

**Shevington Parish Council**  
**Clerk's Report to the Council Meeting of 16 December 2020**

**Christmas Shop Front Competition**

Despite the recent lockdown many shops have decorated their windows as usual – some much more so.

**Christmas Decorations**

All Christmas decorations are in place and working. This year's Christmas trees are of a good quality. There have been no issues in relation to fitting the trees or in relation to decorating them. The lamp post garlands are now all on time-clocks and come on in late afternoon. The Christmas tree in the centre of Shevington is also on a time-clock – courtesy of the Street Lighting Department – for the first time ever. This has given rise to reports from councillors that the lights are not working.

**East Quarry, Appley Bridge**

We have received a reply to the FOI enquiry sent to the Environment Agency about applications for a Water Abstraction Licence submitted by Maybrook Investments Ltd. The reply states:

*“Maybrook Investments Ltd did submit an application in summer 2019 and very soon after made an amendment. Although there have been long periods of inactivity in the applicant submitting further information requested by the Environment Agency and further amendments made, the application was not withdrawn at any point. The Environment Agency has now received all the required documentation, the consultation period has closed and the licence is currently being issued.”*

The statement that the application has never been withdrawn is curious, as the information that it was withdrawn in March 2020 was originally seen on the Environment Agency website.

**December Newsletter**

This has been distributed.

**Stop Tap Repair at Forest Fold Allotments**

The Caretaker has reported that this facility is now much improved.

**VAT Claim**

Following a phone call to the number associated with commercial VAT enquiries our issue was investigated very quickly. The investigating officer discovered that the claim had been closed without the Parish Council having been notified. She could not understand why this had happened, as there was nothing wrong with the claim or how the form had been completed. She re-submitted it and the claim has now been settled.

**Wigan Council Ward Boundary Review**

Democratic Services at the LA have written to say that the Boundary Commission have agreed to defer their review of Wigan Council ward boundaries by a year, so the all-out Council elections will now take place in May 2023 – the same year as the next set of Parish Council elections.

**Petition for a New Parish Council to be Set Up in Shevington Moor**

Democratic Services have also informed me that a resident is running a petition on the Wigan Council website for a new Parish Council to be set up in Shevington Moor. The petition also requests support for the provision of a Community Building.

**Greater Manchester Spatial Strategy Consultation**

The Consultation on the final draft went live on 1 December and was going to run until a date in January. However, Stockport MBC voted to reject the Strategy a couple of days later. In view of this the consultation was withdrawn. The other boroughs, which had approved it, are considering what to do next.

**K.M.P. 11.12.20**