

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 18 December 2019
7:00pm – Shevington Library**

Present: Councillor I Whiteley (*Chairman*), Cllrs W McKnight, C Horridge, J Higham, J Whiteley, M Grimes and V Galligan
Three members of the public

Officer in Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

162 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs J Ball and M Crosby
Dist Cllrs M Whitham and J Brown

163 Declaration of Interests

None

Standing Orders were suspended.

164 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Telephone Boxes

In reply to a question from a member of the public in relation to the enquiry about the future of two telephone boxes the Clerk informed the meeting that there had been no news.

165 District Councillors' Reports

There were no reports from District Councillors.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

**166 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council
(27 November 2019)**

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

Amendment: Dist Cllr M Whitham was recorded as having left the meeting on two occasions. The one recorded in Minute 148 was deleted.

Resolved: That, subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 27 November 2019, were approved as a true and correct record.

167 Chairman's Report

Christmas Tree in the Centre of Shevington

The Chairman reported that the Christmas tree, which had been leaning and had been badly dressed, was looking much better now that both sets of contractors had re-visited the site. She thanked Cllr C Horridge and the Clerk for their work in connection with the matter.

168 Reports from Councillors

Area in Front of the Shops in Broad O'th Lane, Shevington

One of the shopkeepers had asked whether there was anything that could be done to prevent people driving onto the area in front of the shops in Broad O'th Lane. During the discussion that followed it was suggested that perhaps the introduction of bollards – the type that could be unlocked and set aside when necessary – could provide a solution.

Consultation on the Future of the Provision of Bus Services

Cllr J Whiteley had attended the recent consultation session on the future of bus services and reported back. The GMCA had a vision which involved the integration of bus services with those provided by other forms of public transport. Over the past ten years there had been a decline in the number of bus journeys taken up. De-regulation had resulted in complex ticketing situations. Private bus companies decided on the bus routes and the services that were run and GMCA provided funding for those that were subsidised.

There were three options available to the GMCA:

- Do the minimum
- Work in partnership with service providers
- Franchising

Cllr Whiteley explained briefly what franchising would involve: all franchisees would be provided with identical contracts, would be expected to maintain the same standards and fares would be standardised. If franchising were the preferred option it would begin in 2021 and would be rolled out to this side of Greater Manchester on 2 January 2022. Locally it would affect route numbers 641, 638 and 635.

Cllr Whiteley planned to respond to the consultation as an individual.

Cllr V Galligan joined the meeting.

Car Parking Outside Wigan & Leigh Hospice Shop

A member expressed concern that people visiting the Hospice shop were parking their cars in such a way that the vehicles were obstructing the pavement. This was discussed briefly. It was agreed that the Clerk would speak to staff at the Hospice shop about the matter.

Fundraising for Memorial Park

It was reported that fundraising through the Co-op scheme had so far raised £170.

169 Reports from Representatives

Shevington & District Community Association

There was no meeting in December.

Crooke Village Residents' Association

There was no report.

Shevington Youth Club

The Youth Club had recently been painted. The floor was due to be scraped and waxed over the coming weekend.

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

The trees along the boundary with Highfield Avenue were due to be pruned. Shevington Football Club had cut the grass.

'in Bloom' Groups

There was nothing new to report. The recent bad weather had prevented progress.

Patient Participation Group

The Practice Manager's report would in future be added to the PPG website as a matter of routine.

Audit, Governance & Standards Committee

There had been no meeting.

Shevington Rugby & Football Clubs

There was no report.

Vicarage Lane Fields Developments

Work on the construction of the new community building was due to begin early in the new year.

Friends of Shevington Memorial Park

The owner of The Fisheries at Fir Tree Farm – which teach children who are resistant to education – had agreed to visit Memorial Park to look at the pathways to see if they could in any way make a contribution to the work. Hopefully, this would happen soon after Christmas.

Work was being carried out on the app.

170 Draft Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committee Meetings (4 December 2019)

The draft minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committee meetings on 4 December 2019 were received.

171 Christmas Shop-Front Competition Results

Standing Orders were suspended.

Mrs Pam Powell, the competition judge, announced the results and discussed the reasons for her recommendations with the Parish Council.

Resolved: The Council approved the following results:

1st Prize – Sahara Sun (Woodnook Road, Shevington Vale)

2nd Prize – Muffin Man (Gathurst Lane, Shevington)

3rd Prize – Slobbery Chops (Broad O'th Lane, Shevington)

Special Commendations:

Jordan's Fish & Chip Shop and Shevington Village Kitchen (both of Gathurst Lane, Shevington);
Hair Couture and Head Management (both of Broad O'th Lane, Shevington)

172 North West in Bloom Judge's Feedback

The North West in Bloom judge's feedback was received and discussed.

173 January Newsletter

The contents of the January newsletter were discussed.

Resolved: The following items were agreed for inclusion in the January edition of the newsletter:

- (a) Christmas Shop-Front Results
- (b) New Christmas Decorations
- (c) Memorial Park Drainage
- (d) Achievement Awards
- (e) Quiz Night
- (f) Winter Gritting Advice
- (g) Use of Salt Bin Contents
- (h) Vicarage Lane Fields Developments
- (i) VE Day Celebrations
- (j) Carol Singing at Golden Days
- (k) Standard items

Resolved: The text for newsletter items would be approved by the Finance Committee at its meeting in January.

174 LALC December Newsletter

LALC's newsletter was received.

175 Clerk's Report

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

176 Financial Aid Applications

None.

177 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure Schedule for November / December 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.

178 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to be considered.

179 Next Meetings

8 January (Finance Committee); 22 January (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.

The members of the public present left the meeting.

180 Memorial Park Play Area Gate Replacement

A quotation received via the Technical Officer at Play and Greenspaces at Wigan Council for the replacement of one of the maintenance gates at the play areas was discussed.

Resolved: The quotation of £580 from Weldfast Services Ltd was approved.

Resolved: The Council approved a virement of £580 from the 'Contingency' cost centre to the 'Memorial Park Play Area' cost centre.

181 Memorial Park Drainage Tenders

Five sealed tenders in total had been received by the deadline date of 6 December and were opened on Monday, 9 December by the Clerk with Cllrs M Grimes and C Horridge acting as witnesses. Copies were subsequently forwarded to the consultant and to Cllr Grimes for analysis.

Cllr M Grimes attended the tender evaluation meeting with the consultant on Wednesday, 11 December and provided a verbal report. The consultant's detailed evaluation report was received and discussed.

Resolved: The contract – to the value of ££80,187.20 - was awarded to J R Alker Ltd, subject to the financial resources being available.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:05 pm.

Chairman