

## Shevington Parish Council

### **Clerk's Report to the Annual Meeting of the Council – 30 June 2021**

#### **Paved Footpath Repairs in Memorial Park**

Work on repairing the paved footpaths in the park began on the morning of Monday, 26 April and has been completed this week.

#### **Issues Raised by Residents During the Consultation on the Memorial Park Loan**

Either letters or emails have been sent to all residents who raised issues relating to matters other than the loan to fund the development of Memorial Park or the flooding in Crooke Village. The residents have been informed that all the responses are on the Parish Council's websites. The issue relating to the quality of the service provided by Wigan Council's refuse collectors has been referred to the District Councillors.

#### **New Planters for the Grass Verge Outside Whiteacre Park**

Permission to locate the two barrel planters and the metre-square planter (approved in October 2020) on the grass verge outside Whiteacre Park has now been received from both Streetscene and Network Management. The barrel planters have been installed on the grass verge and planted up by Moss Bank Nurseries and the metre-square planter has been ordered.

#### **Bowling Green Matters**

The bowling green has been open to individual members since 1 June. So far 20 individual members have signed up. Graham Bailey, the greenkeeper, has been semi-retired for several years. He has now decided that he will be retiring fully once he has completed the Autumn renovation of the two bowling greens he still maintains. He has written to the Parish Council to advise of his retirement and to thank the Council for entrusting the bowling green to him by awarding him with the maintenance contract over the past few years. He has provided me with information about where to seek replacements for him.

#### **Replacement Bin for Canal Bank Outside Baby Elephant**

The replacement bin for the canal bank outside the baby elephant was delivered and fitted today.

#### **Parking Issues at Vicarage Lane Fields**

Since the last report the parking at Vicarage Lane Fields has been successfully managed on match days, regardless of the number of matches taking place, and there have been no complaints.

The meeting between the representatives of the residents, the sports clubs and the allotmenters to discuss the issues and possible solutions took place on site last night – Thursday, 24 June. The meeting was chaired by Cllr Jess Higham and went very well. Police Sergeant Nick Forshaw attended to provide advice on the legal situation with respect to what was or was not permitted and what was or was not enforceable.

#### **Memorial Park Drainage**

PSD have written to say that they received a copy of the revised drainage plan drawing earlier this week and were forwarding it to Andy Smallshaw at Wigan Council for comment/approval. They will liaise with Andy Smallshaw should there be any queries and also amend the Schedule of Indicative Quantities. The latter will be issued to the contractor to confirm/revise their price accordingly.

#### **Potholes on Access Road to Flats in Gathurst Lane**

I recently received a complaint about the growing number of potholes along the access road to the flats in Gathurst Lane. I have advised the complainant that the access road was the responsibility of the Recreation Ground Trustees and have passed the complaint on to their Secretary, who has replied that he has asked someone to inspect them and effect a repair. The same person has, apparently, done an excellent job of filling in the large pothole in the Church Lane car park.

#### **Rats on Properties Neighbouring Vicarage Lane Fields**

Just over a week ago Cllr John Whiteley was contacted by a resident of St Anne's Drive who wished to raise concerns about rats apparently coming onto their property from Vicarage Lane Fields. At Cllr

Whiteley's request I agreed to look into the matter and asked the resident to provide me with photographic evidence which she told Cllr Whiteley she had. At the request of the first resident their neighbour sent me an email to tell me that rats were also appearing in her garden. As part of the investigation I visited the area of Vicarage Lane Fields that adjoins the two neighbour's properties. While there I met another resident of St Anne's Drive walking their dog. This resident is known to me and, on observing me, they shared the information with me that they had a few months ago been asked by the first resident to remove a shed from the rear garden of the property. When doing this they had discovered a rats' nest, which they had destroyed by burning it and the shed.

In view on what could be seen on the photos sent to both me and Cllr Whiteley, and having consulted Cllr Whiteley, I wrote back to the resident to ask when the photos had been taken. I have not yet received a reply from the resident.

#### **Damaged Verge at Crooke Village Green**

I forwarded the request from the CVRA that a barrier be installed to prevent future damage to the southern verge of Crooke Green. He has passed on the request to the departments that would deal with this.

#### **Burnt Tree in Otter's Croft Wood**

Following reports on social media of a very large tree in Otter's Croft Wood being set alight on more than one occasion Cllr Chris Horridge visited the wood to establish the location of the tree. He took photographs and has confirmed that it is on Parish Council property. The information has been passed on to both the Police and the Trees & Woodlands Officer, who has been asked to assess it and advise as to whether it is salvageable or whether it poses a risk to the public.

**K.M.P. 26.06.21**