

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council Meeting
Held Thursday 28 August 2019
7:00pm – Shevington Library**

Present: Councillor I Whiteley (*Chairman*), Cllrs W McKnight, C Horridge, J Ball, M Grimes, J Higham, J Whiteley and M Crosby
Dist Cllrs J Brown and M Whitham
Seven members of the public
Ms S Hanbury (Service Manager – Housing Policy & Reform) and Ms A Durkin (Team Leader – Housing Development) at Wigan Council were present for Items 55 to 57.

Officer in Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone after the Summer recess.

The Council observed a minute's silence in honour of former Parish Councillor Roy Bridge (known for his strong opposition to the development of the former Orica sites and his support for the protection of the environment) and Mr Jim Rigby (leader of the Parish Council's 'Walks'), both of whom had passed away during the Summer months.

55 Apologies for Absence

Cllr V Galligan

56 Declarations of Interests

Cllr C Horridge w.r.t. Item 72 (*personal & prejudicial*)

Standing Orders were suspended.

57 Proposed Extra Care Scheme at Shevington Community Primary School Site - Update

Ms S Hanbury (Service Manager – Housing Policy & Reform) and Ms A Durkin (Team Leader – Housing Development) of Wigan Council were introduced and provided an update on progress with the Extra Care scheme proposed for the former Shevington Community Primary School site. They then took questions and engaged in discussion with the Parish Council and others present. *See Appendix A.*

Ms Hanbury and Ms Durkin were thanked for coming and left the meeting.

58 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

There were no matters introduced by members of the public.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

59 Seating for North Ward Open Spaces

A request from a resident for outdoor seating to be introduced in the open spaces in North Ward was discussed. The resident had specifically mentioned the compound in Longbrook and the grassed area in High Park. It was observed that both areas were surrounded by residential properties and nearest neighbours would need to be consulted about this. Ownership of the open spaces would also need to be established.

60 Shevington Moor Matters

(a) Whiteacre Park

During the Summer residents of Shevington Moor had yet again raised concerns about the poor quality of the maintenance of Whiteacre Park by Wigan Council.

A couple of years ago the Parish Council had asked Wigan Council if they could take over the management of the maintenance of Whiteacre Park and were told that this would not be possible. At the time the Parish Council had suggested to the LA that they should be funded by the LA to do this – an arrangement which is not unusual in other parts of the country. The Parish Council were advised that if a principal authority funded a minor authority to carry out the work, the issue of double taxation did not arise. Equally, if a Parish Council provided additional funding to raise the level of maintenance to a higher specification than that provided by the principal authority, that too should not be deemed to be double taxation, as one of the roles of a parish council was to provide extras from a precept which is additional to the council tax levied by the principal authority.

In their emails the residents gave Memorial Park and the floral displays in the centre of Shevington a very favourable press. However, they were of the opinion that, in comparison, Shevington Moor had been neglected by both the LA and the Parish Council and did not receive its fair share.

Members discussed the issues with the grounds maintenance of Whiteacre Park. It was observed that similar issues applied to Stockley Park in Shevington Vale.

Resolved: The Clerk was instructed to open a discussion with the LA in relation to the grounds maintenance of Whiteacre and Stockley parks.

Cllr M Whitham left the meeting.

(b) Christmas Lighting

Earlier this year the Street Lighting Officer for the area attended a Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting to discuss the possibility of introducing lamp post motifs along the commercial section of Shevington Moor (the road). The lamp posts along the whole of the road were tall, but not as tall or as substantial as those in Shevington Lane.

The Officer had advised that, from an H&S aspect, only very small motifs or the string lights that wrap around the column would be approved for use on these standards. The small motifs were approximately 12 inches tall and, he advised, would look insignificant on such tall lamp standards.

Costings for the wraparound string lighting was considered. Each lamp standard would need to be fitted with a socket bearing infrastructure for the Christmas lighting. This was discussed.

Resolved: The Council approved the purchase of Christmas string lighting for 6 lamp standards in the commercial area of Shevington Moor and their installation as well as the installation of the socket bearing infrastructure on the lamp standards at a cost of £1,560.

Standing Orders were suspended.

61 District Councillors' Reports

District Cllr J Brown reported:

Climate Change

Wigan Council had endorsed climate change issues and were working with the other LAs that made up Greater Manchester to address them. The area hoped to be carbon neutral by 2028.

Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan

Signage warning of high NO₂ emission levels was under consideration.

Issues Turning Right at the Junction of Kilburn Drive with Shevington Lane

Having discovered that '.....traffic mirrors can no longer be erected on the public highway as they are not approved by the Department for Transport.', all three district councillors had approached the Network Management officer over the matter of safety at the junction when turning right. As a result he had agreed to introduce double yellow lines on the corner.

Castelli's Hedges

These were very overgrown again.

