

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council Meeting
Held Thursday 18 January 2018
7:00pm – Shevington Library**

Present: Councillor I Whiteley (*Chairman*), Cllrs W McKnight, J Ball, C Horridge, C Miles, A Bland, K Shaw, J Calderbank and J Fletcher.
Dist Cllrs M Crosby and M Whitham.
Three members of the public.

Officer in Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

The Chairman opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to Dist Cllr M Crosby and the new Wigan councillor: Dist Cllr M Whitham.

771 Apologies for Absence

None.

772 Declaration of Interests

None

Standing Orders were suspended.

773 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Vicarage Lane Allotments Lease

A member of the Vicarage Lane Allotments Committee reported that the Committee were concerned about the lack of response from the National Allotment Society's solicitor with regard to enquiries they had sent in relation to their lease. In view of this they had decided to write to the Society's CEO about the matter. The Clerk was asked to send a letter on behalf of the Parish Council to support the Committee's concerns.

774 District Councillors' Reports

The District Councillors' report was received. *See Appendix A.*

Cllr K Shaw joined the meeting.

The Chairman congratulated Dist Cllr M Whitham on behalf of the Parish Council on her recent election success. Dist Cllr Whitham replied that she looked forward to working with the Parish Council and all other stakeholders and thanked the Parish Council for welcoming her.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

775 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council (14 December 2017)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 14 December 2017, were approved as a true and correct record.

776 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that:

- She had recently spent a pleasant hour with PCSO Leanne Winnard and the Clerk distributing prizes to the winners of the Christmas Shop Front competition. All of the winners had nominated their chosen Charities.

Cllr A Bland joined the meeting.

- The meeting with Wigan Council's CEO was taking place at 3:30pm the following day.
- A meeting of the Vicarage Lane Fields Working Party had been arranged for 5pm on Wednesday, 31 January. An invitation to join the meeting was extended to the District Councillors.

The Chairman observed that, following the last Finance Committee meeting, there had been some discomfort about the excess of emotion that people felt when they felt very strongly about certain matters. Most of the time differences of opinion were dealt with very well, but, at that meeting, in the Chairman's view, things had got a little out of hand. She hoped that from now on everyone would be treated with the respect that they truly deserved.

The Chairman also thanked the Clerk for all the work that she had put in with respect to the budget.

777 Reports from Councillors

Vicarage Lane Sports Leases

In reply to a question from a member about an agreement to suspend rental payments in relation to the sports leases, the Clerk advised that there had been no agreement to do this. Rent was charged at a lower rate for the first two years and would then increase.

Damaged Barrier on Roundabout at J27

A member raised the question of repairs to the damaged barrier at J27. The Clerk advised that LCC - the agency responsible for repairs - had informed her that, if repairs to the damage were deemed by its contractors to be non-urgent, it would be repaired in due course.

Flooding

A member raised concerns about the degree of flooding in the area at present. This led to a discussion about the general maintenance of the drainage systems. The District Councillors were asked to take the Parish Council's concerns back to Wigan Council.

Potholes in Shevington Clinic Car Park

A member reported that she had written to Bridgewater Community Healthcare earlier in the day to ask when the worsening potholes in Shevington Clinic Car Park would be repaired.

Addition to Forest Fold Lease

In response to a question from a member the Clerk informed the meeting that she had not, as yet, had a reply to her more recent letter about the possibility of adding the land at the entrance to Forest Fold to the Parish Council's lease.

Police Visit to Shevington Memorial Park

A member reported that the Police had recently been witnessed making a routine evening visit to Shevington Memorial Park.

Litter Bin Collections

A member reported that litter bins were becoming overfull because they were not being emptied. The matter would be looked into.

Food Caddy Bags

A report that there were no food caddy bags available in Shevington Library resulted in a discussion about how and from where they could be obtained in the future.

778 Reports from Representatives

Shevington & District Community Association

In 2017 the Community Association had planted a WW1 memorial tree at Crooke Village. In 2018 a tree would be planted in Standish Lower Ground.

The WW1 memorial trees were paid for with funds raised through the six-monthly quiz nights organised by the Association. One such quiz night was being held on the Friday of the following week.

The Association were still giving very small grants to local groups and had recently awarded grants to the Allotments and Sports projects at Vicarage Lane recently.

The Association's meeting in September had witnessed an excellent meeting with all the Police Officers for the area. Several developments had arisen from that, including the setting up of a 'What's App' Group for the purpose of reporting ASB to the Police.

There had been no Lancashire Night event this year because most members had been involved in the Youth Club's Variety Night.

A scaled down fete during the Summer of 2017 had re-generated interests and had resulted in the restoration of a full scale fete for 2018.

The Association's AGM would be taking place in February, when the current Chair would be stepping down.

Crooke Village Residents' Association

The Association were encouraging their membership to attend the Community Association's Quiz Night. It was observed that Crooke Village might provide a good volunteer base for the Council's woodland.

Shevington Youth Club

The Variety Show had been good fun. All those involved were thanked.

The Youth Club Secretary was currently looking in dialogue with the Wigan North Service Development Footprint Manager and other members of the village community about setting up a young people's group.

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

The next meeting had been arranged for 6 February 2018.

'in Bloom' Groups

The 'in Bloom' groups had attended a feedback briefing provided by Wigan Council the previous day.

Because of their success in 2017, Appley Bridge in Bloom were seriously being encouraged to enter the Village category in 2018.

Shevington in Bloom were considering re-entering the competition again in 2018.

Standards & Audit Committee

The next meeting would be on 25 January 2018.

Patient Participation Group

The PPG had so far not met this year.

Shevington Rugby & Football Clubs

There was no report.

Friends of Otters Croft & Crooke Woods

The representative wished to try to revitalise the project. This would be an agenda item at a future meeting.

779 DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee (11 January 2018)

The draft minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 11 January 2018 were received.

780 Shevington United Charities

Cllr J Fletcher was thanked for all the work she had done in relation to this matter.

Resolved: Cllrs J Ball, C Horridge and K Shaw were appointed as representative trustees of Shevington United Charities, to serve until 17 January 2022.

The new trustees would take matters forward. The Board of Trustees' first meeting would take place on Monday 22 January 2018.

781 Budget & Precept 2018

The budget and precept for 2018/19, as recommended by the Finance Committee, were briefly discussed.

Resolved: The Council approved a budgeted expenditure for 2018/19 of £80,130 (including an expenditure contingency of £5,000) and a precept of £69,449.

782 Buckingham Palace Garden Party

Resolved: Cllr C Miles would be nominated for the LALC draw for three representatives from Lancashire to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party.

783 Clerk's Report

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

The light missing from Gorse Brow and the quality of the maintenance of the play areas in Shevington were discussed at length.

784 Financial Aid Applications

None.

785 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure Schedules for December / January were received.
See Appendix C.

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

786 Planning Applications

None to note.

787 Next Meetings

1 February (Policy & General Purposes Committee); 22 February (Council).

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:08 pm.

Chairman