

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shevington Parish Council
Held Wednesday 29 September 2021
7:00pm – Vicarage Lane Fields Community & Recreation Centre**

Present: Councillor Michael Grimes (Acting Chairman), Christopher Horridge and John Whiteley
Dist Cllr Janet Brown and three members of the public

Officer in Attendance: Mrs Krystyna Pilkington (Clerk)

It was agreed that, in the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Cllr Mike Grimes would chair the meeting.

555 Apologies for Absence

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

The Council observed a minute's silence in honour of the Late Mrs Jean Fletcher, a Parish Councillor for West ward from 2015 until 2019, who had died recently.

Dist Cllr Janet Brown joined the meeting.

556 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Chris Horridge w.r.t. Item 569 (*personal*)

Standing Orders were suspended.

557 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.

558 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council (25 August 2021)

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 25 August 2021, were approved as a true and correct record.

559 DRAFT Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees (1 September 2021)

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

560 Recommendations from the Committees

Policy & General Purposes Committee

Minute 9

Resolved: The Committee's recommendation that the points put forward in Section 4 of the document prepared by Cllr Mike Grimes should be submitted in response to the consultation was approved.

Minute 10

Resolved: The Council approved the following recommendations:

- a. Cllr Mike Grimes would represent the Council at the Remembrance Service at Appley Bridge.
- b. The Caretaker would be responsible for setting up the PA system and checking the equipment beforehand to ensure that it was in good working order.
- c. The trumpeter who played in 2019 would be invited to play during the service in the first instance.
- d. The lamp post poppies would be put on display by Parish Council staff – the routes that they covered would depend on the number of poppies remaining in stock.
- e. 'Our Tommy' would be brought to the Service at the War Memorial.

Minute 11

Resolved: The Committee's recommendations that the Christmas Shop-Front competition should be held once again in 2021 and that Mrs Pam Powell should be invited to act as the judge were approved.

Minute 12

Resolved: The Committee's recommendations that

- on P.12 the reference to the Standards Board should be removed, as the Board no longer existed;
- the sections relating to the Coronavirus Regulations on P.15 should be removed, as they had ceased to apply in May;
- SO.74 – relating to Planning Applications - on P29-30 should be amended to reflect the current situation;

were approved.

Finance Committee

Minute 5

Resolved: The Council ratified a virement of £550 from the 'Memorial Park Development reserve' to the 'Memorial Park Development' cost centre to cover the overspend in the cost centre. The reserve would be reduced to £16,103.

Minute 6:

Resolved: The Council ratified the recommendation that a Direct Debit facility be set up with respect to the Parish Council's current account to enable the quarterly telephone bill from BT to be settled directly.

Minute 7:

Resolved: The Council ratified the recommendations that:

- (a) A donation of £150 should be made to the Royal British Legion for the wreaths laid on behalf of the residents of the Parish on Remembrance Sunday.
- (b) A donation of £50 should be made to a Charity of the bugler's choice.

Minute 8:

Resolved: The Council ratified the recommendation that the prizes awarded in the Christmas Shop-Front Competition should consist of donations of £60, £40 and £30 to Charities chosen by the first three prizewinners.

Minute 9:

Resolved: The Council ratified the recommendation that the following quotations from Wigan Council's Street Lighting section be approved:

- (a) For carrying out the functions in relation to the Christmas lights on the Christmas trees for Shevington centre, Crooke Village, Shevington Moor and Appley Bridge at a cost of £2,508.22.
- (b) For installing and removing the wraparound garlands for lamp standards in Appley Bridge and Shevington Moor at a cost of £1,600.

The total cost came to £4,108.22.

£1,100 would be contributed by Wigan Council's Christmas Decorations budget, making the net cost £3,008.22 to the Parish Council.

Minute 10:

Resolved: The Council ratified the decision that Appley Bridge in Bloom could spend up to £60 on compost and Winter planting for two barrel planters at Appley Bridge Station.

561 VLF Wellbeing Hub

It was reported that Shevington Sharks and Shevington FC had been asked by the Rugby League World Cup Organising Committee and the Rugby Football League to be involved in a pilot project to build on their relationship with the local community. They wished the newly opened Shevington Community and Recreation Centre to live up to its name and become a 'Wellbeing Hub' that was used across the broad community in ways that work for them and help address some of the local challenges the community faced, such as anti-social behaviour or obesity in the young.

The sports clubs had invited representatives of local community organisations to a meeting to discuss this. They would be joined at the meeting by members of the Rugby League Community Team. The aim was to look at how the community could design and implement a programme to reach out into our community to address the issues.

The Chairman of the Parish Council had intended to attend, but, as the meeting was being held at 2pm, when he would be at work, he was not able to join. The meeting

was to be held virtually via MS Teams. There was a short discussion. Dist Cllr Janet Brown would be attending and agreed to report back.

Resolved: It was agreed that Mr Charlie Neve, a Co-opted Committee member, would attend and report back to the Council.

562 External Audit Report

The external auditor's report for the financial year 2020/21 had been previously circulated and was received. There were no issues.

Resolved: The External Audit Report 2020/21 was accepted and approved.

563 Clerk's Report

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

564 Parish & Town Training Workshops

Members noted previously circulated information about training workshops in Chairmanship and Finance to be held via Zoom.

565 Financial Aid Applications

An application submitted by Shevington High School was considered.

Resolved: The Council approved a grant of £150 towards the purchase of daffodils and planting equipment for the creation of a Marie Curie garden in the school grounds.

566 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure schedule for September was 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.

567 Planning Applications

None

568 Next Meetings

6 October (Policy & General Purposes Committee); 27 October (Council).

POTENTIAL CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Resolved: It was agreed that it was possible to discuss the issues without revealing information of a sensitive nature. In view of this, members of the public were not asked to withdraw.

569 Forest Fold Allotment Issue

A report about the condition of an allotment had been circulated previously. The Council noted that the tenant had begun to clear the plot.

Resolved: The Council agreed to extend the deadline by which the tenant would be expected to have tidied the plot. The deadline was extended to 20 October.

The Clerk would inform the tenant.

570 Damaged Tree on Boundary of Otters Croft Wood

The condition of a damaged tree on the boundary of Otters Croft Wood with a farmer's field was discussed. The Trees & Woodlands officer had advised that it should be removed for H&S reasons. A quotation for the work had been sought and received.

Resolved: The Council approved the quotation of £500 provided and awarded the contract to SMN Trees for the removal of the tree. The virement of £500 from the 'Contingency' cost centre to the 'Tree survey/works' cost centre was approved.

There being no further business, the Vice Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:07 pm.

Chairman