

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council Meeting  
Held Thursday 16 May 2019  
7:41pm – Shevington Library**

**Present:** Councillor I Whiteley (*Chairman*), Cllrs W McKnight, C Horridge, J Ball, J Whiteley, M Crosby, M Grimes, J Higham and V Galligan  
Dist Cllr J Brown and four members of the public

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

#### **14 Apologies for Absence**

Dist Cllr M Whitham

#### **15 Declarations of Interests**

None

*Standing Orders were suspended.*

#### **16 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public**

##### **Bus Route No.635**

In response to a question from a resident, the Clerk advised that she was hoping that a representative of Diamond Bus and Dist Cllr Aldred would be able to attend one of the meetings in June.

#### **17 District Councillors' Reports**

District Cllr J Brown reported:

##### **Unadopted Road Behind the Parade of Shops in Gathurst Lane**

Several officers from the LA had visited the road in order to assess it, as had a surveyor employed by the new owner of the four newer properties in the parade. The surveyor had reported on the poor condition of the road to his client, who had agreed to make a contribution towards the cost of the repairs. As the LA owned part of the road, they too would have to make a contribution.

##### **Former Shevington Community Primary School Site**

Reports had been received that teenagers had been visiting the site illicitly and vandalising it. As a result security arrangements with respect to the site had been stepped up.

##### **'Beat It' Team**

The 'Beat It' team were coming to the area between 10 and 14 June and 9 and 13 September. Requests for areas to be cleared should be sent to the district councillors.

*Standing Orders were re-instated.*

## **18 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman provided an update on the position with respect to a former co-opted committee member whose health had been giving concern. Members asked that she pass on their regards.

## **19 Reports from Councillors**

### **Parking on Pavements in Broad O'th Lane**

It was reported that concerns had been expressed by residents about the way customers of the hot food takeaway outlets in Broad O'th Lane were creating obstructions by parking their vehicles on the pavement between Bewleys and the physiotherapists. The discussion that followed acknowledged the inadequacy of parking facilities in the centre of Shevington and extended to the possibility of creating parking bays in the wide pavement area in front of the parade of shops in Gathurst Lane. Dist Cllr J Brown agreed to take this matter to the LA.

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

A member reported that local residents were being encouraged to set up Neighbourhood Watch areas. The appeal was being circulated via Shevington Community Watch Facebook page, which had been set up in association with PS N Forshaw. Dist Cllr D Parkinson from Standish was leading on this on behalf of the LA.

### **Road at the Rear of Properties in Broadriding Road**

Another member reported that the owner of the garage at the entrance to the unadopted road behind the properties in Broadriding Road had installed more posts, making access for vehicles even more difficult. The issues surrounding the matter of access to the rear and the emptying of bins were discussed. It was reported that the bin wagons did not need to access the rear of the properties in order to empty the bins.

### **Parish Council Bins on Shevington Recreation Ground**

It was reported that the Parish Council bins on the Recreation Ground were not being emptied. The Clerk confirmed that there had recently been issues with the emptying of not only the bins on the Recreation Ground, but also with other Parish Council bins. This had come to a head over the Easter weekend, at the end of which several bins were found to be over-flowing. The Clerk had spoken to the new manager at Greenspaces, who had explained that he was currently very short-staffed and the reasons behind this. Following the telephone conversation the manager had acted swiftly and the situation had been resolved. The reasons why bins in certain areas tended at times to become over-filled were discussed as were possible solutions to the problem.

### **Parking on Zig-Zags Outside the Co-op**

A member reported that parking on the zig-zags outside the Co-op on the approach to the Pelican crossing in Gathurst Lane was increasingly becoming an issue. This was discussed briefly and would be reported on the Shevington Community Watch Facebook page.

### **Reporting of Full Bins**

A member observed that bins that were over full should be reported on the LA's 'Report It' app. This action usually resulted in a swift positive outcome.

### **Grass Verges**

It was observed that the grass verges looked unsightly once again. The daffodils, very few of which had flowered this year, had yet to be cut, the grass was not being cut as often, no strimming was taking place and weeds were not being removed from the gutters.

### **East Quarry Developments**

A member reported that he had received a complaint from a resident about developments at East Quarry. It seemed that the new owner was draining water from the quarry and depositing it in The Slacks. This was causing concern, as approximately three decades ago some of the land in that area had experienced severe flooding and most of the properties in Millbank had been submerged to different extents. The matter was discussed. An enquiry would be submitted to West Lancashire Borough Council to try to establish what the owner was doing and whether he had the permission to do it.