Maintenance of Public Footpaths

Public footpaths were not being cut back as they used to be. This was because the maintenance had been contracted out and the Rights of Way Officer no longer had as much control over this work as in the past.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

62 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council (27 June 2019)

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

Amendment:

Minute 42:

'Cllr M Grimes had agreed to take on the work of preparing the bid.' to read 'Cllr M Grimes had agreed to review the completed bid document(s).'

Resolved: That, subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 27 June 2019, were approved as a true and correct record.

63 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that 37 people had joined the Annual Parish Walk on August Bank Holiday Monday and £75.43 had been collected in donations. This amount would be divided equally between Shevington Luncheon Club and Appley Bridge Boys' Brigade.

The Chairman and Cllr J Whiteley had attended the funerals of former Parish Councillor Roy Bridge (2011-15) and Mr Jim Rigby, who had for more than twenty years planned and led the Annual Parish Walk. Cllr C Horridge and Mr B King (former co-opted member of the Policy & General Purposes Committee) also attended the funeral of Mr Rigby.

64 Reports from Councillors

CCTV System

It was reported that the CCTV system, the maintenance of which was partially being covered by the Parish Council, located in the centre of Shevington had not been in use for some time because it had broken down. It had been removed for repair, but it was now back. Several serious incidents had occurred in the centre of the village during the period when it was absent. Concerns would be raised with Central Watch, as no one had been informed that the system had broken down and was being removed.

Bench at the Junction of Back Lane with Crow Orchard Road

A member reported that the bench in question was in poor condition. The Clerk advised that benches of this design were difficult to repair/restore and agreed to look into the cost of a possible replacement.

65 Reports from Representatives

Shevington & District Community Association

The August meeting had taken place earlier in the week.

It was reported that there were still a couple of places available on the 'Healthier Wigan' presentation due to take place in The Galleries in mid-September.

Dates for the flu vaccination clinics had been published.

There had been difficulties with the Surgery's Patient Access App – it was not working as well as it should be.

Quiz Nights had been arranged for 31 January 2020 (in aid of Wigan & Leigh Hospice) and 3 July 2020 (in aid of Derian House).

The 'Beat It' Team would be in the area from 9 to 13 September.

The Community Networking event due to take place on 18 September at St Wilfrid's, Standish was advertised.

Crooke Village Residents' Association

There was no report.

Shevington Youth Club

There was no report.

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

The Trustees had met in August, when they had discovered a great deal about the history of the Recreation Ground.

The two Councillors had drawn the other Trustees' attention to the sizeable pot hole in the Church Lane car park.

The Trustees had asked whether there would be any possibility of the Parish Council's taking on the responsibility of the maintenance of the Gathurst Lane entrance to the Recreation Ground and the flats. This would be an agenda item at a future Council or Committee meeting.

The owner of a neighbouring property in Highfield Avenue had installed a gate large enough to provide access for a van in the fence between the property and the Recreation Ground. The Secretary to the Trustees would be writing to the resident to inform him that he did not have any access rights over the Recreation Ground.

It had been observed that the trees along the boundary with Highfield Avenue needed some attention.

'in Bloom' Groups

It was reported that the recent weather experienced locally had been very conducive to producing good plant growth and flower development and both Appley Bridge in Bloom and Shevington in Bloom had received many complimentary remarks about their displays. Results for Northwest in Bloom entries would be out in late October or early November.

Patient Participation Group

The representative reported that he had not yet attended a meeting of the PPG, but he had been in touch with another PPG member, who would be passing information about him to the doctors to seek their approval for his appointment.

Audit, Governance & Standards Committee

The representative reported that so far he had been unable to attend a meeting, because all of them had clashed with prior engagements. He had, however, been receiving all relevant papers and would be attending the meeting in November.

Shevington Rugby & Football Clubs

No report.

Vicarage Lane Fields Developments

It was reported that there had recently been a failed attempt to break into the storage containers on the site.

Friends of Shevington Memorial Park

The FSMP were due to meet on Thursday, 5 September at the Plough & Harrow pub. The group had received an award of £200 from Asda.

It was reported that they needed an update on progress with the tenders for the drainage.

66 Draft Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting (7 August 2019)

The draft minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting on 7 August 2019 were received.

67 Policy & General Purposes Committee Constitution & Terms of Reference

Resolved: The number of Co-opted Committee members was reduced from 6 to 5 and the Constitution of the Policy & General Purposes Committee was amended accordingly.

68 Remembrance Sunday

The Council noted the arrangements that needed to be made in connection with Remembrance Sunday, which in 2019 would be on 10 November and discussed some of them.

