

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shevington Parish Council
Held Wednesday 25 August 2021
7:00pm – Vicarage Lane Fields Community & Recreation Centre**

Present: Councillor Jessica Higham (Vice Chairman), Christopher Horridge, John Whiteley and Michael Grimes
Dist Cllr Janet Brown and four members of the public

Officer in Attendance: Mrs Krystyna Pilkington (Clerk)

521 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Bill McKnight, John Ball, Mike Crosby, Ira Whiteley and Vicky Galligan

522 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Chris Horridge w.r.t. Item 533 and 534 (*personal & prejudicial*)

Standing Orders were suspended.

523 District Councillors' Reports

Dist Cllr Janet Brown's report was received. *See Appendix A*
Members engaged in discussion with regard to elements of the report.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

524 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council (30 June 2021)

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 30 June 2021, were approved as a true and correct record.

525 East Quarry

At the request of a member of WLBC an informal meeting had taken place in July between some members of the Parish Council and some residents of Appley Bridge. This was a closed meeting. Discussion focussed on the anti-social behaviour at East Quarry and how it was being managed / handled by the agencies involved and also on the planning application for a new track that had been submitted to Lancashire County Council.

The Parish Council had not been consulted about this planning application, even though the works proposed would have a significant impact on residents of the Parish. In view of this and because the deadline for representations was only two days away, the parish councillors present agreed that a request should be sent to LCC's Development Control Committee asking them to defer consideration of the application

to give the Parish Council and Wigan Council (if they too had not been consulted) time to comment.

It was reported that LCC's Development Control Committee had received about 100 objections to the application from residents of Appley Bridge on both sides of the Borough boundary. In view of the high volume of the representations and their nature, LCC's Development Control Committee voted to refuse the application. This was despite the fact that most of the emergency services had submitted comments in its support. The Fire Services had been ambivalent.

The applicant had the right to appeal to the Planning Inspectorate and it was anticipated that there would be an appeal.

The owner of Maybrook Investments Ltd (the applicant) had asked if he could be given an opportunity to speak to the Parish Council about his plans for the quarry. Members discussed this and agreed that, following consultation with the Chairman, he should be invited to an informal meeting, which would be closed.

526 September Newsletter

Suggestions for inclusion in the next edition of the newsletter were discussed.

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

- Best Kept Allotment Award
- Shevington Fete
- In Bloom Judging Days
- Community Link Worker & Healthy Routes Advisor (Drop-In Clinic) - poster
- Responsible Dog Owner - poster
- Annual Parish Walk
- Speeding and Parking Issues
- Mill Bank Culvert Flooding Risk and the Solution

527 Annual Parish Walk

It was reported that posters advertising the Annual Parish Walk – which was due to take place on Bank Holiday Monday - were put on the notice boards at the beginning of August and flyers were distributed from the Council's stall at Shevington Fete. Cllr John Whiteley added that the route had been planned by Mr Alan Mohring and arrangements were being made for refreshments to be served at Shevington Methodist Church at the end of the Walk.

Cllr John Whiteley agreed to write an article about the Walk for the September edition of the newsletter.

528 Clerk's Report

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

Shevington United Charities

Cllr Ira Whiteley wished to speak about Shevington United Charities and had put forward a request (via another member) that the matter be included on the agenda for the Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting the following week. The Clerk explained that the agenda for the Committee meetings had been set. However, Cllr Whiteley was welcome to speak on the matter under 'Reports from Committee Members'.

'Places for Everyone' Consultation

It was reported that there had been speculation on social media and elsewhere that local Green Belt boundaries would be altered as part of this strategy. A member who had recently prepared a report for the Council on the consultation assured members that this was not part of the proposals.

Repairs to Boundary Wall at the Entrance to Forest Fold

A member observed that he was disappointed with the way that the builder had left the area of the boundary near the raised bed allotments. The Clerk explained that the area was to be seeded with grass and that Appley Bridge in Bloom, who cultivate that section, were currently in discussion about how and when to do it.

529 Financial Aid Applications

None

530 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure schedules for July and August 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.
A member suggested that alternative providers of electricity should be investigated.

531 Planning Applications

None

532 Next Meetings

1 September (Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees;
29 September (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.

Dist Cllr Janet Brown and the members of the public left the meeting.

533 Forest Fold Best Kept Allotment Award

The allotments had been judged and the results are due to be announced at the FFTA AGM in September.

Resolved: The Council approved Plot 7 as the winner of the First Prize and the transfer of the prize of £25 to its tenants.

The allotment awards were due to be announced and presented at the FFTA's AGM, which was due to take place at 2 pm on 19 September. The Clerk was asked to contact the FFTA and ask if the award for the first prize could be presented by a parish councillor.

534 Forest Fold Allotment Plot Categorisation and Rent Review

Revised proposals for the categorisation of allotment plots at Forest Fold and the rent to be charged from 1 March 2022 were considered.

Resolved: The Council agreed that the rent charged for each plot should relate to its individual area. The charge would be 25p per m² for the first 100m² and thereafter 15p per m² for each additional m². The recommendation that the plot holders should be consulted about this via the FFTA was approved.

535 Trees in Otters Croft Wood

The Council considered quotations from two tree surgeons for the removal of a very old and large tree from Otters Croft Wood. The tree was estimated to be 120ft tall and its trunk had been set on fire earlier in the Summer by vandals. Because of its size and location, it was considered to be an H&S risk and, on the advice of the Trees & Woodlands Officer, it needed to be removed. Advice had been sought and received from the Trees & Woodlands Officer about the risks involved in removing it and the potentially safer of the methods to employ to do this.

Resolved: The Council awarded the contract (valued at £1,000) to SMN Trees and approved a virement of £228 from the 'Contingency' cost centre to the 'Tree Survey/works' costs centre to cover the shortfall in the latter.

536 Christmas Decorations

The provision of Christmas trees was discussed.

Resolved: The Council awarded the contract for the supply, fitting and removal of Christmas trees at four locations - Shevington Memorial Park, Crooke Green, Booth's at Appley Bridge and Whiteacre Park – to Joseph Noblett at a total cost of £1,958.

537 Memorial Park Drainage

The revised drainage plan, which enabled surface water to be removed from the site via the chamber in Shevington Lane only, and a report on progress in relation to the implications of the proposed changes were considered.

Resolved: The Council approved the revised drainage plan and agreed to act on the consultant's advice that some of the increases in the drainage contractor's costings should be challenged.

There being no further business, the Vice Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:10 pm.

Chairman