

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shevington Parish Council  
Held Wednesday 14 December 2022  
7:00pm – via MS Teams**

**Present:** Councillors William McKnight (Chairman), Christopher Horridge, Ira Whiteley, Michael Grimes, Michael Crosby and John Whiteley  
Three members of the public

**Officer in Attendance:** Mrs Krystyna Pilkington (Clerk)

**877 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs John Ball, Vicky Galligan and Jessica Diggle

**878 Declaration of Interests**

None

*Standing Orders were suspended.*

**879 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public**

**Spraying of Weeds in Kilburn Drive**

A Co-opted Committee member reported that a resident had complained that no weed spraying had been undertaken by Wigan Council in the public areas of Kilburn Drive in 2022. The Clerk was asked to pass on the complaint to Wigan Council.

**Parking on Pavements in Shevington Lane**

A resident wished to bring to the attention of the councillors what he considered as *'the inconsiderate, selfish, dangerous and illegal parking'* that blighted Shevington Lane. He had shared photographs taken on the evening of Tuesday, 29 November that highlighted this issue. The resident was interested in hearing the views of the councillors and wondered what action could be taken to stop what he regarded as a dangerous practice.

The matter was discussed. A Co-opted Committee member advised that the Police could only become involved if the vehicles had been parked in such a way that the clearance was less than four feet and prevented the passage of prams and mobility scooters. The issue was a matter for the traffic wardens and Dist Cllr Mike Crosby was asked to report the practice to Wigan Council. The Clerk was asked to write to the resident and explain the position.

**Residents' Safety**

Another resident had written to ask what action the Council would be taking in the light of the recent murder in Kilburn Drive and how the safety of residents could be protected. The resident wished to know what the Council would be doing to reassure the local community that this incident was being investigated.

The Parish Council discussed the enquiry. They fully understood the resident's concerns. However, the investigation and keeping people safe were the responsibilities of the Police.

It was reported that people who lived in nearby streets had been interviewed by the Police to establish whether they had – even unwittingly – observed or knew of anything that could provide them with evidence to help them identify the perpetrator(s). Those residents had also been asked whether they had any concerns in relation to the recent events in the area.

As there was currently a live investigation taking place, the Council did not expect the Police to be able to share any information about their findings. Nevertheless, the Clerk was asked to contact the Police to ask them if they would be willing to provide a short statement - re-assuring residents that an investigation was ongoing and that everyone's safety was paramount – for publication in the January edition of the newsletter. The Clerk was also asked to inform the resident about what the Council proposed to do.

## **880 District Councillors' Reports**

Dist Cllr Mike Crosby reported that the planning application for the proposed Extra Care facility in Miles Lane, Shevington had been approved.

Dist Cllr Vicky Galligan's written report was received. It was read out by the Clerk:

### **Christmas Lights in Shevington Vale**

Some residents in Shevington Vale had raised the fact they would like more Christmas lights around the Woodnook Road shops. Cllr Galligan had been in touch with Wigan Council about this possibility for next year. She had also put the residents in touch with officers regarding the possibility of planting a living Christmas tree, which would be lit with battery-powered lights, on the grass on Woodnook/Runshaw.

### **The Memories Group**

The Memories Group had cancelled their Christmas party due to the icy weather. Tony Bostock hoped this would take place in the new year instead. He had been out with his grandsons playing carols and raising money for Derian House using the new equipment which had been paid for by Brighter Borough funding – they collected £425 in total.

### **Benches**

The bench at Crooke Park was due to be replaced during the week. A bench in Stockley Park had also been removed recently and was also due to be replaced soon.

A member observed that one of the sets of battery-powered lights on the trees near Woodnook shops was still not switched on. He was advised that the lights were working, but there was an issue with the timer. This led to a discussion about switch on times for Christmas lighting at other locations.

*Standing Orders were re-instated.*

## **881 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council (30 November 2022)**

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 30 November 2022, were approved as a true and correct record.

## **882 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman asked members to remember in their prayers the children who had died after falling through the ice into a lake at Solihull and also their parents. This was a terrible tragedy that had shocked and upset people countrywide.

It was suggested that perhaps an article warning residents about the dangers of walking on the iced surfaces of lakes and water courses should be included in the January edition of the newsletter.

The Chairman wished everyone present a Happy Christmas and asked them to keep safe.

## **883 Reports from Councillors**

There were no reports from councillors.

