

**Minutes of the Shevington Parish Council  
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting  
Held Wednesday, 1 December 2021  
7pm Virtual Meeting**

**Present:** Councillor William McKnight (Chairman), Councillors Christopher Horridge and John Whiteley

Co-opted Committee Members: Mr Charlie Neve and Dist Cllr Janet Brown  
Ms Julie Middlehurst (*Assistant Director, Infrastructure and Regulatory Services at Wigan Council*)

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

**1. Apologies**

Cllrs John Ball, Ira Whiteley, Jessica Higham, Mike Grimes and Mike Crosby

**2. Declaration of Interests**

None

*Standing Orders were suspended.*

**3. Greater Manchester Clean Air Plan**

*This item was deferred to a later point in the meeting to enable the guest speaker to join.*

The Chairman introduced Ms Julie Middlehurst (*Assistant Director, Infrastructure and Regulatory Services at Wigan Council*) who gave a Powerpoint presentation on the GM Clean Air Plan. Ms Middlehurst talked about the aim of the Plan – to improve air quality and the health of the residents of the area – and the rationale behind it.

The results of the Clean Air consultation that had taken place a few years ago had been used to inform the Plan, which would relate to a zone covering all of the roads in Greater Manchester except for strategic roads like the motorways. Ms Middlehurst explained that once the air quality had improved to compliant levels the zone would become unnecessary and would be removed. She reported that similar schemes were being introduced in other densely populated parts of the country.

Ms Middlehurst signposted the types of vehicles that were subject to the restrictions and the deadlines by which they either had to be retrofitted or replaced. Non-compliant vehicles would be subject to a daily charge when used within the zone. Some categories of vehicles that were originally going to be subject to charges - e.g. M1 motorhomes – had been consulted on recently and, following the outcome of the consultation, would now be exempt. Some of the exemptions would be permanent, while others would be temporary.

Detailed information about the GM Clean Air Zone was available on the website.

Ms Middlehurst advised the Committee that funding was available to help with retrofitting and replacement of existing vehicles. There was an online checker available that could be used to establish whether a specific vehicle would trigger a charge and would need to be upgraded. Owners of vehicles that needed to be retrofitted or replaced would receive letters notifying them of this.

Ms Middlehurst then took questions from those present:

- A member who regularly used a taxi service based in Skelmersdale was told that the taxi firm would have to pay the charge every time one of their taxis crossed into the GM Clean Air Zone if the taxi had been constructed before 2005 (petrol) or 2016 (diesel). The firm would pass the charge on to the passenger.
- The charges did not apply to private cars, so owners would not be deterred from entering the Zone. Builders and other workmen could choose to use estate cars, which were exempt, or take advantage of the funding available. The charges only applied to vans after June 2023.
- In reply to a question about the expense involved in retrofitting a vehicle Ms Middlehurst explained that only approved retrofitters could be used. Some vehicles could not be retrofitted. Information about this was available online.

A Co-opted Committee member observed that the majority of vehicle owners would not be directly affected by the Clean Air Plan and would support a policy which required large emitters to be retrofitted to achieve compliance. Strong messaging was needed to re-assure the majority that they would not be affected.

*Standing Orders were reinstated.*

#### **4. Reports from Committee Members**

##### **Crooke Village Matters**

###### Christmas Tree

The Co-opted Committee member from Crooke reported that the Christmas tree had been fitted at Crooke Village Green. It had been decorated and the lights had been lit. It looked very good. He was able to testify that no damage had been done to the Green either by Wigan Council's operatives or by the contractor who had fitted the tree.

###### Crooke Park Signage

The promised signage for Crooke Park had still not been installed. This was being chased up. There had recently been issues at the park with motorcycles. A couple of them were being driven over the park and were churning up the field.

###### Flooding Issues

The Co-opted Committee member reported that he had recently spent a significant amount of time clearing the pipes under the bridge over the Mill Brook near the entrance of the village to try to avert the possibility of flooding. Even though there had not been that much rain, the water levels in the brook had been high, because the high winds experienced in the area had caused large volumes of leaves to build up in the pipes, resulting in blockages.

In addition work was currently taking place at Dean Lock, which was downstream from Crooke Village. The work had involved the creation of a cofferdam, which meant that the flow of water downstream was being slowed down and contributing to the higher water levels at Crooke. Consequently, the residents of the village were approaching the scenario in relation to flooding with caution.

