

**Minutes of the Shevington Parish Council
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Held 1 February 2018
7.00pm Shevington Library**

Present: Councillor I Whiteley (Chair), Councillors W McKnight, J Ball, C Miles, C Horridge, K Shaw, J Calderbank, A Bland and J Fletcher.

Co-opted Committee Members: Mrs E Longmore, Mr B Lomas, Mr D Crook and Mrs J Brown.

One member of the public.

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

1. Apologies

Mr B King

2. Declaration of Interests

None.

**3. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
(7 December 2017)**

Resolved: The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 7 December 2017 were approved as a true and correct record.

4. Village Issues

Builder's Refuse Behind the Parade of Shops

It was reported that this had been removed.

New Bins

It was suggested that litter bins were needed for two locations: (a) beside the bench at the junction of Back Lane with Crow Orchard Road and (b) beside the bench in Woodnook Road.

Play Area at Herons Wharf

The Vice Chairman reported that he had established that the play area at Herons Wharf would soon be in place once materials coming from Poland had arrived. The developments had come about following an intervention by the Enforcement Officer. The Vice Chairman had enquired about the completion date and the maintenance regime.

Cllr A Bland joined the meeting.

Anti-Social Behaviour and the Care Home

There had recently been disturbing reports from two unconnected residents about anti-social behaviour on the part of some of the residents of the LA's Care Homes in

the locality. The residents had reported the issues to the Police, who had visited. This led to a discussion, during which it was reported that the personnel involved with the North West Footprint hub were aware of the issues at one of the locations and that the issues at that location had been resolved. The Chairman would refer the matter of the other issue to the District Councillors.

Grass Verges in Church Lane

The Chairman had recently met with the Shevington in Bloom Co-ordinator, Dist Cllr M Whittam and the LA's Highways Officer to discuss the condition of the grass verges in Church Lane. The Shevington in Bloom Co-ordinator had asked if a lay-by could be introduced to prevent cars damaging the verges and had received a negative reply.

Emptying of Bins

A member observed that bins were not being emptied as often as they should be.

Shevington United Charities

The Treasurer of Shevington United Charities reported that he had heard from the bank that the signatories had been changed. He had also visited the field in Eccleston and had been amazed by its size. There was evidence that someone was using it as a horse pasture.

Construction Work at Appley Bridge Station

A member reported that Carillion's sub-contractors had ceased working at Appley Bridge Station. The area was cordoned off, but there was a large unattended hole where they had been working. The Clerk would write to Northern to raise the issues.

Potholes

The very large incidence of potholes in the area was discussed. The Clerk would write to Highways to raise the issues.

Anti-Social Behaviour at the Bench in Woodnook Road

A Co-opted Committee member reported that the bench in Woodnook Road had become the focus point for individuals indulging in anti-social behaviour. One of the two residents who had objected to it on the grounds that this would happen was very upset. There had also been more break-ins at the Spar and an increase in litter at the location. This was an Appley Bridge in Bloom bench. The concerns were noted and the situation would be monitored.

Shevington Clinic Car Park

A member who had written to Bridgewater Community Healthcare Trust about the potholes in the clinic car park had received a reply in which she was informed that emergency repairs would be carried out initially, followed by proper re-surfacing later.

Access Way Behind Terraced Houses at the Top of Broadriding Road

There had recently been complaints by other residents that one of the residents had installed posts at the entry to the access road behind the terraced houses on the boundary with the Forest Fold site. The other residents were concerned that the resident had narrowed the entry to such an extent that lorries, vans and emergency vehicles might not be able to get through. The matter was discussed. An enquiry would be raised with the LA to establish whether the access road was a right of way and whether the resident's action should be challenged.

Overhanging Trees at Forest Fold

It was reported that one of the tenants on the raised beds site had given up one of them because the overhanging branches from trees belonging to a neighbouring property were preventing sunlight reaching his raised bed and making cultivation difficult. Agreement was reached that the neighbour would arrange for the removal of the lower branches when work was being carried out on the fencing. Another tenant on the main site was also threatening to give up his plot for a similar reason.

Footpath at the Rear of Broadacre

The activities of a farmer in a field behind Broadacre had impacted on the footpath behind Broadacre and the conditions on the field. The issues would be reported to the Rights of Way Officer.

5. Rail Services

Mr B King's report was received and considered. *See Appendix A.*

Resolved:

- That the conflict between the Northern Rail Strategy and Northern's current timetable proposals would be pointed out to Transport for the North and Northern.
- That Northern would be asked whether their May timetable change had been finalised or whether it been deferred until later in the year.
- That, as a minimum, the business case for direct Piccadilly trains would be supported.

6. North West Electrification

Information about electrification in the North West was received and noted.

7. Vicarage Lane Fields Working Party

The Chairman reported that the Vicarage Lane Fields Working Party had met on 31 January and had refined several suggestions during the meeting. The Working Party had discussed

- a plan to develop the outer perimeter pathway.
- the planting of extra trees – fruit trees, elder and hazel.
- the development of the area to the north of the allotments.
- the introduction of a community orchard to the south of the woodland.
- the development of Little Wood – experts from Wigan Council would be invited to provide advice.
- the possibility of installing a phone mast.

A member expressed concern about the lack of progress with respect to meeting the planning conditions for the development of the site that were the responsibility of the Council. The Chairman replied that the working party were looking into all the relevant aspects and that everything was meshing in well.

Another member expressed concern that the focus seemed to have shifted from a project (*in which he had to declare an interest*) on another of the Parish Council's site and for which funds needed to be raised to the Vicarage Lane Fields project. The

Chairman observed that the Council had agreed to devote a whole meeting to the other project in the Summer.

8. Annual Parish Meeting

The format of the Annual Parish Meeting was discussed. It was agreed that for this year it would remain the same as in past years. The reports would be published on the website beforehand and there would be further discussions about the format in future years. It was observed that the Annual Parish Meeting was a good opportunity for engaging with the community.

9. How to Promote What the Parish Council Does and Raise Awareness in the Parish

During a short discussion it was concluded that the Annual Parish Meeting could be a good forum for promoting the Parish Council.

10. Meeting with Wigan Council's CEO - Feedback

A member provided verbal feedback on the meeting with some of Wigan Council's senior officers. The feedback covered:

- The former Shevington Community Primary School site.
- The fact that the LA did not understand that the Parish Council was an elected assembly.
- The need to know what the LA's plans were.
- The need for advice with respect to the Parish Council's woodland.
- The Planning List.
- The offer to provide temporary public car parking at the school site.

Notes of the meeting on Friday, 19 February had been provided by Wigan Council and had been circulated previously. The feedback was discussed extensively.

11. West Lancashire CIL Funding Programme for 2018/19

Information about the projects selected by West Lancashire Borough Council for their CIL Funding Programme for 2018/19 was received and noted.

12. Precept Information for Council Tax Letter

Resolved: The precept information for the Council Tax letter was approved.

13. Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications to consider.

14. Date of Next Meeting

Council: 22 February; Policy & GP and Finance Committees: 1 March

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8:22 pm.

Chairman