

Shevington Parish Council
Clerk's Report to the Council Meeting of 11 April 2019

March Newsletter

The March newsletter has been distributed.

Painting at Forest Fold

Last year the Caretaker began the job of painting the wooden benches and the gate at the bowling green and the shed on the raised bed allotment site. He coated the structures with primer and undercoat, but circumstances beyond his control prevented him from completing the work. It was necessary to hire a painter to do this. Quotes of £125 and £45 for painting the benches and the shed were received from the painter who came to quote for the fencing. The cost of paint would be in addition to this and he agreed not to charge for painting the gate. Following consultation with two councillors, he was instructed to go ahead. The work was completed before the start of the bowling season and we have received a letter of appreciation from the Chairman of the SVBC.

Repairs at the Bowling Green

Over the Winter months the roofs of the two visitor shelters have suffered from storm damage. The SVBC are responsible for repairing them and will be doing this in the next few weeks. They will also be painting the shelters and their pavilion.

Bowling Fun Day

The Bowling Fun Day organised by the Shevington Gardening Club team is this Sunday, 14 April. It begins at 1pm. Members are invited to support it.

Tree Surgery

A very large tree limb that had broken off one of the trees in the coppice at the centre of Memorial Park and was lying on top of another limb was reported to me by several individuals. A meeting was held on site with the Trees & Woodlands Officer, who advised that the branch had to be removed at the earliest opportunity, as it posed a potential H&S issue. In the light of this a quote of £120 was obtained for the work from one of the tree surgeons we use and the work was approved under delegated authority, following consultation with two councillors. This was carried out soon afterwards.

Over a year ago the Council were asked by the allotmenters at Forest Fold to prune a large tree at the southern end of the main allotments. The tenant on whose plot the tree stands had raised a complaint that the tree was blotting out a great deal of light, making cultivation of a large area of the plot difficult. The same tree surgeon inspected the tree and provided a quote of £250 for the work. Following consultation with two councillors, this work was approved under delegated authority and has been carried out. This has been funded from allotments income.

Shevington Recreation Ground

We have received an email from the Secretary of Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees thanking the Parish Council for its grant towards their grounds maintenance.

PWLB Loan

The Public Works Loans Board have advised that the outstanding balance with respect to the loan for the Vicarage Lane Fields site and the woodlands stands at £157,417.53. Repayment is due for completion in 44 years time.

Lancashire County Council Trading Standards Circular

LALC have forwarded the attached circular about current scams in the County which could impact on residents locally.

Northwest in Bloom & Shevington Fete

Entry and stall fees and completed application forms for both events have been submitted and have been acknowledged and confirmed.

Road Behind the Parade of Shops in Gathurst Lane

Immediately prior to the start of Purdah, I accompanied Dist Cllr J Brown on a visit to the shops in the parade in Gathurst Lane to explore the possibilities with regard to the repair of the access road behind the Parade with the shopkeepers.

Financial Audits

Instructions for both internal and external audits have been received and preparations are in progress. This has included watching a webinar produced by the External Auditor.

Parish Council Elections

Under the instruction of Wigan Council's Elections Officer information about the elections has been placed on the notice boards and the website, as required by law.

Hidden Gems Photography Project

Information about this is attached.

LALC Spring Conference

A flyer with information about LALC's Spring Conference is attached. If anyone is interested in attending, I have booking forms.

Notice Board at Gathurst Station

The door on one of the two casings on this notice board has been removed either by storm force winds or by vandals. The door itself has not been damaged and is currently in storage at Forest Fold. It will need to be repaired.

K.M.P. 10.04.19