

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shevington Parish Council
Held Wednesday 24 November 2021
7:00pm – Held Virtually via MS Teams**

Present: Councillors William McKnight (Chairman), Christopher Horridge, John Whiteley, Ira Whiteley and Michael Grimes
Dist Cllr Janet Brown and one member of the public

Officer in Attendance: Mrs Krystyna Pilkington (Clerk)

591 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Jessica Higham, Mike Crosby and John Ball

592 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Chris Horridge w.r.t. Items 601 & 602 (*personal*)

Standing Orders were suspended.

593 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Covid-19 Memorial

Wigan Council were proposing to erect a Covid Memorial for those who had lost their lives in the pandemic and were currently inviting comments from residents via an online consultation. The email advising the Council of this had been circulated prior to the meeting and two Co-opted Committee members reported that they had submitted replies. One of them had written to the Parish Council to express the view it was too early for a Memorial. The pandemic was not yet over and this was something for the distant future. He drew the Parish Council's attention to the fact that litter was not being cleared from open spaces. This, he felt, was a more pressing issue for the present.

It was also reported that the District Councillors had not yet been consulted about the proposals.

The idea of a Covid Memorial was discussed. Most present agreed that it was too soon to erect such a Memorial and that efficient litter collection was indeed more urgent. The Clerk was asked to write to Wigan Council to share the Parish Council's views.

594 District Councillors' Reports

Dist Cllr Janet Brown's report about her visit to the new Extra Care facility at Bryn was received. *See Appendix A*

Dist Cllr Brown observed that she had been very impressed with the facility. All facilities were modern with wi-fi and an intercom. The environment was pleasant,

comfortable and safe. Gatherings could take place in the communal rooms in the evenings – otherwise it was very quiet. Members discussed the report.

Dist Cllr Brown informed the Council that she would be attending a meeting about Wigan Council's plans for the Galleries at the Town Hall the following week and would report back.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

595 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council (27 October 2021)

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 27 October 2021, were approved as a true and correct record.

596 Chairman's Report

The Chairman had laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish at the War Memorial in Shevington on Remembrance Sunday. He thanked the Parish Council for giving the honour of doing this. Cllr Mike Grimes had done the same at the War Memorial at Appley Bridge. There had been a good turnout at Shevington and all had gone well.

Cllr Mike Grimes reported that the Chairman of Wrightington Parish Council had collapsed during the ceremony at Appley Bridge and had been taken to hospital. The Clerk was asked to pass on the Parish Council's best wishes for a speedy recovery.

597 Reports from Councillors

Humane Society Nomination

A member asked whether there had been any news from the Humane Society about the nomination for an award that was made earlier in the year. The advised that she would make an enquiry.

598 Reports from Representatives

Shevington & District Community Association

There was nothing to report.

Crooke Village Residents' Association

The AGM was due to be held on 30 November.

A site meeting had been held with Dist Cllr Janet Brown and the Greenspaces area manager to discuss the signs for Crooke Park. Agreement was reached that they would be installed.

Because of the flood risk to properties in Crooke, the village needed to be on Wigan Council's watch list. The Clerk was asked to write to the LA to request this.

Confirmation was needed from United Utilities and Wigan Council about the re-direction of the drainage in Memorial Park.

An additional 300 saplings had been planted in Crooke Park. The CVRA were very pleased about this.

A litter pick was planned for the village in the near future.

The Christmas tree and fencing had been installed.

Shevington Youth Club

The Youth Offending Team had worked on persuading young people to come into the Youth Club on the previous Friday and had been very successful – about 50 were present that evening. They planned to do this again on the following two Fridays.

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

There had been no meeting.

'in Bloom' Groups

There was nothing to report.

Patient Participation Group

The PPG were planning to hold a Christmas Party for the Over 60's at the new Community and Recreation Centre at Vicarage Lane Fields on 17 December from 1pm to 3pm.

Vicarage Lane Fields Developments

There was nothing to report.

Friends of Shevington Memorial Park

A lot of grants were coming on stream, but no progress could be made until there was news of the drainage.

599 DRAFT Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees (3 November 2021)

The DRAFT minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees of 3 November 2021 were received.

600 Recommendations from the Committees

Policy & General Purposes Committee

Minute 9

Resolved: The Committee's recommendation that the Annual Community Service Awards should be awarded in 2022 and that an appeal for nominations for awards should be included in the November edition of the Newsletter was approved.

Minute 10

Resolved: The Committee's recommendation that the green container in the allotments car park at Forest Fold should be advertised for sale in the November edition of the newsletter was approved. Potential buyers were to be invited to submit sealed bids to the Clerk and would be informed that they would have to bear the cost of the container's removal from the site.

Minute 11

Resolved: The text for the November edition of the newsletter was approved retrospectively as per the recommendation from the Committee.

Minute 15

Resolved: The Committee's recommendation that a brief item containing a link to the GM Clean Air Zone website should be included in the November edition of the newsletter was approved retrospectively.

Finance Committee

Minute 4

Resolved: The reviewed and updated H&S risk assessments were approved, as per the recommendation made by the Committee.

