

**Shevington Parish Council**  
**Clerk's Report to the Meeting of the Council – 27 April 2022**

**Memorial Restoration**

Tomlinson Memorials have written to say that they are planning to carry out the work on the War Memorial in August or September. They have also confirmed that they will be able to carry out the work on the Diamond Jubilee memorial at the same time.

**Memorial Park Play Area ROSPA Report**

In reply to our enquiry, we have received a report on the issues raised by the ROSPA report and how they were addressed. This will be an item on the agenda for the May Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting.

**Forest Fold Allotments**

The deadline for payment of rents was 10 April 2022. The rents for three plots remain outstanding. One of the plots has a new tenant, who has until 30 April to pay. The other tenants have been sent reminders.

The April skip for tenants is due to be provided this weekend. The Caretaker is meeting it and will secure it. Its subsequent use will be supervised by the FFTA Committee.

The subject of poly tunnels was discussed at the recent FFTA Committee meeting. The subject together with the Committee's recommendations will be an agenda item at the May P&GP Committee meeting. The Committee members have started to write sections of text which will be collated for use on the Allotments page on the Parish Council website. The FFTA Committee will discuss this again at their meeting in May.

The Allotment Policy and Warning Procedure have been drafted and will be circulated to the FFTA Committee for review and further discussion. Once ready, they will be presented to the Parish Council for consideration.

**Photocopier Service Contract**

We have received confirmation from Ricoh that our service contract with them for the photocopier was terminated, as we requested, on 31 March 2022. We have, therefore, now received our final invoice from them. This only covers the excess copy charges outstanding for the quarter from January to March.

**Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting**

We have this week received a legal licence for Parish Council volunteers to plant and maintain the Platinum Jubilee trees at Wigan Council's three sites. However, all Platinum Jubilee tree planting has now been suspended until the late Autumn and JA Jones have told me that it is now too late to dig out any trees until late October, as it is too warm. Moreover, they will not accept any orders until October. This information has been shared with the volunteers associated with this project.

**Cover Assistant & SUC Trustees' Vacancies**

We have so far not received any enquiries about these vacancies.

**Minor Maintenance Work**

The painting of the storage pavilion at the Bowling Green and restoration of one of the bays in the Bowling Green car park (both approved at the last meeting) have recently been completed. The painting of the planters at Crooke Village has been scheduled for late May/early June to fit in with the changeover dates for planting. During the Winter storms glass panels in the greenhouse used by the 'in Bloom' groups was damaged. Between that time and when he began the recent work John Parker replaced the glass panels. He has not charged for this work.

**Bowling Green**

The new Greenkeeper has spent a significant amount of time on renovation of the Bowling Green. As well as the catch-up work he originally said he would carry out, he has also this weekend hollow tined it in order to aerate it, as it was poor aeration which resulted in the large amount of moss that was present

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and thriving just before the beginning of the season. We were told over ten years ago that the amount of thatch present would take many years to clear. A significant amount of thatch is still present on the green.

The greenkeeper will also be vert-cutting the green regularly. With a Maintenance Program of aeration whereby the green is hollow cored, verti-cut, verti-drained and top dressed, the spongy thatch should be reduced and replaced with free draining sand. This, over time, should change the profile of the soil structure and should allow for firmer, truer and a more disease resistant green, which will require less maintenance, apart from cutting.

The SVBC have recently replaced the fence panels for the short stretch of fencing outside the Bowling Club pavilion, because the existing ones were rotting and posing a H&S issue. *Please see the photo below.* There are no cost implications for the Parish Council, so, following a risk assessment, permission was given under delegated responsibility.



**Places for Everyone**

The Greater Manchester Places For Everyone Joint DPD (the Plan), to which we submitted representations, was submitted to the Secretary of State by GMCA in February 2022. The Secretary of State has appointed William Fieldhouse BA(Hons) MA MRTPI, Louise Gibbons BA(Hons) MRTPI and Steven Lee BA(Hons) MA MRTPI as the Planning Inspectors to conduct the Examination into the Plan.

The Programme Officers for the Examination, who are impartial officers working under the direction of the Inspectors, have written to us to provide us with an update on progress. The Programme Officers can be contacted as follows:

**Yvonne Parker – 01282 450522/ 0781 3334305**

**Helen Wilson – 0151 352 3863/ 07879 443035**

**Email: [info@programmeofficers.co.uk](mailto:info@programmeofficers.co.uk)**

An Examination website has been established - <https://www.hwa.uk.com/projects/gmca/> It will include all the latest information and documentation regarding the Examination. For up-to-date information we are invited to check under **EXAMINATION NEWS** on the website on a regular basis.

