

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shevington Parish Council
Held Wednesday 15 December 2021
7:00pm – Held Virtually via MS Teams**

Present: Councillors William McKnight (Chairman), Christopher Horridge, John Whiteley, Michael Grimes and Michael Crosby
Dist Cllr Janet Brown and two members of the public

Officer in Attendance: Mrs Krystyna Pilkington (Clerk)

612 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Jessica Higham, Ira Whiteley and John Ball

613 Declaration of Interests

None

Standing Orders were suspended.

614 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Oak Trees at the Boundary of Woodnook Shopping Precinct

Two very large mature oak trees growing on the green open space at the boundary with Woodnook Shopping Precinct had recently been pruned. A resident had brought it to the attention of the Council because he had been amazed at the significant amount of pruning that had occurred. He wondered why there had been so much pruning. After a short discussion, the Clerk was asked to send an enquiry to Wigan Council.

No.635 Bus Service Issues

Two incidents involving different drivers of the No.635 bus, which is run by Diamond Bus, and the same resident were reported. The resident was an old lady who used a zimmer frame. On the first occasion she was standing at the request bus stop along the stretch of Wigan Lower Road between the s-bends and the bend before the entrance to Crooke Village and had signalled the bus driver to stop. The bus was being driven at speed and failed to stop. In the second incident the bus did stop, but the driver refused to lower the step so that she could enter. After a brief discussion, the Clerk was asked to write to Diamond Bus.

615 District Councillors' Reports

The report from the district councillors was received. *See Appendix A*
There was a brief discussion.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

616 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council (24 November 2021)

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 24 November 2021, were approved as a true and correct record.

617 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that there were a couple of people that he wished to thank:

- Cllr Mike Grimes for his work in improving the presentation of financial reports and scrutinising them.
- Cllr Chris Horridge, who was very quiet and said very little, but did a great deal.

There followed a discussion about the Christmas decorations. It was triggered by a Facebook conversation about the Christmas tree in Shevington that had been circulated with the Clerk's report. This had indicated that residents approved of both the tree and the way it had been decorated.

The trees at all locations were all of premium quality and had a beautiful shape. The decorated trees at both Crooke Green and Whiteacre Park had also received comments of approval. No comments had been received about the tree at Appley Bridge, but – the Clerk reported – the waterfall star at the top of the tree had ceased working. A replacement had been ordered and had been received. It was awaiting collection by Street Lighting.

The Clerk also reported that Cllr Chris Horridge had devised a way of measuring the heights of all four trees. The trees were not identical in height, but all were at least the height ordered. *Please see Appendix B for details about the heights of the trees,*

The one area of disappointment with residents was the Heras fencing that was used for H&S reasons to protect both the trees and the general public from each other.

618 Reports from Councillors

There were no reports from councillors.

619 Reports from Representatives

Shevington & District Community Association

There was nothing to report.

Crooke Village Residents' Association

Mr Mike Thomas had sent his thanks to the Parish Council for their condolences on his recent bereavement.

Shevington Youth Club

There was no report.

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

It was reported that, due to Covid, the Trustees had not met for some time.

'in Bloom' Groups

There was no report.

Patient Participation Group

Now that they were only meeting quarterly, there was not as much to share. However, the representative reported that he had one, possibly two, update(s) to circulate.

Vicarage Lane Fields Developments

There was nothing to report.

Friends of Shevington Memorial Park

There was no report.

620 DRAFT Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees (1 December 2021)

The DRAFT minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees of 1 December 2021 were received.

The Chairman apologised to members who received hard copies for their late arrival. At his request the packs had been sent by post and had been delayed by the Christmas mail.

621 Memorial Park – RHS Northwest in Bloom' Report

The report from the RHS Northwest in Bloom judges was received and briefly discussed. The Clerk drew the Council's attention to the fact that the mark awarded for maintenance was one point less than those for the other sections. This was because the stone flagging in the Memorial Garden needed to be re-laid. The judges had ear-marked this as an area for development in their report.

622 Christmas Shop-Front Competition Results

The competition judge had visited all areas and had made recommendations for the winners of the first three prizes and several commendations. The Council received and briefly discussed her report.