## **20 Reports from Representatives**

### **Shevington & District Community Association**

It was reported that Shevington Fete had received many bookings for a large variety of stalls. The indoor slots had nearly all been taken. There would be many attractions for children, including a farm, which would be bringing small animals. The Vice Chairman of the Fete Committee would be letting the Recreation Ground Trustees know about the animals.

A Temporary Events Notice had been secured, enabling Church Lane to be made one-way for traffic on the day of the Fete. Volunteers were still needed.

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

No report.

### **Shevington Youth Club**

Regular attendance at the Youth Club sessions was approximately 30. Planning consent had been received for a 9m extension. Funding would now need to be secured.

### **Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees**

There had been no meeting recently.

### **'in Bloom' Groups**

Judging Day would be on 4 July. Shevington in Bloom were appealing for prizes for their tombola at Shevington Fete.

### **Patient Participation Group**

There was big concern about missed appointments, as there had been 350 DNA's between January and March. The Surgery now had a new policy: if you Did Not Attend you would be sent a text message explaining how to cancel appointments. If the DNA happened twice, a stern letter would then be sent and if it happened for a third time within a 12-month period the GPs have a right to strike a patient off the books.

There had been a big rearrangement in contracts between GP's and primary care facilities. The Diabetes Support Group were looking for funding. They meet on the first Monday of every month at St. Anne's Parish Centre.

### **Shevington Rugby & Football Clubs**

No report.

## **Vicarage Lane Fields Developments**

No report.

## **Friends of Shevington Memorial Park**

No report.

## **21 Memorial Park Project**

A report progress with the Memorial Park Project was received and noted. The Chairman informed the Council that the Friends of Shevington Memorial Park would be meeting on 30 May to discuss their next steps.

## **22 Vicarage Lane Fields Project**

A report on the status quo in relation to the Vicarage Lane Fields Project was received and its contents were noted.

## **23 Parish Council Woodland**

A short report on the current position with respect to the Parish Council's woodland was received. Its contents were noted.

## **24 Public Toilets in Shevington**

A resident had written expressing the view that the provision of toilets in a village centre is not a luxury but a necessity for all. This became even more essential as people grew older. The resident had not noticed any toilets when shopping or passing through Shevington and thought that this could easily be rectified by making the toilets in Shevington Library available to all to use. A sign would be needed to advertise their availability during opening hours.

The matter was discussed.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that the Clerk would approach Shevington Library about the possibility of their toilets being made available for public use during opening hours.

The idea of establishing a scheme whereby other local businesses would make their facilities available for the use of the general public would be an agenda item at the next meeting of the Council. Cllr M Grimes would bring more information about a card that people with certain disabilities could carry to enable them to gain access to toilets in shops, etc when necessary.

## **25 Clerk's Report**

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

There was a brief discussion about training for new councillors. The Clerk advised that both the Lancashire Association of Local Councils and Wigan Council provided training with regard to different aspects of the work of parish councilors. The Clerk was asked to explore both.

## 26 Financial Aid Applications

- **Millbrook School**

**Resolved:** The Council approved a s137 grant of £350 to the Friends of Millbrook School towards the cost of a new storage facility for the school.

## 27 Payments, Income and Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure Schedule for April / May was received. *See Appendix B.*

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

## 28 Planning Applications

None.

## 29 Next Meetings

The day of the week on which meetings were held was discussed. Several members had other commitments on a Thursday and would find it difficult to attend Parish Council meetings.

**Resolved:** From August 2019 the Parish Council meetings would take place on Wednesdays.

Dates of next meetings:

6 June (Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees); 27 June (Council).

## CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

**Resolved:** That, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

*Dist Cllr J Brown and most members of the public left the meeting. The representative of Shevington's rugby and football clubs remained for Item 30.*

## 30 Variations to Vicarage Lane Leases

The proposals were discussed.

**Resolved:** The Council

- approved the revised Deed of Variation;
- approved the replication of the agreed format of the Deed of Variation with respect to the leases for the football pitches;
- agreed that Cllrs I Whiteley and J Ball would be the signatories for the Deeds of Variation.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9:20 pm.

**Chairman**