601 Shevington United Charities

It was reported that the Treasurer to Shevington United Charities had been planning to join the meeting had it been held face to face. However, he was unable to join a virtual meeting and had asked the Clerk to report that there had been no further progress with regard to the SUC beyond what had been previously reported in the supporting documentation circulated to the meeting in October 2021.

He had asked the Clerk to inform the Council that Covid restrictions resulting in the inaccessibility of Government facilities and the serious ill-health of trustees had contributed significantly to the lack of progress.

The Treasurer had been informed of the Council's decision to seek professional advice from NALC's Legal team in relation to the way forward. He fully supported this and had confirmed that he was willing to continue as Treasurer of the SUC.

The Council noted the above information.

602 Allotment Matters

The Allotments Working Party were due to meet representatives of the FFTA Committee on Monday, 22 November at 7pm. However, this meeting had been deferred and a new date needed to be agreed.

603 RHS 'Northwest in Bloom' Awards

Cllr Chris Horridge represented that Parish Council at the 'in Bloom' awards ceremony, which took place on Monday, 15 November 2021. Cllr Chris accepted an award for Memorial Park on behalf of the Council.

The Council noted that the following awards were received:

- Shevington Memorial Park (entered by the Parish Council) was awarded 'Gold' in the Small Parks category.
- Shevington in Bloom were awarded 'Gold' for their work in the centre of Shevington (which includes their work in Memorial Park and Gathurst Lane car park). They were entered in the Small Town category.
- Appley Bridge in Bloom were awarded a Level 5 - 'Outstanding' – for their entry of areas of Appley Bridge (including the entrance to Forest Fold) in the 'It's My Neighbourhood' category.
- Edible Appley Bridge – located at Forest Fold – were awarded Level 4 – 'Thriving'.

Cllr Horridge showed the award for Memorial Park to the meeting. It would go on display in the Parish Council's cabinet at Shevington Library. Cllr Horridge was thanked for attending the ceremony.

The entries were judged mainly on the hard work and dedication of the volunteers involved. They truly deserved everyone's appreciation. However, the Parish Council's staff and contractors also needed to be remembered, as they worked alongside the voluntary groups to maintain the Council's sites in good order and also deserved the Council's gratitude.

604 Christmas Eve

At 3pm on Christmas Eve this year St Anne's Church wished like to hold a family friendly simple outdoor service in Memorial Park near the swings. Their intention was to gather near the trees. St Anne's would do a full risk assessment and manage the event. They wished to ask the Council's permission to do this.

Resolved: The Council granted St Anne's Church permission to hold the service in Memorial Park.

605 Shevington War Memorial Restoration

A local resident had very kindly offered his company's services to restore Shevington War Memorial for Remembrance Sunday 2022 free of charge, as he wished to help his local community. The offer was discussed. It was agreed that arrangements should be made for a site meeting with the resident to take place in the New Year. Cllrs Chris Horridge, John Whiteley and Mr Charlie Neve would attend the site meeting.

606 Christmas Tree Lights Trial

Earlier in the year it had been suggested that the Parish Council could make use of battery-operated Christmas lights in displays instead of lights that required connection to the Street Lighting system.

Cllr Chris Horridge and the Clerk had identified a small tree near the shops at Woodnook Road that Cllr Horridge was willing to decorate using a 20m string of battery-operated lights, which he was of the opinion would be sufficient for this particular tree. The battery-operated lights would be set up to work on a timer for 6hrs – from 4pm to 10pm - and the total cost (including batteries and cable ties) would be approximately £30. This was discussed.

Resolved: The trial was approved, subject to permission being received from the relevant Wigan Council teams.

607 Clerk's Report

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

Several items in the report were discussed briefly:

East Quarry Access Ramp

The construction of a small ramp at the quarry by its owner did not need planning permission, so could not be challenged. It was reported that a district councillor at WLBC was planning to question the validity of this.

Christmas Decorations

The height of the Christmas trees was queried. Some members were of the view that the trees were not 18ft tall. The Clerk explained that the height of a tree was measured from its tip to the bottom of the trunk. As the tree pits were 3ft deep only 15ft of the tree appeared above ground.

Noise at Vicarage Lane Fields

In reply to a question from a member the Clerk explained that a complaint had been made by one household only. An under 12's disco had been held in the evening at the Community building and, because the windows had been open, the noise from the disco could be heard at the other end of the field.

Parish Council Logo

It was observed that, in view of the exorbitant fees charged by the College of Arms for the work involved, the Parish Council would not be submitting an application for a Coat of Arms.

New Fallen Tree at Otters Croft Wood

The management costs of the woodland and the possible impact on the Parish Council's budget was discussed. Mr Charlie Neve agreed to visit the wood to inspect the fallen tree.

Recent Bereavement

It was reported that the Chairman of the CVRA had recently had a bereavement in the family. The Clerk agreed to write to him on behalf of the Council.

608 Financial Aid Applications

None.

609 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure schedule for November was received. *See Appendix C*
The Clerk replied to queries about inclusions in the schedule.

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

610 Planning Applications

None

611 Next Meetings

1 December (P&GP and Finance Committees); 15 December (Council)

During a short discussion it was agreed that, in view of the rising number of Covid-19 cases, the Committee meetings on 1 December would be held virtually. The Council would subsequently maintain a rolling review with regard to face-to-face meetings.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:30pm.

Chairman