

Shevington Parish Council
Clerk's Report to the Council Meeting of 28 February 2019

Christmas Decorations

All actions relating to the Christmas decorations for 2018 have been completed.

Christmas Shop Front Award

We have received a letter from Wigan & Leigh Hospice thanking the Parish Council for its donation of £100 on behalf of the prizewinners.

Wigan Post Office Public Consultation

The proposal to move the Post Office to the premises belonging to WH Smith was discussed by the Policy & General Purposes Committee at its meeting earlier this month and a response has been forwarded on behalf of the Council.

Laptop Battery

The battery belonging to the Parish Council laptop recently ceased to function and has had to be replaced. I have been advised by PC World that computer parts become obsolete very quickly. There were some difficulties finding a replacement, but they were very helpful in finding me several suppliers – one of which had a battery in stock and was able to deliver the next day. Other suppliers had several in stock, but would not have been able to supply one until next week at the earliest.

Photocopier

I have been advised by the Ricoh engineer, who visited recently, that, because our photocopier is over ten years old, replacement parts may no longer be available, if needed. We may, potentially, have to replace it.

Filing Cabinet

One of the three small filing cabinets owned by the Parish Council has recently had to be replaced (at a cost of £50). It was accidentally damaged many years ago, but has functioned perfectly well until now despite carrying a dent. However, a few weeks ago the dent had sagged to such an extent that the cabinet could no longer be opened and replacement became necessary.

Extra Care Provision at Miles Lane

The officers who visited the Parish Council meeting in January to talk about the LA's proposals for Extra Care provision on the site of the former Shevington Community Primary School will be returning at the end of August to update the Council on progress.

Theft of Saplings from Vicarage Lane Fields

As agreed, the theft was reported to the Police and a press release was sent to the Wigan Observer, which published an article about it in late January. Readers with any information were asked to contact the Clerk. So far I have received sympathetic comments from many members of the public, but no one has reported having witnessed anything untoward.

Parish Precept

The precept request and the information to be included on the Council Tax bill have been forwarded to the LA.

Shevington Vale Community Primary School Lottery Bid Consultation

Members discussed this during the Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting earlier this month and the agreed response was forwarded to the school.

Vandalism in Memorial Park

It was reported to the Policy & General Purposes Committee that a group of young people had been heard moving a bin around in the park that same evening. The next day a resident sent me photographs of a bin that had been removed from its outer casing and been stamped upon. The bin was lying on the ground. The photographs were sent during the lunchtime period. I went to the park

to investigate to find the bin had been emptied and back in its place and a van belonging to Greenspaces driving away into the distance.

Canal Towpath Upgrade

As agreed, I wrote to the Canal & River Trust to enquire about the possibility of upgrading the canal towpath between Bridge 42 in Appley Bridge and Bridge 46 at Gathurst and have the following reply on 12 February:

“I have put your email to numerous teams within the Trust who are involved in towpath upgrades. Our local team leader has responded that he will bring this up at their team meeting next week. He will discuss the issues raised below and do a site visit in the meantime with our volunteer team leader.”

I have not yet heard if there have been any further developments.

Forest Fold Allotments

The new tenancy agreements have been circulated and rents have begun arriving.

I have met with the farmer who owns the land to the east of the allotment site to discuss a tree at the boundary that needs pruning because it is taking light from one allotment in particular. We have agreed that the boundary is defined by the wire fence between the two plots of land. This means that the tree is very much within the allotment site boundary and the responsibility of the Parish Council.

We also discussed the matter of allotment tenants throwing refuse over the fence onto the farmer’s land. It seems that several tenants are responsible for doing this. A letter will be circulated to tenants of all allotments that have a boundary with the farmer’s field.

Fun Bowling Day

Shevington Gardening Club’s bowling team will be holding a Fun Bowling Day for all the family at the bowling green on Sunday, 14 April.

Royal British Legion

The RBL have written to thank us for our donation of £50, which we forwarded on behalf of the trumpeter who played at the Service on Remembrance Sunday.

Abandoned Van

A resident reported a white van with a flat tyre to me as possibly having been abandoned in Gathurst Lane car park. It had been there for several days when it was drawn to my attention. Enquiries indicated that the van was taxed and MOT’d until the Autumn of 2019 and that it was insured. The Police confirmed that the vehicle had not been reported as having been stolen and informed me that the owner lived close by. In view of this, I left a letter to the owner attached to a windscreen wiper, asking him/her to move the van at the earliest opportunity. The owner complied very swiftly.

K.M.P. 26.02.19