

Shevington Parish Council

Clerk's Report to the Council Meeting of 30 October 2019

Memorial Park Drainage Tendering Process

A timeline for the tendering process for the drainage contract has been agreed with the consultant. The notice seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified companies has been advertised in the following places:

- (a) On the Government's Contracts Finder website;
- (b) In the Wigan Observer and the Wigan Evening Post;
- (c) On the Parish Council website and
- (d) On the Facebook pages of Shevington Community Association and the FSMP.

The closing date for expressions of interest from contractors is 1 November 2019. The consultant will then circulate the tender packs to all suitable contractors who have expressed an interest. The closing date for submission of tenders is 6 December 2019, after which they will be scored against the criteria and a report with recommendations will be forwarded to me with a view to the tenders being considered by the full Council on 18 December. If that deadline proves impossible to meet, consideration of the tenders will be deferred to the Council meeting in January.

We have so far received about six expressions of interest, which have been forwarded to the consultant.

Shevington United Charities

The Trustees met recently to discuss various issues. The Trustees agreed an action plan to progress matters, but decided that, for the time being, they would defer the appointment of Co-optative Trustees.

Tree at Forest Fold Allotments

The tree at Forest Fold Allotments that was causing concern has been removed.

Variations to Vicarage Lane Fields Sports Club Leases

The variations to the leases have been signed. The sports clubs have confirmed that there will be no financial implications for the Parish Council.

Remembrance Day Arrangements

Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday have been finalised and have been put in place.

Painting of Black Planters

All of the Parish Council's black planters are being painted during the week beginning Monday, 28 October, after which they will be planted up for the Winter and Spring months.

New Bench for Back Lane

The existing bench that was in poor condition has been removed and the replacement has been ordered.

Christmas Decorations

Orders for the new decorations for street lights in Appley Bridge and Shevington Moor and for the dressing of the Christmas trees have been placed.

Elnup Woods

The Groundwork Trust have removed the damaged bridges across the stream and have repaired the damaged elements of the boardwalk. Steel bridges will be installed in due course.

With regard to the unauthorised MTB course: representatives of the Trust have met on site with the police and experts from the LA. The situation is complicated by the fact that the MTB course is not on land owned by the Trust – but on part of the land still owned by the original developer of the

Millbrook estate. As such, the Trust have been advised that they are not authorised to close these routes. The police are working with them to try to identify the owner and agree on a course of action.

The Trust are currently recruiting a Woodland Officer – who will work with the local community, the police and the local authority with the aim of developing a management and financing plan for the woods that will seek to balance the needs of all user groups whilst ensuring respect for both the woodlands, the nature contained within, and the enjoyment of other user groups.

Report It App for Councillors

During the training session for new councillors those attending were told about the Report It App for Councillors and that this was being made available for parish councillors to use. So far it has been set up for the parish councils to use. I have been told that all issues sent by this route have to be channelled via the Clerk. A protocol will be included on the agenda of the Policy & General Purposes Committee in November.

Friends of Gathurst Station

Representatives of the Friends of Gathurst Station will be coming to the Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting in November to talk about their work and their proposals for future work at the station.

K.M.P. 25.10.19