

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shevington Parish Council
Held Wednesday 26 October 2022
7:00pm – The Community Centre at Vicarage Lane Fields**

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

Officer in Attendance: Mrs Krystyna Pilkington (Clerk)

831 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Mike Crosby and Jess Higham

832 Declaration of Interests

None

Standing Orders were suspended.

833 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Damage to Grass Verges in Miles Lane

A resident reported that the owner of a property along the stretch of Miles Lane near Forest Fold was continuing to cause damage to the grass verge in front of the property by driving over it. The resident had found out that it was illegal and the LA could do something about it, but chose not to. The owner of the property could apply to the LA to have a dropped kerb and drive installed, but this had financial implications for the owner.

Pavement Along the Parish Boundary with Standish Lower Ground

It was reported that the pavement along the boundary of the Parish with Standish Lower Ground had become overgrown to such an extent with weeds that it had become impossible for pedestrians to use it. This had been reported to the Wigan ward councillors and they had been asked whether the excess growth could be cleared to expose the footway.

Mirror Opposite Kilburn Drive

A resident had contacted one of the councillors to raise concerns about the lack of a mirror opposite Kilburn Drive. This junction was on a blind bend and traffic travelled too quickly along Shevington Lane. This made exiting Kilburn Drive at the junction by car treacherous. The resident had recently experienced a near miss at this location. The councillor had hoped to raise this matter with the District Councillors, but, as none of them were present, he would write to one of them.

834 District Councillors' Reports

There were no district councillors present.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

835 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council (28 September 2022)

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 28 September 2022, were approved as a true and correct record.

836 Chairman's Report

WhatsApp Group

A question from a member about what had happened in relation to the Parish Councillors' WhatsApp group was taken as part of the Chairman's Report. The issues surrounding the setting up of the group were discussed. It was agreed that the subject of the WhatsApp group as well as Parish Council protocol should be agenda items for discussion during the Policy & General Purposes meeting the following week.

837 Reports from Councillors

Burning Rubbish

A member reported that a few weeks ago she had responded to an enquiry from a resident of Shevington Lane about the activities of a new neighbour. The neighbour was burning large amounts of rubbish outside and causing a nuisance. The member had visited the newly occupied property and had spoken to the owner about it. During the conversation she had explained that the area was a smokeless zone and the activity was both anti-social and illegal. She had thought that the person had been quite receptive, but she had since heard that the burning of rubbish had continued. She had reported the matter to the District Councillors and asked them to pass it on to the appropriate enforcement officers.

838 Reports from Representatives

Crooke Village Residents' Association

The representative reported that:

- The proposals for CCTV for the village had been discussed at the recent meeting. The funding for this had been secured, but some residents were still opposed to it.
- Residents were very pleased about the Parish Council's decision to ensure that water drained from the park would not make its way towards Crooke Village. Many used Memorial Park and were very supportive of the project to address the drainage issues.
- The new owners of the open green space adjacent to Crooke Hall Inn had shared their intentions with the CVRA. One of those intentions was to erect a fence around the land that they owned. There had been considerable debate about this in the village and residents had resurrected and studied past proposals for the land from their archives. Residents were mainly concerned that the land should be fenced correctly and aesthetically. The CVRA were working with the owners and residents to arrive at an amicable solution.
- The CVRA had started an 'in Bloom' group. This had been running for three weeks and its members had been holding regular tidying sessions.

Shevington Youth Club

The representative reported that the Youth Club's AGM had been held the previous evening and had been very well attended. All sitting officers had been re-elected.

'in Bloom' Groups

It was announced that, for the first time ever, both Appley Bridge in Bloom and Edible Appley Bridge received 'Level 5 – Outstanding' awards at the 2022 RHS North West in Bloom ceremony. The Clerk was asked to send a message of congratulations from the Parish Council.

There were no reports from

Shevington & District Community Association

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

Patient Participation Group

Vicarage Lane Fields Developments

Vicarage Lane Allotments

Friends of Shevington Memorial Park

Forest Fold Allotments Tenants' Association and

Shevington Fete

839 Draft Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee (5 October 2022)

The draft minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting on 5 October 2022 were received.

840 Remembrance Sunday Arrangements

An update on progress with arrangements for Remembrance Sunday since the Policy & General Purposes meeting earlier this month was provided:

- The Police had confirmed their attendance to manage traffic during the Parade.
- Most representatives who will be laying wreaths have now confirmed this.
- The Parish Council's wreaths had been collected from the supplier and had been distributed to those laying them.
- All of the Caretaker's activities before and during the Service were in hand. It was noted that he had begun attaching poppies to lamp posts.
- The Vicar had approved the Order of Service at the War Memorial as well as the other arrangements.
- Wrightington Parish Council had given permission for a wreath to be laid at the War Memorial at Appley Bridge on behalf of Parish residents.

Cllr Mike Grimes withdrew from the meeting.

It was agreed that Cllr John Whiteley and Mr Charlie Neve would read out the names of those who had died during the two World Wars.

Cllr Chris Horridge announced that he would be at the War Memorial at 11am on Friday, 11 November.

841 Platinum Jubilee Trees

In February 2022 the Parish Council agreed that a *Betula jacquemontii* would be planted at each of four locations in the Parish to commemorate the Late Queen's Platinum Jubilee. As it was too late to purchase and plant them then, the matter was deferred until this Autumn. Since the last meeting enquiries had been made to establish the availability and costs of the trees. The cost of the trees was the same now as it had been at the beginning of the year. In view of this four *Betula jacquemontii* RB 14-16cm @ £168.00 per tree had been ordered from JA Jones & Sons Ltd in Southport at a total cost of £672. This was in line with the resolution carried in February.

