

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council Meeting
Held Thursday 22 March 2018
7:00pm – Shevington Library**

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

Officer in Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

816 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs C Horridge
Dist Cllrs M Crosby and P Collins

817 Declaration of Interests

Cllr W McKnight w.r.t. Item 819 – Former Shevington Community Primary School Site
(*potential future DPI*)

Standing Orders were suspended.

818 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Care Home Issues

A resident who had concerns about activities related to a local care home for children updated the Parish Council with regard to the progress of complaints he had submitted to several relevant agencies. The resident had been informed by the LA that they had written to the Chairman of the Parish Council. However, the Chairman reported that she had not received any communications on the matter from the LA.

Cllrs K Shaw and J Calderbank joined the meeting.

Dist Cllr M Whitham reported that she had looked into the matter and had received information about the issues. She was willing to discuss the matter with the Chairman and the Clerk in a private meeting. As the issues were of a sensitive nature, in Cllr Whitham's view it would not be appropriate to discuss them in an open forum.

Cllr A Bland joined the meeting.

The members discussed the issues with the resident. Cllr J Ball explained the LA's position and the procedures involved. The Clerk reported that she had received a response to the letter she had sent to the LA on behalf of the Council. The reply had said that the matter had been escalated to senior officers.

819 District Councillors' Reports

Dist Cllr M Whitham reported on the following:

Missing Lamp Post in Gorsey Brow

The Street Lighting officer had advised that the missing lamp post had not been located on Wigan Council land and, consequently, would not be replaced.

Parking Restrictions on Residential Roads

An enquiry had been made on behalf of a resident about the possibility of introducing parking restrictions on residential roads – specifically in Shevington Moor. The LA's policy was that such restrictions were not generally introduced.

Speeding Traffic on Old Lane

Issues had been raised by residents about speeding traffic in Old Lane. These were matters of long standing and there were many reasons why this was happening.

Ring & Ride

This was an invaluable service that was under-used. There was a need to raise its profile, particularly amongst those who were isolated.

The Former Shevington Community Primary School Site

Contrary to the rumours currently circulating, the site was not for sale and no bulldozer had been booked. The intention was for there to be further engagement with the local community about the site's future and the activities envisioned for it. What was true was that the Startwell team were moving out and the Asset Management Department would be ensuring the safety and security of the building. Arrangements had been made for the car park to be used by the Surgery staff. Access was being controlled by the Surgery Manager.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

820 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council (22 February 2018)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 22 February 2018, were approved as a true and correct record.

821 Chairman's Report

Apparent Abandoned Car on Gathurst Lane Car Park

The Chairman raised the matter of the car that had apparently been abandoned in Gathurst Lane car park. Information about this had been included in the Clerk's Report. The situation was discussed at length. As the car was taxed until the end of the month, the LA were unable to consider it to be abandoned until the Road Tax had run out. The matter would have to be left in abeyance until the following month.

Remembrance Poppies on Lamp Posts

The Chairman reported that Cllr C Horridge had contacted her about the possibility of attaching large poppies to lamp posts in Shevington for Remembrance Sunday and suggested that this could perhaps be brought up later in the meeting under Item 827.

822 Reports from Councillors

Damaged Barrier & Potholes at J27

It had been some time since the damaged barrier at J27 had been reported to Lancashire County Council, yet it still had not been repaired. The Clerk reported that the condition of the barrier had been reported to LCC by several agencies and added that, on the other hand, the potholes that had appeared in the vicinity of the roundabout had undergone temporary repairs.

Anti-Social Behaviour

It was reported that anti-social behaviour in the area seemed to be getting worse. The Chairman observed that perhaps the CCTV system that was being installed might help to address the issues.

Alley Gates at the Back of the Parade of Shops in Gathurst Lane

A member reported that the shopkeepers, who were responsible for locking the alley gates at the end of their working day, were getting abuse from the owners of the largely privately-owned properties that backed onto the alleyway.

Former Camelot Site

An application had been submitted to develop the former Camelot site (which was out of the area) for housing. Many drivers used an unofficial route through the Charnock Richard Service Station as a short-cut from the M6 to nearby roads and there had been rumours that a number recognition was going to be installed at the service station and owners of vehicles caught using the unofficial route would be fined. This could have an impact on the volume of traffic using the exit at J27, which was the nearest junction.

Grass Verges at the Top of Broadriding Road

A member reported that a Wigan Council gritting lorry had turned around in the vicinity of the verge and had damaged it. The verge had previously been the subject of complaints about visitors parking on the verge. The possibility of installing bollards at this location was suggested. This was discussed and Dist Cllr Whitham was invited to look into the matter.

Flags in Front of Cheeky Monkeys

It was reported that the flags in front of Cheeky Monkeys were not safe. The matter had been raised with the owners of the business, who had not been aware that the owners of the property were responsible for their repair.

Rectification Issues in Memorial Park

The Vice Chairman reported that he had spoken to the LA's Drainage Officer, who had informed him that he had obtained costings for the introduction of wooden edgings for the stoned area that the LA had introduced as part of their drainage improvements in Church Lane and had instructed the contractor to carry out the work.

The matter of the damaged grass verges in Church Lane had also been raised with the Officer by the Vice Chairman. The contractor had denied having any involvement in this. The Vice Chairman had requested that photographic proof of this should be provided and that, if none were available, the contractor should re-instate the verges.

The Clerk added that, having initially refused to extend the French drain beyond the area where the comfort unit had been located, the contractor had installed it so that it lay alongside the copse of trees where water pooled. Its impact would be monitored.

