeds within the storage area were being kept under control, but the pruning of the hedge had still to be completed.
- The toilets had not been used throughout the season

**Main Allotments**

- The allotments were largely in very good condition, but one stood out as not having been cultivated. The relevant tenant had received a warning letter, but had so far not acted upon it.
- The grass along the centre of the road through the allotments was being strimmed regularly by the contractor and weeds in both car parks were being kept under control.

**Raised Bed Allotments**

- A visit was made to the allotments within the enclosure and the 'Edible Appley Bridge' raised beds were admired.
- The top of the hedge was in need of pruning.
- The boundary wall was in even greater need of repair.
- The woodchip surface between the raised beds was gradually being replaced by grass, which was regularly strimmed.

**Stockley Park**

**Wednesday, 21 October – 6pm to 6:15pm**

Present: Cllr M Grimes, Cllr J Higham, Cllr C Horridge, Mr D Crook, Mr B Lomas and the Clerk

- The overall quality of grounds maintenance, particularly grass cutting and weeding was poor.
- The footpaths needed to be treated with weedkiller and edged to help prevent grass from encroaching onto them. At present they were disappearing and the tarmac was deteriorating.

## Appendix A

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- The sand in the play areas was poorly cultivated, despite the weeds growing in it having recently been removed.
- Grass around the play enclosures had been treated recently with weedkiller.

## Whiteacre Park

**Wednesday, 21 October – 6:20pm to 6:30pm**

Present: Cllr M Grimes, Cllr J Higham, Cllr C Horridge, Mr D Crook, Mr B Lomas and the Clerk

- The hedge had been pruned recently, but the overall quality of grass cutting and weeding was poor.
- The footpaths needed to be edged to help prevent grass from encroaching onto them. At present they were disappearing.
- The maintenance of the sand in the play areas was poor – there were weeds growing in it.

## Planters

All planters owned by the Parish Council were in good condition and well-maintained by the contractor.

## Bins

Most bins were in good condition. The bin outside Whiteacre Park was in poor condition and was on the point of being replaced.