Arrangements for collection, delivery, planting and after care of the trees were discussed. The Council noted that volunteers were needed for the after care of the tree being planted in Whiteacre Park.

842 Shevington Moor in Bloom

Shevington Moor in Bloom began work at Whiteacre Park in the Autumn of 2021. They planted up the new planter provided for them by Parish Council and the daffodils they planted throughout the park produced a wonderful display in the Spring. But, during the Policy & General Purposes Committee's visit to Whiteacre Park in August it was noted that no work seemed to have been carried out by the Group in 2022.

It was suggested by the Committee members present that, if no work was being carried out on the planter, its maintenance should be transferred to the Parish Council's contractor. The Clerk had spoken to the contractor since the visit and reported that he had agreed to add a few plants to the perennials already there as part of the Winter planting at no extra cost this Autumn.

Resolved: The Parish Council's planter maintenance contract would be extended to include the additional planter outside Whiteacre Park.

While at Whiteacre Park the P&GP Committee had selected a location for the Platinum Jubilee tree. Cllr Chris Horridge had agreed to plant the tree and it was hoped that SMinB would be the group that would take on the responsibility for nurturing the tree. However, as the current status of the group was unknown, this function was open to any volunteer who was willing to do it. This was discussed.

Resolved: An appeal for a volunteer from Shevington Moor to provide after care for the tree would be made in the newsletter.

A discussion about the future of SMinB was deferred to another meeting.

843 Christmas Decorations

The Clerk reported that it had been discovered in 2021 that the 10 string lights that formed the waterfall part of the star motif used on the Christmas tree in the centre of Shevington had been damaged and were no longer working. The cost of a set of 10 replacement strings in warm white from Blachere Illuminations was £317. The ways in which they had been damaged was discussed.

It was also reported that in 2021 the Parish Council had been overcharged by £500 for the installation of the lamp post garlands in Appley Bridge and Shevington Moor. It had been confirmed in writing that the overcharge would be refunded by invoicing the Council for £500 less than the total sum quoted and approved for 2022. Hence there were sufficient funds (£799) in the 'Christmas Decorations' cost centre to cover the cost of the replacement strings.

Resolved: The Council approved an order for one set of 10 replacement strings for the waterfall star from Blachere Illuminations at a cost of £317 for the set.

844 FSMP Notice Board

In October 2020 an application for a grant of £500 for a notice board in Memorial Park was submitted to the Parish Council by the Friends of Shevington Memorial Park. The notice board was intended for the use of the FSMP. The following was resolved by the Parish Council (Minute 345): *"The Council gave permission for a notice board for use by the FSMP to be installed in Memorial Park and approved a s137 grant of £250 towards its cost."*

A location for the notice board was subsequently selected during a site meeting between two Parish Councillors and the Clerk and, more recently, Cllr Vicky Galligan had established the situation with regard to the need for planning permission. In essence: if it was used for community news and not business purposes, planning permission was not needed.

The supplier of the notice board originally proposed was no longer supplying outdoor notice boards. So, another design has been suggested which was slightly cheaper, but came with a delivery charge of £65.

The grant of £250 had not yet been transferred to the FSMP. The matter was considered.

Resolved: The Council agreed that the grant still stood at £250, as agreed in 2020.

845 November Newsletter

The next newsletter was due to be distributed during the last week of November. Items for inclusion were discussed.

Resolved: The following articles were approved for inclusion:

1. Remembrance Sunday
2. Christmas Shop-Front Award
3. Appley Bridge 'in Bloom' Award
4. News from Shevington Community & Recreational Centre
5. Dog Fouling
6. Shevington Library – a Community Warm Hub
7. Parish Council Accounts 2021-22 (*rollover from September*)
8. What's On in Shevington & District?
9. Platinum Jubilee Tree Planting (*to include appeal for after care volunteers*).

There was a short discussion about No.8 in the above list. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Chair of Shevington & District Community Association to advise on ways in which this information could reach all homes in the area free of charge.

846 New Code of Conduct Consultation

A Working Group of Wigan Council's Audit, Governance and Standards Committee had been reviewing the current Code of Conduct adopted in 2012 by Wigan Council and its parish councils. The review was being carried out in order to decide whether or not to adopt the new Code of Conduct prepared by the Local Government Association – either in part or as a whole or not at all.

The A,G&S Committee's Working Group had asked for comments from the Parish Council. Several documents had been circulated for members to read. The subject was discussed briefly. It would be an agenda item during the Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting in November.

847 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was received. *See Appendix A*

848 Financial Aid Applications

None

849 St Anne's Churchyard Donation

Resolved: The Council approved a donation to St Anne's PCC of £600 towards the maintenance costs of St Anne's churchyard.

850 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure schedule for October was received. *See Appendix B*

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

A member observed that to the end of September the Parish Council had spent 39% of its budget. This was an acceptable place to be after six months.

851 Planning Applications

A/22/93182/FULL - St Bernadettes Catholic Primary School Church Lane Shevington Wigan WN6 8BD - Erection of new 2.4m high boundary fencing to perimeter of school boundary with new pedestrian and emergency vehicular access gates and alterations to car park

The Clerk reported that the amended planning application, which involved the removal of the existing fence along the boundary with Memorial Park and erection of a replacement fence 1m away from the trees, had been approved with conditions.

852 Next Meetings

2 November (Policy & GP and Finance Committees); 30 November (Council)

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Chairman