

**Shevington Parish Council**  
**Clerk's Report to the Meeting of the Council – 24 November 2021**

**Christmas Decorations**

The Christmas tree lights collected from Wigan Council's depot by Cllr Chris Horridge have been inspected and returned to the depot. It was only possible to inspect those that were connected to plugs – many were not. Arrangements have been made for all the lights to return when the Street Lighting operatives come to dress the trees. The inspection will be completed on site with the help of the operatives.

The Christmas trees should have been installed towards the end of this week. However, without prior notice, they were installed some time on Friday, 19 November. The fencing is due to be installed on Tuesday / Wednesday of this week. Photographs of the four trees are below:



Shevington Moor



Shevington Memorial Park



Crooke Village



Appley Bridge

### **Parish Council Newsletter**

Because it begins distribution on 1 December, as last year, it has been renamed as the December edition and has been sent to the printer.

### **Remembrance Sunday**

The Service of Remembrance took place at the War Memorial on 14 November. It was a beautiful sunny day and the Service was very well attended. Veterans responded well to the appeal in the September newsletter. They wore their medals with pride and congregated outside AB Hardware to join the parade, which was led by St Anne's Choir and the Vicar, Rev Andrew Brown, and 'march' across the road to the Memorial Garden. Thanks are due to all involved.

### **Development of the Former Shevington Community School Site**

Dist Cllr Janet Brown has arranged for officers from Wigan Council to join next week's Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting to talk about progress with the development of the former school site in Miles Lane.

### **'Friends' of Appley Bridge Station**

The appeal for volunteers to join a group who will be working on brightening up Appley Bridge Station has been quite successful. I am told that there are now six members of the group. They will be preparing plans for cosmetic improvements at station to be submitted to Northern in the New Year. Northern's Community officer is delighted.

### **Local Plans**

We have been invited to comment on St Helens and West Lancashire Borough Council's Local Plans. As we do not neighbour St Helens, this will not be included on a future agenda.

### **Noise at Vicarage Lane Fields**

I have received several complaints – mainly from the same household – about noise emanating from events taking place at the Community Building. I have passed them on to the Chair of the Management Committee.

### **East Quarry Access Ramp**

We have received the following information in an email from the Senior Planning Officer at Lancashire County Council dealing with the matter:

*"You will recall that a planning application for the construction of an access ramp at East Quarry, Appley Bridge was considered by the County Council's Development Control Committee at its meeting on 21st July 2021. The application was refused contrary to the recommendation of officers.*

*Since the meeting, the land owner has submitted an alternative access ramp proposal to the County Council (much reduced in scale compared to that previously considered). The land owner considers that his amended access ramp design can be undertaken under permitted development rights and therefore would not need to be the subject of a further planning application.*

*The permitted development rights that the land owner intends to rely upon are contained in Schedule 2 Part 17 Class C of the General Permitted Development Order 2015 and grant permission for any works required for the maintenance or safety of a mine or disused mine. (A mine includes a quarry for the purposes of planning legislation). These permitted development rights are subject to a prior approval procedure if the external appearance of the mine or discussed mine would be materially affected.*

*County Council officers have obtained further legal advice regarding whether the revised ramp design would require prior approval of the County Council. The advice is that having regard to the reduced scale of the ramp, the proposals would not have a material affect on the external appearance of the site and that therefore the permitted development rights apply without any further control. An application for prior approval is therefore not required. The total volume of imported material for the revised ramp design would be 4079 m<sup>3</sup> compared to 11,000m<sup>3</sup> in the design that was subject to the planning*

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*application. The revised design would therefore have a significantly reduced impact in terms of HGV numbers and timescales compared to the scheme that was refused planning permission by the Committee.”*

**Parish Council Logo**

Following a suggestion made by a councillor that the Parish Council's logo might be registered with the College of Arms, I sent an enquiry to the College and received this reply from the Windsor Herald:

“Having checked our index of corporate grants, I can confirm that Shevington Parish Council does not have a coat of arms.

All Parish Councils may petition for arms so long as they are a legally constituted body. They may choose to have arms (on a shield) and crest (on top of a helm) for which the fee is currently £13,930, or just arms for £8,045. Our fees will go up after Christmas to £14,555 and £8,405 respectively.

I am sorry that this is rather a large sum for a parish, but the College has never been government funded and relies on income from grant fees.

The petition has to be lodged by a person, whose name will appear on the letters patent by which the arms are granted. Perhaps this would appeal to a benefactor.

If the Council wishes to pursue the matter, I shall be pleased to explain the process.”

I thanked him graciously for his reply and told him I would share it with the Council.

**New Fallen Tree at Otters Croft Wood**

A resident recently reported that a fallen tree was blocking the footpath through Otters Croft Wood and asked that the blockage be removed. Cllr Horridge has investigated and the matter has been passed on to the tree surgeon who will be felling the tree at the boundary of the wood with the farmer's field to establish whether it might be possible to do this at the same time.

**K.M.P. 22.11.21**