

**Clerk's Report
Shevington Annual Parish Meeting
Held 11 March 2020
7 pm Shevington Library**

Good Evening, everyone. The purpose of this report is to present a review of developments in the Parish and the work of the Parish Council over the past year.

Projects

Work on the Vicarage Lane project has continued. The new football pitches were marked out last year and have been in use since the beginning of the football season. The pitch drainage is working well and the rugby pitch should be in use this Summer. The sports clubs have been very successful in sourcing funding for the construction of a community building that will include team changing facilities and work on its construction has begun. Shevington Gardening Club have continued to develop the allotments site.

2018 saw a very long, dry Summer – since then it has rarely stopped raining and Memorial Park is now so water-logged that the paved footpaths are moving regularly. The contract for drainage has now been awarded and a bid for funding to pay for it has been submitted.

Throughout the past year the Council have:

- continued to fund the general maintenance of the Recreation Ground;
- continued to maintain Shevington Memorial Park;
- continued to maintain the bowling green at Forest Fold;
- provided community Christmas trees (together with lights) in the centre of Shevington village, on Crooke Village green, in the centre of Appley Bridge and in Shevington Moor;
- provided Christmas motifs for the lamp standards for the shopping area between the two mini-roundabouts in Gathurst Lane and Christmas garlands for lamp posts in Appley Bridge and Shevington Moor,
- continued to support all the activities of 'In Bloom' groups by funding the maintenance of some 45 planters, which are located in all areas of the Parish and also paying for the plants for some of the flower beds in several locations in the Parish and the watering of most of the planters and flower beds during the Summer months – this will continue.
- maintained its provision of litter bins in the green spaces around the Parish.

Memorial Park was again entered on a stand-alone basis in the North West in Bloom 'Small Parks' competition and again won Gold!

Support for Local Organisations and Other Bodies

Elected members continued to represent the Parish Council

- on the Youth Club management committee;
- as Trustees of Shevington Recreation Ground;
- at meetings of Shevington & District Community Association;
- on Wigan Council's Audit, Governance & Standards Committee for part of the year;
- as Trustees of Shevington United Charities.

Over the past year the Council has been very generous in making donations and awarding grants to a number of local organisations and have maintained links with Crooke Village Residents Association and Appley Bridge Community Association.

In November our Councillors were amongst those leading the annual Remembrance Day Service at Shevington Memorial. Cllr Mike Grimes, represented the Council at the Memorial at Appley Bridge.

Supporting Local Businesses

The 'Christmas Shop Front' competition was held for the twelfth year running. The winner in 2019 was Sahara Sun at Shevington Vale, who nominated Appley Bridge Community Association as their chosen Charity. Thanks go to Pam Powell, who was a very able judge.

Planning and other Building Matters

The Parish Council have continued to comment on Planning matters.

Communication

The Parish Council communicates with residents in a number of different ways: via the website, the notice boards and the newsletter - a bi-monthly publication. In the Summer the Council hire a stall at the Annual Fete and members use this opportunity to engage with residents. The calendar of meetings, which usually take place at Shevington Library, is advertised on the website. One of our new Parish Councillors is currently constructing a new website and we now have a Facebook page.

Members of the public are always welcome and can speak during the first thirty minutes of the Full Council Meeting about any issues or suggestions they have.

Finance

This year we have once again included information on the Council Tax bill about the Parish Council and the work it does. We are proud to say that up to now our finances have been sound and we have been able to make ends meet, despite keeping precept increases to a bare minimum for several years. However, because inevitably things wear out and need repair, this year we have taken the step of increasing the precept by 10%. This will take us back to the similar levels as in 2010 and mean an increase to the value of the cost of a cup of coffee per year for every household.

Public Concerns

The Parish Council is always willing to take any matters of concern seriously and works with the Community Safety Team and the GMP whenever possible to combat anti-social behaviour. It will continue to do so until all unacceptable behaviour is under control. In connection with this the Council have made a commitment to fund the Data Plan and on-going maintenance of the CCTV system that was installed in the centre of Shevington last year.

Conclusion

Over the past year Parish Councillors and co-opted Committee members have been working with many groups in the parish to achieve various goals – too numerous to mention. The Parish Council is always anxious to support and encourage local activities.

Krystyna Pilkington
Clerk to Shevington Parish Council