

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Held Wednesday, 2 November 2022
7pm - The Community Centre at Vicarage Lane Fields**

Present: Councillor William McKnight (Chairman), Councillors John Whiteley, Michael Crosby, Christopher Horridge and Cllr Jessica Diggle (nee Higham) (via MS Teams)
Co-opted Committee Members: Mr David Crook, Mr Charlie Neve and Mr Brian Lomas (via MS Teams)
No members of the public were present.

In Attendance: Mrs Krystyna Pilkington (Clerk to the Council)

1. Apologies

Cllrs Ira Whiteley, Mike Grimes and John Ball
Mrs Janet Brown

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Chris Horridge w.r.t. Item No.9.

Mr Brian Lomas joined the meeting.

3. Village Issues

Parking on Randall Avenue

It was reported that on-road parking was on the increase in Randall Avenue.

Fly Tipping Outside the Baby Elephant

It was observed that the fly tipping outside the Baby Elephant had still not been removed. The Clerk reported that the Enforcement Officer had to allow the owners of the property several weeks to remove it. The deadline for this to have happened had not yet been reached.

Parking in Whiteacre

A Co-opted Committee member informed the Committee that the parking situation in Whiteacre continued to be an issue. The agencies that had the power to do something about it were not taking any action.

**4. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
(5 October 2022)**

Resolved: The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 5 October 2022 were approved as a true and correct record.

5. Parish Council Protocol

Over the past few months several issues had arisen because Parish Council protocol had not been followed by certain members. The Committee discussed the issues briefly and affirmed that matters should be brought to Parish Council meetings and agreed first before actions were taken by Parish Councillors.

6. Parish Councillors' WhatsApp Group

Members had a brief discussion about the WhatsApp group set up in 2020.

Resolved: The Parish Councillors' WhatsApp group was approved retrospectively.

7. Annual Community Awards

For the past five years the Parish Council had been presenting awards to residents who have done something outstanding for the local community. The awards were usually presented by a local dignitary during the Annual Parish Meeting in March. Members briefly discussed the way forward.

Resolved: Members agreed that the status quo should be maintained in 2023 and nominations would be sought via the newsletter.

8. November Newsletter

The text so far in place for inclusion in the November edition of the newsletter was received and discussed.

Resolved: The above text was approved.

9. Forest Fold Allotment Plots Issues

It was reported that four plot holders, who were at various stages in the enforcement procedure, had complied with what had been asked of them. Supporting evidence of this had been provided. There was a brief discussion.

Cllr Jess Diggle joined the meeting.

Resolved: The Committee agreed that the enforcement procedure should cease and the status of all four should revert to normal. Future non-compliance would be treated as though a new situation had arisen.

10. Tree Risk Management Plan

The Parish Council had been considering commissioning a survey of the trees in Otters Croft Wood. The Clerk had been asked to contact the Trees & Woodlands Officer at Wigan Council to seek his advice about the depth to which this should be undertaken

and, going forward, the frequency with which it should take place. His reply and a guidance document had been previously circulated.

Progress with the TRMP was briefly discussed. Cllr Mike Grimes had been unable to be present at this meeting, but had asked the Clerk to report that he was happy with the advice and guidance received from the Trees & Woodlands Officer and would update the TRMP in line with this. Cllr Grimes would advise the Clerk when to include the TRMP on an agenda once again.

11. New Code of Conduct Consultation

Members briefly discussed the documents circulated to the Council meeting the previous week. Several members observed that there appeared to be very little difference between the old Code of Conduct and the new one that had been proposed by Wigan Council's Working Group. The matter would be discussed again by the full Council at the end of November, when observations to be forwarded to the Working Group would be agreed.

12. Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

13. Dates of Next Meetings

30 November (Council);
7 December (Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees)

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7:40 pm.

Chairman