#### Crooke Village Residents' Association

The AGM had been held recently. There had been no changes to the Committee.

*Ms Julie Middlehurst joined the meeting and Item No.3 was taken at this point.*

*At the end of Item No.3 Dist Cllr Janet Brown left the meeting.*

*Ms Middlehurst was thanked for her contribution and also left the meeting.*

*Item No.4. was resumed.*

#### **Car Parking on Grass Verges**

A member reported that the practice of parking cars on the grass verges along the stretch of Miles Lane in the vicinity of Forest Fold had in the recent past caused an accident.

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

There had been 14 attendees at the Community Association's meeting, which had taken place at Shevington Methodist Church the previous evening. During the meeting it was reported that the CA had funds for 9 SIM enabled tablets and had also secured funding

- to create boules and croquet courts at Shevington Recreation Ground.,
- for Pam Powell's Art Class and
- for the seated yoga sessions for the over-50s that were currently being run by Cllr Vicky Galligan at Shevington Youth Club.

It was also reported that a planning application submitted for the re-development of The Galleries in Wigan had been approved by the Planning Committee. It was anticipated that the project would be completed in 2024.

There was some discussion about Shevington Surgery and how it was operating at present. An information leaflet published by the Surgery was circulated.

A representative of the CA had attended a meeting about the creation of a Wellness Hub at Shevington Community & Recreation Centre at Vicarage Lane Fields and had given a report.

#### **5. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting (3 November 2021)**

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 3 November 2021 were approved as a true and correct record.

#### **6. Community Wellbeing Hub**

Shevington Community and Recreation Centre (SCRC), which opened earlier in the year, was the result of over 10 years of Community involvement aimed at providing the people of Shevington Community with a place where residents could improve their lifestyles. Recently, SCRC had been approached by the Rugby League World Cup

Organising Committee and the Rugby Football League and invited to become involved in a pilot project to build on the relationship between the SCRC and the Community.

A virtual meeting had taken place on 8 October to investigate how the SCRC could be of greater use to the Community. Representatives of RFL, RFL World Cup, Wigan Council, My Life, Local Schools, Local Doctors, Patient Support Groups and Shevington Parish Council took part in the meeting. Mr Charlie Neve had attended on behalf of the Parish Council.

He reported that the result of the well-attended meeting was the realisation of an exciting opportunity, which would be led by the Community with support from key experienced people from sport and other activity sectors. These sectors worked by using 'activities' of all kinds as a catalyst for sustainable and positive changes to peoples' lives.

The aim of the project was to make the SCRC a "Community Wellbeing Hub" from where numerous 'activities' could be organised and led. The potential and opportunities provided by the pitches, the allotments, the building itself, the community, the walks and the varied associations surrounding and supporting the community were endless.

Further meetings were planned to begin to realise this potential, but so far the representatives had not been notified of the date of the next meeting.

The Committee received the report and noted its contents.

## **7. Survey of Fallen Trees in Otters Croft Wood**

Following the discussion during the November Council meeting, Mr Charlie Neve had visited Otters Croft Wood to survey the track which had been reported to the Clerk by a resident as being blocked by a fallen tree. Mr Neve's report – which included photographs – had been previously circulated. He had reported that the tree in question was no longer blocking the route, as the parts responsible had been dismantled and were away from the track. The remains of the burnt tree that had been felled in October had also been left as agreed.

On his visit Mr Neve had observed many fallen trees in the woodland. This was to be expected in a woodland that was allowed to develop naturally. However, all tracks through the woodland were clear.

**Resolved:** The Committee received and accepted the report and agreed that there was no need for any further action on this occasion.

Mr Neve was thanked for undertaking the survey.

## **8. West Lancashire Borough Council Local Plan**

WLBC were preparing a new Local Plan for 2023-2040. An information leaflet about the process involved in bringing it to a stage at which it could be approved had been previously circulated. WLBC were seeking the Council's views because the Parish shared a boundary with WLBC. The leaflet provided information about how to access the current consultation, which was due to close on 27 January 2022.

After a brief discussion it was agreed that this item would be deferred to enable members to read the information on WLBC's website and give the matter some consideration.

## **9. Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications to consider.

## **10. Date of Next Meeting**

15 December (Council)

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7:48 pm.

**Chairman**

**DRAFT**