

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shevington Parish Council  
Held Wednesday 30 March 2022  
7:00pm – The Community Centre at Vicarage Lane Fields**

**Present:** Councillors William McKnight (Chairman), Christopher Horridge, Ira Whiteley and John Whiteley  
Dist Cllr Janet Brown and five members of the public

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

**679 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Michael Grimes, Vicky Galligan, Michael Crosby, Jessica Higham and John Ball

**680 Declaration of Interests**

The Clerk w.r.t. Item 702 (*personal & prejudicial*)

*Standing Orders were suspended.*

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

**New Volunteers Needed**

A member of the public reported that she had attended Shevington Community Association's monthly meeting the previous evening. She was concerned about the future of the CA because everyone present had been old and there had been no new faces. This led to a discussion about the need for new and younger volunteers and how this could be drawn to the attention of Parish residents. In general, the view was that the newsletter was a good form of outreach to the community, but, ideally, it needed to be delivered in such a way that it was noticed and read.

**Shevington Vale School Community Garden**

A resident reported that Shevington Vale Community Primary School had decided that they would like to develop a community garden which would also serve as an outdoor classroom for the children. The resident reported that she had been invited to lead the project.

**682 District Councillors' Reports**

Dist Cllr Janet Brown's report was received. *See Appendix A*

**Great British Spring Clean**

Dist Cllr Janet Brown reported that groups of youths were converging at Vicarage Lane Fields every Friday evening and on the day of the Spring Clean litter was found to have been strewn all over the allotments.

### **Shevington with Lower Ground Ward Bin Man**

Dist Cllr Brown made a point of saying that Graham, who emptied the waste bins in the ward, needed to be commended and supported. He had asked for Dist Cllrs Brown's help because residents of Standish Lower Ground were putting household rubbish in the refuse bins at St Anne's School. This led to a discussion about whether more bins were needed, particularly near the fast food outlets in Gathurst Lane. A resident observed that there was a bye-law requiring fast food outlets to provide bins for their customers.

*Standing Orders were reinstated.*

## **683 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council (23 February 2022)**

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 23 February 2022, were approved as a true and correct record.

## **684 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman observed that the Council would need to establish whether there would be any further increases to the costs of introducing a new drainage system in Memorial Park. Contractors he was currently dealing with at work had recently increased their prices by as much as 20%.

## **685 Reports from Councillors**

### **Commercial Traffic at Paradise Farm**

A members asked if any information had been established about the nature of the business being carried out at Paradise Farm, as this involved entry and egress from the site by large commercial vehicles. Concerns had previously been raised by the potential dangers this activity posed so near to the main entrance to Shevington High School. The Clerk advised that Cllr Mike Crosby had been looking into it.

### **Parental Parking Outside Schools**

A member drew the Council's attention to the volume and nature of parental car parking outside schools, particularly the High School.

## **686 Reports from Representatives**

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

Fourteen people had attended the CA meeting at Shevington Methodist Church the previous meeting. Ten tablets were currently out on loan and their borrowers were attending training sessions run by TechMates on how to use them every Friday morning. The CA had submitted a bid for a grant for the contents, which will include tools such as lathes and chisels, of a men's shed.

Ms Lynne Prescott and Ms Victoria Briscoe of Wigan Council had attended the meeting to talk about the activities of the local Age-Friendly Community (a Wigan Council initiative). They talked about help for vulnerable people and how one of the things that had emerged during the pandemic was that, when it came to providing support,

neighbours were often more important than family, especially if the latter lived a long distance away.

There was a vibrant discussion about attracting more volunteers, particularly younger ones. It was observed that Shevington Fete, which would be taking place on 18 June, was an event that did attract younger volunteers. Members were informed that the Garden Club Show, which had previously taken place on the same day as the Fete, would be taking place on 6 August.

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

The representative reported that double yellow lines had been painted at the entrance to Crooke Village to prevent people parking cars there and obstructing entry to the village. In reply to a question about the ownership of Elnup Wood at the Standish Lower Ground end, the representative was provided with the name of the owner. The CVRA were currently undertaking a consultation about the possibility of introducing CCTV to Crooke Village. The outcome of the consultation was expected to be announced on 12 April.

#### **Shevington Youth Club**

The representative reported that the Youth Club held Junior Club sessions for children at KS2 on Tuesdays and Senior Club sessions for young people at KS3 and KS4 on Fridays. The LA were helping to run the Junior Club sessions and Wigan Warriors were helping with the Senior Club. Funding for youth workers was being accessed through The Deal.

#### **Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees**

There was no report.

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

There was no report.

#### **Patient Participation Group**

There was no report.

#### **Vicarage Lane Fields Developments**

It was reported that the allotments site had suffered a great deal of wind damage during the recent Winter storms. Ways of mitigating against this had been discussed at a recent meeting of the Vicarage Lane Fields Tenants' Association. The suggestion that trees should be planted in appropriate locations as a wind break was being considered. The Clerk reported that she had been approached by the VLFTA Committee and had been asked how the Council would view this. In her reply the Clerk had asked the Committee to prepare a proposal and forward it to her. She would put it on the agenda of a future meeting once she had received the proposal.

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

There was no report.

