

Shevington Parish Council
Annual Property Inspection Report
6 October 2021

Shevington Memorial Park & Garden

Monday, 2 August – 6:30pm

Present: Cllr Jessica Higham, 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.
- The flags of the paved footpaths in the main park were re-laid earlier this year and are looking good.
- The park continues to have severe drainage problems. The design for the new drainage system has been revised so that surface water will leave the park via the Shevington Lane outlet and flow towards the water courses at Gathurst, which is downstream of Crooke Village. News from the MHCLG about permission to apply for a loan from the PWLB is awaited.
- 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. New sand has recently been added and it had been rotovated. 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 and needed re-laying.
- All footpaths were largely clear of grass and weeds. The grounds maintenance team and Shevington in Bloom volunteers had just spent four days preparing the park for its entry in the RHS Northwest in Bloom competition and it looked very good.
- Several very mature trees were felled earlier in 2021. Two Tibetan Cherries have been planted by Shevington In Bloom to replace the two beech trees that had died a couple of years ago. In total 16 trees will need to be planted to replace trees removed in the last few years.
- Most of the benches in the park needed attention. Three needed to be repainted, one bench needed to be cleaned with a power-washer, while six others needed to be re-varnished. This work has since been carried out.
- There was a great deal of lichen, which is very difficult to keep under control, in the Memorial Garden.

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Shevington Recreation Ground

Monday, 2 August – 7pm to 7:15pm

Present: Cllr Jessica Higham, Cllr Chris Horridge and the Clerk

- The Parish Council's bins are in good condition.
- The pothole in the Recreation Ground car park has been repaired by the Trustees.
- A blocked drain has recently been discovered by Shevington in Bloom. It will need to be reported to the Trustees.

Gathurst Lane Car Park

Monday, 2 August – 7:15pm to 7:25pm

Present: Cllr Jessica Higham, 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.
- The areas around the boundary of the car park was generally well-maintained and the hedge had recently been trimmed.
- The tarmac at the entrance to the Recreation Ground is in poor condition. This was reported to the Trustees, whose responsibility it is, some weeks ago.

Vicarage Lane Fields

Tuesday, 3 August – 6:30pm to 7pm

Present: Cllr Chris Horridge, Mr David Crook and the Clerk

- The sports pitches are now in use, look very good and are well maintained.
- The community building has been completed and is in use.
- Plans are being formulated to expand the car park.
- 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 are due to be strimmed in October. They have been providing magnificent displays of wild flowers since the Spring.
- 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. This has financial implications.

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Crooke & Otters Croft Woods

Tuesday, 3 August – 7pm to 7:45pm

Present: Cllr Chris Horridge, Mr David Crook and the Clerk

- The route into the woods looks well-used by local residents and is being maintained by the landowner.
- There is barbed wire fencing along the access route to the woodland. As it is the responsibility of the Parish Council to provide the fencing along the route, perhaps an approach could be made to the owner to discuss replacement of the fencing.
- In line with Parish Council policy the woodland is being kept in its natural condition and no maintenance is being carried out. Consequently, there are many beech saplings obstructing passage through the wood.
- A large beech tree has recently been the subject of vandals and is due to be removed for H&S reasons.

Forest Fold Site

Wednesday, 4 August – 6:30pm to 7pm

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

Bowling Green Site

- The bowling green surface is in good condition and is being well maintained.
- The peripheral areas are being maintained regularly and weeds are under control.
- Several fence panels have recently been replaced. A new gate was fitted earlier this year. The wooden benches were due to be repaired and re-painted the following week.
- The moss in the car park and within the peripheral areas of the bowling green was in need of treatment.
- The boundary wall in the car park was repaired in Autumn 2020.
- The weeds within the storage area are being kept under control.
- The hedge is due to be pruned.
- The toilets are being 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 relevant tenant has received a warning letter and a reminder. He has given assurances that he will tidy and start cultivating his allotment, but so far has not acted upon this.
- 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.
- Some of the trees along the boundary between the larger allotment site and the small annexe have recently been pruned.

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Raised Bed Allotments

- A visit was made to the allotments within the enclosure and the 'Edible Appley Bridge' raised beds were admired.
- The boundary wall along the entrance to the site was in the process of being repaired.
- The woodchip surface between the raised beds is gradually being replaced by grass, which is strimmed regularly.
- The Caretaker has recently wedged the fence panels in place to prevent them from slipping out of place.

Stockley Park

Wednesday, 4 August – 7pm to 7:20pm

Present: Cllr Bill McKnight, Cllr Mike Grimes, Cllr John Whiteley, Cllr Chris Horridge 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 are disappearing and the tarmac is deteriorating.
- The sand in the play areas showed signs of having recently been replaced and cultivated and the weeds growing in it had recently been removed.
- Grass around the play enclosures had been treated recently with weedkiller.
- The suggestion that lighting should be provided along the footpath through the park from Back Lane to Woodnook Road was discussed.

Whiteacre Park

Wednesday, 4 August – 7:30pm to 7:45pm

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

- The hedge had been pruned recently, 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. At present they are disappearing.
- The maintenance of the sand in the play areas has improved.
- Three new planters have recently been introduced by the Parish Council. There are now four planters on the corner of Whiteacre with Forest Drive.

Crooke Village

Wednesday, 15 September – 6:00pm to 7:30pm

Present: Cllr John Whiteley, Cllr Chris Horridge, Mr Mike Thomas (Chair of the CVRA), Mr Charlie Neve and the Clerk

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- The Parish Council's planters are in need a fresh coat of paint.
- The bin near the entrance to Launs Wood has been replaced by one belonging to Wigan Council, leaving two bins in the village that belong to the Parish Council. Both are in reasonably good condition.
- The notice board is in good condition.
- Members of the CVRA showed the councillors around the village. They highlighted work that the CVRA had done and issues that needed to be addressed:
 1. Two log planters located around the old sign that once belonged to the former village school were deteriorating and would need to be removed at some point in the future.
 2. The CVRA had inherited the interpretation board near the tippler. This will need to be looked after.
 3. Members of the CVRA had recently carried out some tidying in Launs Wood.
 4. High water had moved a footbridge over the brook in Launs Wood downstream. Members of the CVRA had returned it to its original position and secured it in place.
 5. The trees planted by Wigan Council in Crooke Park appear to be taking.
 6. Research is being carried out into how the debris in the River Douglas can be cleared in order to mitigate flooding in the village.
 7. More volunteers are needed to help with work in the village – it was suggested that an appeal be put in the newsletter.

Planters

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

Bins

Most bins are in good condition. A couple have been replaced since the last inspection.

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.