Resolved: It was agreed that:

- (a) Cllr M Grimes would represent the Parish Council at the Service at the War Memorial at Appley Bridge.
- (b) The Caretaker would be responsible for setting up and monitoring the PA system for the Service at Shevington War Memorial. He would check the battery in good time beforehand to ensure that it is working and would charge it up, if necessary. However, if it were not working, he would either purchase or hire a new one.
- (c) The trumpeter who played in 2018 would be invited to play in 2019.
- (d) The number of lamp standards bearing display poppies would be smaller than in 2018. The poppies would be displayed on columns along Shevington Moor Road, Crooke Road, the parts of Miles Lane, Woodnook Road and Mill Lane that meet at the crossroads at Randalls Corner and the parts of Shevington Lane, Gathurst Lane, Broad O'th Lane and Church Lane that meet at the mini roundabout opposite Bewleys.
- (e) Cllr C Horridge would bring 'Our Tommy' to the Service at the War Memorial.
- (f) A donation of £150 would be made to the Royal British Legion for the 3 wreaths laid on behalf of the Parish Council.
- (g) A donation of £50 would be made to a Charity of the bugler's choice.
- (h) New flags would be purchased. Cllr C Horridge would advise the Clerk of the size required.
- (i) The Scouts would be invited to 'Beat the Retreat'

69 Christmas Shop-Front Award

Arrangements for the Christmas Shop-Front Award were discussed.

Resolved: Members agreed that:

- (a) The competition would continue;
- (b) The judge for the 2018 competition would be invited to judge the 2019 entries early in December;
- (c) Donations of £60, £40 and £30 would be made to the Charities nominated by the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizewinners. The judge would also be given the option of identifying additional 'Highly Commended' entries. All of the aforementioned would receive framed certificates.

70 September Newsletter

The contents of the September edition of the newsletter were discussed briefly.

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

- (a) Shevington in Bloom's Crowdfunding for the 'Wicker Man'
- (b) Annual Parish Walk
- (c) Roy Bridge Obituary
- (d) Jim Rigby Obituary
- (e) Remembrance Sunday
- (f) Christmas Shop-Front Award
- (g) Best Kept Allotment Award
- (h) Shevington Horticultural Show
- (i) British Jiu Jitsu Champion
- (j) The Kennet Boat
- (k) Crooke Village events
- (l) Standard items

71 Parish Council Website & Accessibility Regulations

(a) Website Accessibility

Members briefly discussed the contents of a previously circulated legal note from NALC which provided information about The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No.2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 and noted them.

(b) Design of the Parish Council Website

It was reported that Cllrs V Galligan and J Whiteley were due to meet the following day to discuss the design of the website. The subject would feature as an agenda item at a future meeting once they were in a position to report back.

(c) Website Renewal

The domain 'shevingtonpc.gov.uk' was due to expire on 6 November 2019.

Resolved: The renewal of the above domain at a cost of £72 for two years was approved.

72 Best Kept Allotment Award

Resolved: The recommendation that the prize for the Best Kept Allotment should be awarded to the owner of Plot No.13 was approved.

73 Forest Fold Allotments Pest Control Contract

Resolved: The Pest Control Contract with Wigan Council for Forest Fold Allotments was approved. The cost of the contract, which ran from 3 July 2019 to 2 July 2020, was £318.

74 Wigan In Bloom Event

The Parish Council had been invited to send four delegates to the 'In Bloom' Celebration Evening, which was to be held on Thursday, 10 October 2019 at 6pm in the Marquee at the DW Stadium. Because the deadline for replies was 19 August, the Clerk had accepted the invitation on behalf of the Council and had reserved four places.

Resolved: Cllrs I and J Whiteley would be two of the delegates attending the 'In Bloom' Celebration Evening.

Refer: Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting of 4 September.

75 Clerk's Report

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

There was a brief discussion about the issues surrounding the damage caused by bikers in Elnup Wood and the lack of action and communication on the part of its owner – the Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside Groundwork Trust. Some years ago a group called 'The Friends of Elnup Wood' had been set up and its volunteer members had carried out a considerable amount of work in the wood. Sadly, this group appeared to have ceased its activities.

The Council were of the view that a new volunteer initiative was needed to maintain the wood in a suitable condition so that the local community and visitors to the area could enjoy it. The CLM Groundwork Trust needed to be consulted about this.

76 Councillors' Training

(a) Wigan Council

Cllrs J Higham and J Whiteley would be attending the training provided by Wigan Council on 30 September.

(b) Lancashire Association of Local Councils

Cllrs W McKnight and M Grimes would be attending the Chairmanship (10 October) and Finance (14 November) workshops respectively.

Resolved: The payment of course fees of £25 each and travel expense claims was approved.

77 LALC Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Lancashire Association of Local Councils would be taking place on Saturday, 23 November. The Parish Council were entitled to send 3 voting delegates to the AGM. No delegates would be attending.

78 Financial Aid Applications

None.

79 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure Schedules for June / July / August were received.
See Appendix C.

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

80 Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to be considered.

81 Next Meetings

4 September (Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees);
25 September (Council).

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9:08 pm.

Chairman