

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council Meeting  
Held Wednesday 25 November 2020  
7:00pm – Virtual Meeting**

**Present:** Councillor I Whiteley (*Chairman*), Cllrs W McKnight, C Horridge, J Higham, V Galligan, M Grimes, J Whiteley and M Crosby  
Dist Cllrs M Whitham and J Brown  
2 members of the public

**Officer in Attendance:** Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

The Chairman announced the passing of Mr Barry King. A former co-opted member of the Policy & General Purposes Committee, Mr King had been responsible for advising on Planning matters. He had tested positive for Covid and had died in hospital earlier in the week. The Council observed a minutes' silence in his honour.

**331 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr J Ball  
Dist Cllr P Collins

**332 Declaration of Interests**

Cllrs I Whiteley and V Galligan w.r.t. Item 345 (*personal & prejudicial*)  
Cllr M Grimes w.r.t. Item 345 (*personal*)  
Cllr J Higham w.r.t. Item 347 (*personal*)

*Standing Orders were suspended.*

**333 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public**

There were no matters raised by members of the public.

*Cllr M Grimes joined the meeting.*

**334 District Councillors' Reports**

Reports were received from the District Councillors present. *See Appendix A*

Dist Cllr M Whitham updated the Council about arrangements for Barry King's funeral. Those present reflected briefly on his history as a member of the Planning Department at Wigan Council and in connection with the locality.

*Cllr V Galligan joined the meeting.*

It was reported that the PCSOs had recently visited Church Lane at school pick-up time and had spoken to parents about the need to use their cars to collect their children from school. The PCSOs had enquired about the reasons for the absence of the

school crossing patrol operative and had been told that the crossing was classed as C category, so, if a higher category of crossing needed a temporary replacement, the operative was often moved to that crossing and the one in Church Lane was not covered.

The District Councillors had been notified by the LA's Planning Department that they were willing to discuss any aspects of the changes planned for the former Shevington Community Primary School site as they arose.

A member reminded the District Councillors that the footpath from Runshaw Avenue to Spar in Shevington Vale was in need of restoration.

*Standing Orders were re-instated.*

### **335 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council (28 October 2020)**

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 28 October 2020, were approved as a true and correct record.

### **336 Chairman's Report**

#### **The Late Barry King**

Barry King was a character within the Parish Council and was very much appreciated for what he contributed. He was regarded as a knowledgeable local council officer who wanted to do the best for the community.

#### **Remembrance Sunday**

The Chairman reported that she and Cllr J Whiteley had gone to the War Memorial on 8 November to lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council and were expecting to be the only ones there. However, approximately 100 people appeared. In view of this they led an informal ceremony during which Cllr J Whiteley had told those there about the people whose names were recorded on the Memorial. Cllr C Horridge had also been there to fly the flag and he played a recording of Remembrance Day music that he had on his mobile phone.

Shevington in Bloom had put out knitted poppies earlier in the morning and ten wreaths were laid at the War Memorial during the ceremony. Cllr Horridge was thanked for his help.

The Chairman and Cllr J Whiteley also laid a wreath at the John Pit Miners' Memorial in St Anne's churchyard. Cllr C Horridge was also present.

### **337 Reports from Councillors**

#### **Apologies**

The Chairman and the Vice Chairman both apologised for their contributions to the Extra-Ordinary Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting the previous week.

### **Dog Fouling**

A member reported that dog fouling issues were causing issues for residents throughout the Parish. This led to a discussion about the matter.

### **Shevington Community Pantry**

It was reported that the Pantry was doing very well. More members were being welcomed each week. Other voluntary groups wishing to open a pantry in their areas had been paying visits to observe and find out how it worked.

### **Crime Wave**

Local Neighbourhood Watch groups had received reports about various activities of a possible criminal nature and were asking residents to be vigilant. Examples of the activities included:

- Break-ins and attempted break-ins on the Millbrook estate;
- Attempted break-ins in Standish;
- Parcels going missing or being delivered to the wrong houses;
- Scrap metal collectors removing items from the wrong places.

## **338 Reports from Representatives**

### **Shevington & District Community Association**

The Community Association had held another meeting via Microsoft 'Teams' the evening before. Twelve people had attended this time and the meeting had gone very well. It had been agreed that a Quiz Night would be held via MS Teams to raise funds for Shevington Youth Club.

### **Crooke Village Residents' Association**

There was no report.

### **Shevington Youth Club**

The Youth Club had been closed during November with no meetings taking place until after lockdown in December. The Club had secured Brighter Borough funding for cleaning materials to enable it to be run in a Covid-secure way. The Club had also been successful in being selected to be the Co-op Charity for the coming twelve months.

### **Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees**

There was no report.

### **'in Bloom' Groups**

There was no report.

