

## **Shevington Parish Council**

### **Clerk's Report to the Council Meeting of 28 June 2018**

#### **WWI Display Cabinet**

The small display case ordered for the Tower of London poppy and its accompanying description card have arrived and the display will be set up in the near future.

#### **New War Memorial List**

Some months ago, the Parish Council agreed to add 7 further names to the War Memorial. Since then the Chairman of the WWI Working Party has found four more, giving a total of 27 (16+7+4). He has written: *'There will never be a final list. It would seem that there was no collection of names made immediately after WWI, and it maybe that the 16 names we presently have were actually collected after WWII along with those more recent casualties. Also, there is the question of who lived in Shevington, etc.'*

The WWI Working Party produced biographies of the first 16 men for August 2014. They should be able to produce similar biographies for the remaining 11 by November, so that the big book that the Parish Council agreed to may then be printed.

In the meantime I have been asked to circulate the current list to members. It is attached to this report.

#### **Light in Memorial Garden**

Street Lighting have told me that, all being well, the cable providing electricity to the light in the Memorial Garden is due to be tested this coming week.

#### **Issues in Shevington Lane**

The residents who brought the issues to the Parish Council have submitted a complaint about the LA to the Local Government Ombudsman. The residents included the letter sent by the Parish Council to the LA amongst the documents they sent to the Ombudsman. As well as submitting a number of queries based on the other documents they have received, the Ombudsman's team have invited the LA to comment on the contents of the Parish Council's letter. The LA have said that they will respond to all of the Ombudsman's queries and await the outcome of their investigation.

In the meantime the LA would advise that logs are retained of significant instances of noise/anti-social behaviour or if there are a large number of vehicles present at the property. If there are any immediate urgent concerns regarding the welfare of any child at the property then these should be reported to the Police. Otherwise Ofsted is the regulator overseeing quality and safety of children's homes and complaints should be made to them.

#### **Christmas Decorations**

The Committees' decisions about Christmas motifs for the lamp posts in the shopping precinct of Gathurst Lane have been shared with the LA's Street Lighting Department, who have placed the order. All three District Councillors have confirmed that each of them will contribute £500 from Brighter Borough funds towards the cost of the motifs in their first year. In view of this an application will be submitted to the Brighter Borough scheme.

#### **Rear Access Road Behind the Terraced Properties in Broadriding Road**

I have been informed that the road does not belong to Wigan Council.

#### **Memorial Park Project**

I have met with the LA's Community Funding Manager and have provided her with some information about the Council's proposals so that she can do some research on possible funding sources.

During our conversation she recommended that, as well as the Heritage Lottery Fund, we should approach the Big Lotteries main fund, who have recently re-structured. Applications are considered

by the Greater Manchester Panel and they are about to sign up a Grants Officer for the Wigan area. The theme for England is 'Reaching Communities'. The Big Lottery do not quote a figure and will fund small capital costs - each project being considered on its own merits.

The Community Funding Manager also suggested applying to 'Awards for All', which awards grants of up to £10,000. Their current theme is: 'Improving Places and Spaces'.

Since our meeting she has provided information and advice about raising funds through crowdfunding:

*"Wigan Council are about to relaunch their Crowdfunding platform in the near future (it is currently closed).*

*If you go onto the Wigan Crowdfunder page <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/funds/crowdfund-wigan>*

*you will see some of the successful projects from Wigan. Underneath there are 3 documents that you can download;*

- 1. Planning*
- 2. Creating*
- 3. Running*

*I went on an official Crowdfunder training workshop and they just use these 3 documents – it explains step by step so have a read through and see what you think.*

*If you want to get match funding off Wigan Council you will have to wait till it is open again - they only fund up to £1,000 or 50% of the project total (no more than £1,000). For a project to be funded by Wigan Council it has to align with the priorities and outcomes document which can be found on the link above 'show full criteria'.*

*You don't have to wait for Wigan Council to reopen their platform, you can apply yourself at any time. If you need any help with setting it up just email me. Make sure you include the Crowdfunder fee in your target amount that needs to be raised."*

Once she has completed her research, the Community Funding Manager will be in contact with a list of different options.

I have also met with an officer from Greenspaces to discuss the provision of estimates for work on the drainage and the footpath restoration. He since been in touch to let me know that his workload is such that he is unable to provide the estimates in question and has directed me towards another officer who may be able to help. I am currently trying to set up a site meeting with this officer.

I have recently consulted the Trees & Woodlands Officer about consultant arboriculturalists. He has advised that the one we used to assess the trees in the woodland is still on the LA's books, but has provided me with the contact details of another one.

### **Trees at Gathurst**

Notices recently went up near Gathurst Bridge announcing that trees were due to be felled by Taylor Wimpey on land belonging to them adjacent to the main road. I have received several enquiries (to which I have replied) about this work and have spoken to the Trees & Woodlands Officer. I understand that Taylor-Wimpey were issued with a notice to clear over-hanging vegetation by the LA's Highways enforcement officers and have since stated that the notices are incorrect, i.e. trees are not due to be felled, just pruned back.

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The trees are protected, but the requirements of the Highways Act over-ride everything else. In such a situation both the owner and the Highways Department should notify the Planning Department and hence the Trees & Woodlands Officer. However, this did not happen and the first the Officer knew about it was when he happened to notice the signage as he was driving through the area. The Officer has spoken to all concerned, including the contractors, and has stopped the work. He has asked Taylor-Wimpey to provide him with details of the work they propose to do and negotiations with the Highways Department and the owners are on-going.

**External Audit**

All actions relating to the external audit are up to date.

**Shevington Fete**

Arrangements have been made to borrow the mobile notice board that we usually borrow from Shevington Library. The library opens at 9am on Saturdays and the notice board will be transferred to Shevington Methodist Church as soon as it is open.

**Hogweed**

A resident has recently reported that he has seen Hogweed growing on the banks of the River Douglas at Appley Bridge and along the canal banks near Herons Wharf. He has reported the sightings to both Wigan Council and the Canals & Rivers Trust, who are investigating. The resident wished the information to be disseminated to the general public in view of the dangers that the plant might pose.

**Toilet Block Refurbishment**

The work on the floor is due to take place on Tuesday, 26 June. The work will take all day, but the contractor has agreed to ensure that it is carried out in such a way that one of the two toilets will be available for use at all times.

**Paving Slabs in Memorial Park**

Attached also is an email from a resident about the condition of the paving slabs in Memorial Park.

**Forest Fold Allotments**

The waiting list manager has written that he has at long last found tenants for both the raised bed allotment and the small category allotment on the main site vacated at the beginning of the rental year. In doing so he has managed to reduce the size of the waiting list, as many of the people at the beginning of the waiting list had been on it for so long that they had grown too old to take one up and had turned the offer down. The first few who were offered the raised bed turned it down on the grounds that the overhanging branches from the neighbouring garden prevented sufficient light from reaching it and would impact on the growth rate of plants.

**K.M.P. 25.06.18**