#### **Forest Fold Tenants' Association**

The representative of the FFTA reported on developments at the Forest Fold allotments site since the introduction of the association. The group now had a private Facebook page and a table at the site with a swap shop. A couple of plots had been given up recently and one of them had been divided into two. The AGM is due to take place within a month of the deadline for payment of plot rents. The Committee had agreed to supervise the filling of the skip in April once again. Everyone was eagerly awaiting the arrival of the defibrillator, which was going to be fitted on the wall of the Scout HQ.

### **687 DRAFT Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees (2 March 2022)**

The DRAFT minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committee meetings on 2 March 2022 were received.

### **688 DRAFT Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (16 March 2022)**

The DRAFT minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 16 March 2022 were received.

### **689 Shevington Memorial Restoration**

Cllr Chris Horridge, Mr Charlie Neve and the Clerk recently met with Daniel Tomlinson of Tomlinson Memorials on site to discuss the restoration work his company had offered to carry out with respect to the War Memorial in Shevington. A report prepared by Mr Tomlinson had been circulated previously to members. There would be no charge for the work and Mr Tomlinson had agreed during the meeting to also restore the Diamond Jubilee memorial nearby. The offer from Tomlinson Memorials was discussed briefly.

**Resolved:** The offer from Tomlinson Memorials was accepted and the work was approved.

### **690 Memorial Park Play Area ROSPA Report**

The previously circulated ROSPA Report was received. It was referred to the Policy & General Purposes Committee for further analysis and discussion.

### **691 Memorial Park Play Area SLA**

The Service Level Agreement for 2022-23 with Wigan Council for the Play Area in Memorial Park was discussed briefly. The cost of the SLA would be £789.84, which was £15.84 more than in 2021-22. The Council had set aside £780 for the SLA in the 2022-23 budget.

**Resolved:** The Council approved Wigan Council's Play Area SLA for 2022-23 at a cost of £789.84. They also approved a virement of £9.84 from the General Reserve for 2022-23 to the 'Memorial Park Play Area Maintenance' cost centre for the same year.

### **692 Green Cabin**

On Monday, 7 March Cllr Chris Horridge, Mr Mike Thomas (CVRA Chairman) and Mr Charlie Neve (SPC Co-opted member for Crooke) visited Forest Fold to view the green storage container that was surplus to requirements.

Mr Neve had suggested it might be suitable to use as a store for Crooke Village flood protection equipment. It was agreed at the site meeting that Crooke would like to accept the container, Free of Charge, from Shevington Parish Council. Mr Thomas had agreed

to move the container and store it on his land at Crooke until the container was needed and a suitable, location for it had been agreed.

**Resolved:** The Parish Council approved the donation of the green cabin to the CVRA. Once it had been removed from Forest Fold it would be written off and removed from the Council's Asset Register.

### **693 Shevington Fete Stall**

This year's Fete was due to take place on Saturday, 18 June. The Parish Council briefly discussed hiring a stall for the purposes of community engagement. The fee for an indoor stall of the size the Parish Council usually had was £10.

**Resolved:** Members approved the booking of a stall at Shevington Fete on 18 June 2022 and the submission of the £10 fee.

### **694 Clerk's Report**

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

### **695 Financial Aid Applications**

None

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

The Income / Expenditure schedule for March 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.

### **697 Planning Applications**

None

### **698 Next Meetings**

6 April (Policy & General Purposes Committee); 27 April (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.*

## **699 Litter Collection Contract**

The Council considered the quotations for the contract to empty its litter bins.

**Resolved:** The Council awarded the contract for 2022-23 – to the value of £5,579.60 – to Wigan Council.

The 2022-23 'Litter Collection' cost centre had sufficient funds to cover the cost of the contract.

## **700 Minor Maintenance Work**

Quotations received for three upgrades – two at Forest Fold and one at Crooke Village – were considered.

### **Painting of Planters at Crooke Village**

**Resolved:** The Council awarded the contract – to the value of £350 for labour and materials - for the painting of its planters at Crooke Village to John Parker.

This would be funded from the 2022-23 'Street Furniture' cost centre, which had an opening balance of £1,040.

### **Painting of Storage Pavilion at the Bowling Green**

**Resolved:** The Council awarded the contract - to the value of £360 for labour and materials - for painting the storage pavilion at Forest Fold Bowling Green to John Parker.

This would be funded from the 2022-23 'Upgrades at Bowling Green / Allotments' cost centre, which had an opening balance of £1,040.

### **Restoration of a Bay at Forest Fold Car Park**

**Resolved:** The Council awarded the contract – to the value of £290 for labour and materials - for the restoration of a bay at Forest Fold car park to John Parker.

The work would be funded from the 2022-23 'Upgrades at Bowling Green / Allotments' cost centre.

## **701 Appointment of Supply Staff**

Supply cover for Employee No.2 was discussed briefly.

**Resolved:** Mrs Sylvia Lawler was appointed to provide supply cover for the duties of Employee No.2 for the foreseeable future.

## **702 NJC Pay Award**

It was agreed that, as this matter concerned all council employees, there was no need for the Clerk to withdraw from the meeting.

The National Association of Local Councils had informed parish councils that the National Joint Council had agreed the new rates of staff pay applicable with effect from 1 April 2021. The Council considered the information circulated.

**Resolved:** The Council approved the national pay award agreed by the NJC. It would apply to all staff on the payroll during the 2021-22 financial year and be back-dated to 1 April 2021.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:20 pm.

**Chairman**