### **Patient Participation Group**

The representative had circulated information to members as occasions arose.

### **Audit, Governance & Standards Committee**

The meeting had been deferred to the following Monday.

### **Shevington Rugby & Football Clubs**

It was agreed that, as there had been no reports from the sports clubs for some time, this item would cease to be a standing item.

### **Vicarage Lane Fields Developments**

There was no report.

### **Friends of Shevington Memorial Park**

There were no updates.

### **339 DRAFT Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes & Finance Committees (4 November 2020)**

The DRAFT Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committee meetings held on 4 November 2020 were received.

### **340 DRAFT Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Policy & General Purposes Committee (18 November 2020)**

The DRAFT Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 18 November 2020 were received.

### **341 Tree Works in Memorial Park**

The LA's Trees & Woodlands Officer had written to inform the Council that permissions had been granted for all the treeworks applications submitted in recent months. Two documents containing details of the permissions were received and considered.

**Resolved:** Members noted the conditions associated with the permissions and agreed that quotations for the work should be sought.

The Clerk reported that, because the Christmas tree was due to be installed early in the week beginning 22 November the work permitted on the horse chestnut and the cherry (which was causing issues for tall pedestrians walking along the pavement) had been carried out by Working Woodlands at a cost of £150 on Thursday, 19 November. This had been authorised under delegated authority in line with Financial Regulation 3.4.

### **342 Drainage in Memorial Park – Loan Application**

At its Extra-Ordinary Meeting on 18 November 2020 the Policy & General Purposes Committee had recommended that the Council should apply to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for permission to apply for a loan from the Public Works Loans Board for the work associated with the drainage contract in Memorial Park.

The Committee had delegated Cllr M Grimes to work on this with the Clerk. Cllr Grimes and the Clerk met virtually to discuss the recommendation and to prepare a proposal for the way forward in relation to the amount of the loan. The report and several other documents had been circulated previously for members' information. Cllr Grimes presented the report and led the discussion. Three options for funding the repayments for a loan were suggested.

**Resolved:** The Council agreed that an application should be submitted to the MHCLG for permission to apply for a loan of £150,000 (repayable over 25 years) from the PWLB.

### 343 Vicarage Lane Fields Allotments

*Standing Orders were suspended.*

Shevington H&A Society had submitted a request to alter the arrangement of the allotments on the site. The proposals had been previously circulated and were discussed with the Chairman of the Society, who had joined the meeting to answer questions.

*Standing Orders were reinstated.*

**Resolved:** Shevington H&A Society's proposals were approved.

*Dist Cllr M Whitham left the meeting.*

### 344 Clerk's Report

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

### 345 Financial Aid Applications

*Cllrs I Whiteley and V Galligan withdrew from the meeting.  
Cllr W McKnight took the Chair.*

- **Friends of Shevington Memorial Park**

Several documents in connection with the grant application for funding towards the cost of a notice board for the FSMP in Memorial Park were considered.

Members noted that to date:

- (a) permission for installing the notice board in Memorial Park had not been given by the Parish Council,
- (b) a location for the notice board had not been agreed and
- (c) it was unknown whether there was a need for planning permission.

**Resolved:** The Council gave permission for a notice board for use by the FSMP to be installed in Memorial Park and approved a s137 grant of £250 towards its cost.

*Cllrs I Whiteley and V Galligan re-joined the meeting.*

Cllrs I Whiteley and V Galligan were informed of the outcome of the application and asked to attend a site meeting with the Clerk and Cllr M Grimes to agree a location for the notice board. The Clerk would subsequently submit an enquiry to the LA to establish whether planning permission was needed.

*Cllr I Whiteley returned to the Chair.*

### 346 External Audit Report

The external auditor's report for 2019/20 had been previously circulated and was received. There were no issues.

**Resolved:** The External Audit Report for 2019/20 was accepted and approved.

### **347 Payments, Income & Bank Balances**

The Income / Expenditure schedules for October / November 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.

*Cllr J Higham did not take part in the vote.*

### **348 Planning Applications**

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

### **349 Dates of Meetings 2021**

**Resolved:** The dates of meetings for 2021 were approved.

### **350 Next Meetings**

2 December (Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees);  
16 December (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 J Brown and the members of the public left the meeting.*

### **351 Parish Council Community Service Awards**

Nominations for Community Service awards were received and discussed briefly.

**Resolved:** A request for nominations for Community Service awards would be included in the next newsletter. The Council agreed to also introduce a Good Neighbour award.

### **352 Equality of Opportunity Issue**

The Clerk reported that this issue had now been resolved to a certain extent. The project was still in need of development, but the member in question wished to thank the Parish Council for their concern and consideration.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9:24 pm.

**Chairman**