Resolved: The Council approved the following:

1st = Shevington Village Kitchen

2nd = Muffin Man

3rd = Barnet Fayre

Special Commendations

Elizabeth Ann (Shevington Moor)

Wigan & Leigh Hospice Shop (Shevington)

A B Hardware (Shevington)

Slobbery Chops (Shevington)

Cut and Dried (Shevington Vale)

The Clerk was asked to write to the judge, Pam Powell, to thank her for her work.

623 January Newsletter

The Clerk reported that the January newsletter was due to be distributed before the January Council meeting. Several suggestions for articles for inclusion were considered.

Resolved: The Council approved the following articles for inclusion in the January newsletter:

- a. Community Service & Good Neighbour awards (reminder)
- b. Responsible Dog Owner (rollover)
- c. External Audit 2020-21
- d. Christmas Shop-Front Award
- e. Christmas Decorations
- f. Shevington CA Activities
- g. Standard Items

The Council agreed that the text would be approved at the Finance Committee meeting on 12 January.

624 Future Airspace MAN

Cllr John Whiteley had joined a virtual webinar to find out about the future airspace consultation, which was about the paths which aircraft would follow when they landed and took off from Manchester Airport. His previously circulated report was received.

Cllr Whiteley reported that much of the information was quite technical and barely affected people living in Wigan. The airport was responsible for the flight of aircraft up to 7,000 feet. Wigan was right at the edge of a circle drawn to show where aircraft reach 7,000 feet. (The edges of the circle passed through Buxton, Rochdale, Wigan and Crewe.) Once above 7,000 feet, aircraft were handed over to Air Traffic Control at Prestwick.

Manchester Airport had two runways, both aligned approximately southwest – northeast. 80% of aircraft movements took place into the prevailing south-westerly winds. At present aircraft used ground-based beacons to establish their flight paths, but the move was to use satellite guided Performance Based Navigation, which should make aircraft follow a more accurate path. The first or last few miles of an aircraft's departure or approach would be closely monitored by the airport. Aircraft were able to make relatively sharp turns when they reached a height of 4,000 feet.

There were four areas around the airport to be avoided – to the northwest, (departures and arrivals at Liverpool Airport), to the northeast, (departures and arrivals at Leeds-Bradford Airport), Camphill to the southeast (a gliding area), and an uncontrolled area for small aircraft to the southwest.

The principles behind the changes were safety, policy, capacity, emissions, noise, airspace and technology. One result that they hoped would be achieved by the new arrangements would be continuous descent or ascent, rather than levelling off and then changing the angle again, which used more fuel and made more noise.

The participants had been shown maps with a variety of “envelopes” (a little bit different from the present patterns) within which aircraft would land or take off. These were also wider than the existing flight paths, which should allow aircraft to spread out further and, therefore, collectively spread out the noise and emissions over a greater area.

The Council accepted and noted the report.

625 West Lancashire Borough Council Local Plan

Cllr Mike Grimes reported that he had looked at the documents relating to this consultation online and he gave a brief summary of the consultation process, which began several years ago.

Cllr John Whiteley joined the meeting.

Cllr Grimes reported that there was nothing controversial in the consultation.

Resolved: The Council noted the consultation on WLBC's Local Plan.

626 Clerk's Report

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

Members discussed the storm damage that had occurred at Forest Fold. The Clerk agreed to establish whether a claim for the repairs could be submitted to the Council's insurers.

627 Financial Aid Applications

None.

628 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure schedule for December was received. *See Appendix C*
The Clerk answered queries about inclusions in 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.

A member suggested that, subject to their agreement, there should be a short article in the next newsletter expressing the Parish Council's gratitude to the other staff and highlighting the work that they did.

The Clerk reported that Employee No.2 had tendered their resignation with effect from the date on which they moved house, as the move would be out of the area.

629 Planning Applications

None

630 Dates of Meetings 2022

The proposed dates of meetings for 2022 that had been circulated previously were considered.

Resolved: The dates of meetings for 2022 were approved.

631 Next Meetings

12 January (Finance Committee); 26 January (Council)

The Chairman wished everyone a happy and safe Christmas and a prosperous and safe New Year.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50pm.

Chairman