

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council Meeting
Held Wednesday 20 January 2021
7:00pm – Virtual Meeting**

Present: Councillor Ira Whiteley (*Chairman*), Cllrs William McKnight, Christopher Horridge, Jessica Higham, Michael Grimes, Michael Crosby and John Whiteley
Dist Cllrs Janet Brown and Marlaine Whitham
2 members of the public

Officer in Attendance: Mrs Krystyna Pilkington (Clerk)

377 Apologies for Absence

Cllr John Ball

378 Declaration of Interests

None

Standing Orders were suspended.

379 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

None

380 District Councillors' Reports

The reports from the District Councillors were received. *See Appendix A*

Standing Orders were re-instated.

**381 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council
(16 December 2020)**

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 16 December 2020, were approved as a true and correct record.

382 Chairman's Report

There was no report from the Chairman.

383 Reports from Councillors

Illegal Access Route

It was reported that a red car that regularly parked in Shevington Library car park was suspected of accessing the car park via the zebra crossing. It was suggested that a photograph of the car should be taken and sent to the Police. Enquiries should also be made at the library about the ownership of the car.

New Zebra Crossing in Old Lane

The new zebra crossing in Old Lane was now operational, but a nearby overgrown hedge was creating an obstruction for pedestrians wishing to pass by along the footpath when others were waiting to cross the road.

Entrance to Prince's Park

Traffic travelling too quickly along Gathurst Lane was creating issues for drivers trying to exit Prince's Park. One of the district councillors agreed to try once again to arrange for road markings in the area to be re-painted.

384 Reports from Representatives

Shevington & District Community Association

There was no report.

Crooke Village Residents' Association

A request had been received for there to be greater contact between the Parish Council and the CVRA. Cllr John Whiteley reported that he intended to join their next meeting.

Shevington Youth Club

It was reported that the Youth Club's revenue had been significantly reduced because of lockdown, as most the activities for which it was used were not currently allowed to take place.

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

There was no report.

'in Bloom' Groups

There was no report.

Patient Participation Group

The representative reported that he had one further email to forward to the Clerk for circulation.

Audit, Governance & Standards Committee

The representative reported that he questioned the purpose behind the co-option of parish council representatives' onto this committee of Wigan Council. The Clerk briefly described the legal scenario in relation to Standards Committee membership. She also described common practice in areas where there were many parish councils.

Vicarage Lane Fields Developments

There was no report.

Friends of Shevington Memorial Park

There was no report.

385 DRAFT Minutes of the Finance Committee (6 January 2021)

The DRAFT Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 6 January 2021 were received.

386 Royal Humane Society Nomination

The Chairman had been in contact with the nominee for this award. The nominee had given his consent to the nomination and had provided Cllr Ira Whiteley with information about what had happened – as had at least one witness to the event.

Resolved: The nomination was approved. The Clerk would complete the nomination forms and submit them to the Royal Humane Society.

387 Forest Fold Tenants' Association Administration Expenses

The Council had received a letter from the Secretary to the Tenants' Association Committee. The letter contained a request that the Parish Council set aside £175.33 in the Forest Fold Allotments budget for the Association's administration expenses to cover printer cartridges, paper, envelopes and postage – as discussed at the Finance Committee meeting earlier in January.

Resolved: Cllr John Whiteley and the Clerk were delegated to discuss this matter with the Forest Fold Allotments Tenants' Association Committee and reach an agreement on the way forward.

388 Christmas Shop-Front Donations

Because of current Covid-19 restrictions and because some of the prize-winning businesses were closed at present, it would not be possible to make presentations to the prize-winners until at a date in the future. However, it was possible to send the donations to the prizewinners' nominated Charities. The winners of the first and second prizes had nominated Wigan & Leigh Hospice. The winner of the third prize had not yet nominated a Charity.

Resolved: The Council approved donations of (a) £100 to Wigan & Leigh Hospice and (b) £30 to a Charity nominated by the winner of the third prize.

389 Budget & Precept 2021

A member informed the Council that he was preparing a report on the presentation of the financial information. The report was intended for circulation to the Full Council meeting in February and would include recommendations for future presentation with effect from the new financial year. This was agreed.

The budget and precept recommended by the Finance Committee for 2021 were discussed.

Resolved: The Council approved a budgeted expenditure of £96,700 (*including Expenditure Contingency*) and a precept of £77,860 for the financial year 2021/22, as recommended by the Finance Committee.

390 Text for Council Tax Letter

The text approved for inclusion in the Council tax letter for 2020/21 had been previously circulated.

Resolved: Cllr Mike Grimes was delegated to update the text for inclusion in the Council tax letter for 2021/22.

391 Clerk's Report

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

392 Financial Aid Applications

None

393 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

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

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

394 Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications to bring to the Parish Council's attention.

395 Next Meetings

3 February (Policy & General Purposes Committee); 24 February (Council)

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:27 pm.

Chairman