

Shevington Parish Council

Clerk's Report to the Council Meeting of 22 February 2018

Christmas Shop Front Award

We have received letters from 'The Brick' and Wigan & Leigh Hospice thanking the Parish Council for their donations.

Internal Auditor Appointment

The internal auditor has accepted his appointment, but has advised that this will be his final year for carrying out internal audits. In view of this we will have to identify another suitably qualified person to carry out the work.

Drainage Remediation Works in Memorial Park

I recently met on site with the company responsible for the work on the drainage remediation in the park and the LA's officer supervising the work, as they have not returned to try to improve the reinstatement of the land. They have also not carried out the work they agreed to do on the repairs to the paving. The company have agreed to introduce a French drain which will run from the beginning of the dent they caused by their comfort suite (which is now creating a pool that did not exist previously) and empty into the new facility created at the exit of the trimtrail. The company said that they had lifted several flags along the footpath and tried to improve things, but were not prepared to do anymore.

Felling of Trees in Memorial Park

Notices informing the public that four trees are due to be felled in the near future are due to be displayed. As all four are either under a TPO or in the conservation area this is a legal requirement. Members of the public have until 9 March 2018 to make representations to the Trees & Woodlands Officer. Once they have had this opportunity the trees may be cut down.

Trees at Main Allotments at Forest Fold

I recently met with the LA's trees officer to discuss the trees with overhanging branches that are causing issues for plot holders. She agreed to try to establish the precise boundary of the main allotments with the farmer's field next door. There are two fences here – a lower fence and a higher fence. Trees are located on either side of the fences and in the space in between. Before we can take things any further, we will need to establish which trees are within our property and permission to prune those trees will need to be obtained from the Trees Officer.

Sand in the Play Areas

A resident has written: 'Last June an article appeared in the WEP regarding a study done on sand play pits. It concluded that more than half of these were swarming with the bacteria *Clostridium difficile* and, worryingly, scientists found genetically diverse strains displaying increased toxin production and multi drug resistance. I am surprised that no councillors, district or Parish, or any parents have broached this subject. I have seen that the play area on Montrose Ave, Norley Hall, has recently been resurfaced with a green rubberised material. As the P.C. pays WMBC for a health and safety check on our playground, could they be asked if a check has ever been made regarding the health of the sand?

Does the P.C. not think that replacing the sand would be a good thing, eliminating dog muck, broken glass and "sand balls" being thrown at vehicles? We could even ask WMBC to do the work for free as in Montrose Ave.

Fly Tipping at Vicarage Lane Fields

Fly tipping reported to me about a month ago was removed by the Caretaker 2/3 weeks ago. The fly tipping consisted of refuse from a wheely bin from a property, according to packaging found amongst it, in Inward Drive. A letter was subsequently sent to the owner of the property asking him not to do this again, if he were the one responsible. I have since had telephone correspondence with the LA's Enforcement Officer. She agreed to visit the property to discuss the issues with the resident. During the conversation she advised that

- (a) the LA do not provide a fly tipping removal service w.r.t. property that does not belong to Wigan Council, even at cost – this is the responsibility of the owner of the property. She provided the contact details of someone they recommend who does this.
- (b) They are only able to prosecute individuals for fly tipping if tangible evidence is found that the refuse belongs to a particular individual amongst it and there is a witness who is prepared to stand up in court to testify that he/she saw the individual do it.

Land at the Entrance to Forest Fold

I have received an email from the LA's property division to say that they have been looking into the matter and have one or two more things to check out to establish whether they can agree to the Parish Council's request. Once they have done this they will get back to us.

K.M.P. 22.02.18