Heron's Wharf Play Area

The Vice Chairman had not yet received any information about the proposed maintenance schedule for the play area at Heron's Wharf.

823 Reports from Representatives

Shevington & District Community Association

At the recent AGM Elaine Ellams was elected as the new Chairman and Vicky Galligan as the Vice Chairman. There had been no changes with regard to the Secretary and Treasurer.

The Fete would be taking place on 30 June.

Crooke Village Residents' Association

There was no report.

Shevington Youth Club

Interviews for the two Youth Worker vacancies were due to take place the following week.

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

There was no report.

'in Bloom' Groups

There was no report.

Standards & Audit Committee

Items on the agenda for the last meeting that were relevant had included:

(a) GDPR - Update

It was stated that the new Data Protection Officer had to be independent of the LA.

The Council would not be able to charge for meeting subject access requests and the period for meeting them had been reduced from 40 days to a month.

A subject could ask to have his/her data deleted.

An individual could object to the way the Council were processing his/her data. In this event the Council had to stop the way they were processing the data, unless they could give a good reason for processing it in that way.

(b) Consultation & Review of Local Government Ethical Standards

The consultation included the suggestion that the Government should bring forward legislation to remove the requirement to include the home addresses of candidates standing in local elections from the ballot paper.

(c) Update on Code of Conduct Complaints

There had been a reduction in the number of complaints in the last two years.

Patient Participation Group

It was reported that the new Chairman of the Diabetes Support Group was Dave Brown.

Shevington Rugby & Football Clubs

There was no report.

Friends of Otters Croft & Crooke Woods

There was no report.

824 DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees (1 March 2018)

The draft minutes of the meeting of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees held on 1 March 2018 were received.

825 Replacement of the Sand Surfaces in the Play Areas at Memorial Park

The issues surrounding the use of sand as a play area surface in Memorial Park were discussed at length. As similar issues applied to the other play areas in the Parish, Dist Cllr Paul Collins was currently looking into the possibilities available for funding a replacement surface. It was agreed to await the outcome of his investigations and to look at the development of the play areas in the light of the bigger picture of the development of the whole park. The Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting on 3 May would be devoted to a discussion about the plans for the park.

826 Jubilee Memorial Stone Maintenance

Proposals put forward by Shevington in Bloom for the maintenance of the Jubilee Memorial Stone were discussed.

Resolved:

- (a) Shevington in Bloom would take on the responsibility of looking after the Diamond Jubilee Memorial Stone.
- (b) New chippings would be purchased and added to the base area of the memorial.
- (c) An expenditure of £25 on plants to replace those that had not survived the Winter was approved.

827 'There But Not There' Art Project

The purchase of a 6ft aluminium sculpture of 'Our Tommy' as a Memorial of the Centenary of the End of WW1 for the Parish from the 'There But Not There' project was discussed at length.

Resolved: The purchase of the 6ft aluminium sculpture of 'Our Tommy' at a cost of £750 was approved.

A councillor requested a recorded vote.

FOR: Cllrs Whiteley, McKnight, Ball, Miles, Calderbank, Bland and Fletcher.

Seven out of the eight members present voted.

Funds raised through the sales of the Tommy figures would contribute to the work of the following Charities:

- The Royal Foundation: Heads Together
- Walking With The Wounded
- Combat Stress
- Help for Heroes

- Project Equinox: Housing Veterans and Medical Students
- Commonwealth War Graves Foundation

828 Vicarage Lane Fields Working Party - Update

A report on the Working Party's consultation with Andy Smallshaw, the LA's Trees & Woodlands Officer was received. A similar consultation with Graham Workman, of Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles, had taken place on Wednesday, 21 March and had been attended by the Chairman and Mrs E Longmore. Mr Workman had agreed to work with the Parish Council and carry out a biodiversity scoping exercise later in the year.

The application to the Woodlands Trust for saplings had been successful. The Council had been awarded 270 saplings for planting in the Autumn.

829 Mobile Phone Mast

In a previous report to the Council the Vicarage Lane Fields Working Party had suggested that the possibility of introducing a mobile phone mast onto the fields should be investigated, as this would bring in additional revenue and contribute towards the repayment of the debt incurred in purchasing the field and the woodland. The loan was due for repayment in 45 years time. This was discussed briefly.

Some members had reservations about the long term impact on health and safety, which was currently an unknown factor. In view of this the suggestion was withdrawn from the plan.

830 Donation to St Anne's Churchyard

Resolved: The Council approved a donation of £400 towards the costs of the maintenance of St Anne's Churchyard.

This would be reviewed in 2019.

831 Clerk's Report

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

832 Financial Aid Applications

None.

833 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure Schedules for February / March were 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.

834 Planning Applications

None to note.

835 Next Meetings

5 April (Policy & General Purposes Committee); 26 April (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.

Cllr Whitham and the members of the public left the meeting. The representative of the Vicarage Lane Fields Allotments Committee remained for Item 836.

836 Vicarage Lane Allotments Lease & Tenancy Agreement

Members discussed the final version of the lease and the draft tenancy agreement with the representative of the Vicarage Lane Fields Allotments Committee.

Resolved: Amendments to the lease and tenancy agreement were agreed and would be forwarded to the Council's solicitor.

Resolved: Cllrs J Fletcher and J Ball would be the signatories to the lease.

837 Cover Assistant's Hourly Rate

Resolved: The Cover Assistant's hourly rate was increased as proposed with effect from 1 April 2018.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:50 pm.

Chairman