The Inspectors have issued Guidance Notes, which include a Provisional Examination Programme; the Notes can be viewed at: <https://www.hwa.uk.com/site/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/IN1-Guidance-Notes-v218Mar.pdf>

The Programme Officers intend to write to all respondents again, once the Inspectors' Matters, Issues and Questions (MIQs) are published. At that stage they will be asking all respondents whether they wish to participate at any proposed hearing session(s). If members have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Programme Officers in writing.

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### **Bin in Bowling Green Car Park**

Biffa did not empty the bin for two weeks running because it was too heavy for the platform on their vehicle to raise it so that it could be emptied. They agreed to carry out a recovery visit once we had emptied the bin and only filled it with refuse that would make it manageable. They also agreed to remove the excess refuse if it was left in bags beside the bin.

Cllr Chris Horridge very kindly agreed to empty the bin. This involved his physically entering the bin and digging a mixture of soil bearing roots and cut branches (which needed to be reduced in size) out – very hard work. The bin was left half full for Biffa to empty on their recovery visit.

Biffa have since made the recovery visit and have emptied the bin. Cllr Horridge has returned some of the removed refuse to the bin, which should be emptied at its regular time on Monday morning. While on site we inspected the area around the toilets and the greenhouse and Cllr Horridge has broken up several structures made of rotting wood that were surplus to requirements. He has added most of this to the refuse in the bin. The disposal of the outstanding refuse will be managed in such a way that the bin does not become too heavy.

### **Issues with Raised Bed Allotment**

Following instruction under delegated authority, John Parker has introduced a two layers of lining to the raised bed allotment – one of weed-blocking mesh covering the rubble at the bottom and another of concrete above the mesh. (*Please see photos below.*) The tenant paid several visits to the allotment while the work was being carried out and has now resumed tenancy.



### **Vocal Eyes**

Vocal Eyes is a community engagement internet platform developed and tested by members of a Community Council in South Wales. It was created to help the community to work on new projects together. A voluntary group in Wigan have received grant funding to trial it in the Borough.

**Do you have ideas about where you live?**

**Would you like to have your say on how money is spent in your community?**

**Could you help get projects here in Shevington & District up and running?**

Shevington & District now has its own page on the [VocalEyes.org](https://VocalEyes.org) platform. By registering on [VocalEyes.org](https://VocalEyes.org), you can start new projects, volunteer your time, ask for other volunteers and have your say on other plans. If a project gets enough local backing, it can provide evidence for funding bids,

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local negotiations, planning permission etc. VocalEyes allows everyone to have a say and communicate about projects in one place – and users can do this anonymously.

**Please register at [VocalEyes.org](https://www.vocaleyeyes.org) for free and search for our page "Shevington And District".**

Cllr Vicky Galligan would encourage everyone to sign up (it's free!) and pop any projects that they are planning on there. Hopefully, it will help attract new volunteers and fresh ideas. If you have any questions, please contact Cllr Galligan.

### **Future Airspace MAN**

The Manchester Airport Future Airspace team are working through Stage 2 of the seven stage, fourteen step, four gateway Airspace Change process outlined in the [Civil Aviation Authority CAP1616 document](#). At this stage, a comprehensive list of route options will be produced, developed through reference to the [design principles that were agreed through stakeholder engagement at Stage1](#). During our phase one engagement sessions, in November/December 2021, we outlined the process that we followed to determine 'envelopes' where routes options could be drawn.

The team have contacted us to invite our representative to attend one of their phase two engagement sessions, where they will explain the changes they made because of stakeholder feedback received in phase one, and present specific route options that align with the design principles and take account of stakeholder views. They would like our representative to join one of the six virtual sessions held through Microsoft Teams. Each session is expected to run for around 2½ hours and will include a 15-minute break between discussion of the arrival and departure route options. Most of the sessions will take place in May. I have passed this information on to Cllr John Whiteley, who is our representative.

### **Dementia Carers Support**

Elaine Ellams has written on behalf of herself and her colleague facilitators to thank the Parish Council for including information about the Dementia Carers Support group in the March newsletter. She has said: *"We do appreciate the wide spread audience the Newsletter reaches, and we very much appreciate the opportunity to reach 'Carers' who may not see the information in the other venues it is displayed. Please accept our gratitude."*

### **Invoices Outstanding from 2021-22**

I am still chasing a 2021-22 invoice from Wigan Council for CCTV, if we are due one.

### **CCTV Enquiry**

I re-submitted the enquiry I sent last year about the possibility of a CCTV facility being installed in either Shevington Lane or Church Lane to monitor the play area in Memorial Park. Not having so far received a reply, I have sent a chaser.

### **NALC News**

The April bulletin from Jonathan Owen – NALC's Chief Executive – is attached.

**K.M.P. 22.04.22**