

Shevington Parish Council

Clerk's Report to the Council Meeting of 26 August 2020

75th Anniversary of VJ Day

Cllr C Horridge recited a section of the Ode to Remembrance in the Memorial Garden on the anniversary. This was followed by the playing of the Last Post and the lowering of the Union flag with two minutes silence at 11 o'clock. The flag was raised again while Reveille was played.

East Quarry

Letters raising concerns about the issues at East Quarry have been sent to the parties referred to in the Minutes. Cllr K Jukes of Wrightington Parish Council was due to join the meeting this Wednesday to discuss issues relating to East Quarry, but emailed to say that ill-health was preventing her from doing so.

External Audit 2019/20

Documents relating to the external audit have been submitted to the auditor and placed on the old website.

Bin Outside the Play Area in Memorial Park

The container inside the bin has disappeared. The door was reported to me last weekend as being open with the litter spilling out. When doing his round the next day the Caretaker found the litter strewn all over the park. He collected it and disposed of it safely. The exterior of the bin outside Whiteacre Park needs to be replaced. If a new bin is ordered, the interior could be used inside the one outside the play area, if the old container cannot be traced.

Shevington Library

The library is currently being prepared to make it a Covid-secure environment with a view to opening as a library – possibly in mid-September.

Making Democracy Digital

The Deputy Democratic Services Manager at Wigan Council recently joined a webinar on this topic and has shared the following points:

- Draft memorandum or code of conduct for virtual meetings is essential
- It takes approx. 3 members of staff at all large councils to run a virtual meeting
- Everyone is dreading Hybrid meetings and don't see how they will work
- ADSO is against hybrid meetings as they are of the view that they should be either face-to-face or virtual but not hybrid
- Teams meetings are getting a 'voting function' put in to assist public meetings – this is in the pipeline
- Please refer to the LGA Remote Meeting Hub for tips and advice
- Lots of councils are similar to Wigan Council and are not ever going back to offices as they did before
- Town and Parish Councils don't want to go back to pre-Covid meetings
- ADSO and Councils are lobbying the Govt to allow legislation to continue post May 2021 for councils to continue to hold meetings virtually
- Virtual meetings allow more equality in politics – a young mum can attend meetings from home and be an effective councillor as can a full-time worker who wouldn't have previously considered entering politics because of the demands of meetings.
- Some Leaders are doing Video Blogs now to engage with residents
- Online meetings have enhanced public engagement with committee meetings
- Meeting organisers and chairs need to ensure that they are not afraid to 'mute' a member when necessary
- GM 'Build Back Better' was mentioned and was suggested that it should be Build Back Greener – homeworking is vastly improving our carbon footprint.
- Remote meetings are the way of the future – LGA and ADSO fully support these.
- Councils have been extraordinary in how quickly they have adapted and responded digitally during this crisis.

K.M.P. 21.08.20