## **884 Reports from Representatives**

### **Crooke Village Residents' Association**

The CVRA representative had not been able to join the meeting, but he had shared the following:

- a. The Crooke residents' Christmas lunch would be on Thursday, 15 December at Crooke Hall Inn.
- b. A request had been made via the "Report it" app to Wigan Council to refill the grit bin in the entrance to the park. A lot of grit had been used during the current week on the road and the pavement of the village in these sub-zero temperatures.
- c. The Crooke gardening club had taken a break until February due to the Winter conditions.
- d. The next CVRA meeting would be on Tuesday, 10 January 2023 at 7pm at the Crooke Hall Inn.

### **'In Bloom' Groups**

The representative reported that 30 cyclamen that had been planted by Shevington in Bloom in the flower beds in the village had recently been stolen.

### **Forest Fold Allotments Tenants' Association**

It was reported that, following the theft or loss of the padlock to the gate at the entrance to the allotments, the FFTA Committee had purchased a replacement and would be submitting a claim for a refund.

There were no reports from

**Shevington & District Community Association**

**Shevington Youth Club**

**Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees**

**Patient Participation Group**

**Vicarage Lane Fields Developments**

**Vicarage Lane Allotments**

## **Friends of Shevington Memorial Park and Shevington Fete**

### **885 Draft Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees (7 December 2022)**

The draft minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committee meetings on 7 December 2022 were received.

### **886 The Christmas Shop Front Award - Results**

Pam Powell, the judge appointed by the Parish Council to select the winners of the award, had selected the winners and prepared a report containing her recommendations.

This was discussed briefly.

**Resolved:** The Council approved the following as winners of the awards:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Carlton & Stanley Opticians
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Shevington Village Kitchen
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Slobbery Chops

**Resolved:** The awards would be presented by the Chairman on Saturday, 7 January 2023. All other entrants would be sent 'Thank You' cards to acknowledge the fact that they had taken part in the contest and, if their contribution had been 'Highly Commended', it would be recorded on the card.

### **887 January Newsletter**

It was reported that the January edition of the newsletter would be published earlier than usual. Because of Local Life's delivery schedules, circulation would begin on 19 January 2023. Proposals for inclusion were discussed.

**Resolved:** The following were approved for inclusion in the January edition of the newsletter:

1. Christmas Decorations
2. Christmas Shop Front Award
3. Fun in the Snow
4. Reassurance About Public Safety in Relation to the Kilburn Drive Incident
5. Warning About Dangers of Walking on Frozen Surfaces of Water Courses
6. Memories Derian House Collection
7. Christingle at St Anne's Church
8. Shevington Federation Schools – Carol Service at Wigan Parish Church
9. Carol Signing at Shevington Methodist Church and Golden Days Garden Centre
10. Raising Funds for Rainbow Ward
11. Crooke Village Gardening Group

**Resolved:** As the proofs had to be with the printer by 9 January 2023, it was agreed that editorial decisions about the publication of articles in the newsletter would be left to the Clerk.

## **888 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk's verbal report, which included the following, was received:

### **Fly Tipping at the Baby Elephant**

The large amount of fly tipping at the Baby Elephant had been removed.

### **Christmas Decorations**

The Christmas trees were dressed on 2 and 3 December by a team of four from Wigan Council's Street Lighting team. The team worked quietly and efficiently in a very calm, competent and professional manner, at all times displaying a sense of service to the community. The Clerk had thanked them on the Council's behalf when they had finished and had shared her views with their line manager and the Chief Executive.

### **British Gas**

The Council's electricity bill from British Gas had been reduced due to the financial support being provided to businesses by central government. The combined charge for October and November had been approximately equal to that charged per month prior to October.

## **889 Financial Aid Applications**

None

## **890 Payments, Income & Bank Balances**

The Income / Expenditure schedule for December was received. *See Appendix A*

A query from a member about a payment made to the HMRC led to a discussion about the way in which PAYE deductions were managed.

In response to further questions from the same member the Clerk reported that payroll payments (which included packpay arising from the national pay award) for November had been approved at the Council meeting on 30 November. The BACS payments relating to these had been set up immediately after the meeting, but had been recorded by the bank as only being paid out on 1 December. Consequently, adjustments had to be made in the payments schedule for December to reflect this. The Clerk explained the rationale behind the way the adjustments had been recorded on the schedule.

**Resolved:** That the accounts be approved, the cheques signed and internet transfers made in payment, due notice being given to the bank statements exhibited.

## **891 Planning Applications**

There were no relevant planning applications to bring to the attention of the Council.

## **892 Next Meetings**

11 January 2023 (Finance Committee); 25 January 2023 (Council)

The Chairman wished everyone a lovely Christmas and good health.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7:55 pm.

**Chairman**

