

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Held Wednesday, 1 November 2023
7pm - The Community Centre at Vicarage Lane Fields**

Present: Councillor William McKnight (Chairman), Councillors John Whiteley and Helen Thompson
Co-opted Committee Members: Mr David Crook and Mr Charlie Neve; Mr Brian Lomas (via MS Teams).
No members of the public

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

The Chairman announced the sad news that Cllr Janet Brown had recently lost her husband, Maurice, and that former Parish Councillor, Ms Carole Miles had recently lost her partner, Dave Osborn. The Committee was asked to stand and observed a minute's silence.

1. Apologies

Cllrs Janet Brown, Chris Horridge, Mike Grimes and Mike Crosby
Mrs Ira Whiteley

2. Declaration of Interests

None

3. Village Issues

Parish 'Welcome' Signage

A member asked whether there was any possibility of making arrangements for the 'Welcome' sign at the northern entrance to the village to be cleaned. The Clerk agreed to look into the costs involved.

Cyclists in Crooke Village

A member reported that Crooke Village continued to have issues with cyclists proceeding through the village at a very fast pace. One had recently narrowly missed his car.

Autumn Leaves

Another member observed that there was a significant amount of leaf fall on the roads at present. It needed to be cleared by Wigan Council. The Clerk would forward a request to Wigan Council.

4. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting (4 October 2023)

Resolved: The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 4 October 2023 were approved as a true and correct record.

5. Remembrance Sunday - Update

The Clerk reported that:

- Wrightington Parish Council had confirmed that Cllr Mike Grimes could lay a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the War Memorial at Appley Bridge on Remembrance Sunday and their Clerk had sent the details of the arrangements. These had been forwarded to Cllr Grimes.
- The wreaths were collected the previous Tuesday and they were in the process of being distributed to those who would be laying them. Cllr John Whiteley Had agreed to lay the one at the Miners' Memorial in St Anne's churchyard.
- Thanks to a donation via a resident, the Parish Council's supply of lamp post poppies had trebled. A 'Thank You' letter would be sent to Gill Molyneux – the Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator at Veterans HQ. The Caretaker had been putting them up in Shevington Moor, Appley Bridge / Shevington Vale and central Shevington. The CVRA were putting up those in Crooke Village.
- The uniformed groups, the scout band, the bugler, the sound technicians with PA system and the Police had all confirmed their attendance.
- The Vicar, Rev Andrew Brown, had been contacted and had been in touch.
- Shevington Vale Primary School had confirmed that their service would be on Friday, 10 November at 10:45am. This information had been passed on to Cllrs Jess Diggle and Mike Grimes, who would both be representing the Parish Council.
- All proposed services/ceremonies had been announced in the newsletter currently being delivered to homes. Representatives more local to Shevington Moor and Crooke Village would circulate information in their areas nearer the time.
- The grounds maintenance team would do their best to have the Memorial Garden and Park as ready as they could be, but could not promise to be able to mow the grass, as the ground conditions were poor. The hedge surrounding the Memorial Garden had recently been tidied up.
- Cllr Horridge would collect 'Our Tommy' from the Library and display him at the entrance to the Memorial Garden on the day.
- Shevington in Bloom had confirmed that they would mount a display of knitted poppies on the day.

6. Christmas Shop-Front Competition

- (a) It was reported that Mrs Pam Powell had written to say that she was unable to judge the 2023 competition. This was discussed. Cllr Helen Thompson was invited to judge the competition and accepted.

Resolved: It was agreed that Cllr Helen Thompson would judge the 2023 competition.

- (b) In 2022 the Council acknowledged all entries by sending the entrants a 'Thank You' card after the results had been announced.

Resolved: The Committee agreed to maintain the status quo.

7. Places for Everyone – Proposed Modifications Consultation

The deadline for responses was 6 December. It was recommended that, if members wished to submit a corporate response, detailed discussion should be deferred until the Council meeting on 29 November to give members time to read all of the documentation and have a meaningful discussion before submitting such a response.

Resolved: Detailed discussion was deferred until 29 November.

8. Planning for the Future of Wigan Borough to 2040 – the Wigan Borough Local Plan

The Strategic Planning Team at Wigan Council had written to let the Parish Council know that they were now consulting on the Options and Preferences for the Local Plan, for 8 weeks until 23:59 on Monday 18th December 2023. The consultation could be accessed online. Paper versions of the documents could be viewed in Wigan Council's libraries.

As part of the consultation, the Strategic Planning Team were holding ten workshops – each at a different location - which would provide an opportunity to discuss and debate matters in the Options and Preferences version of the Local Plan with the planners involved. Each workshop would begin at 7pm with a short presentation (10 minutes) to set the scene, and then it would be about hearing everyone's views on those issues. There would also be an opportunity to raise anything else people want to. Each workshop would have a primary focus on the town concerned.

It was recommended that, if members wished to submit a corporate response, detailed discussion should be deferred until the Council meeting on 29 November to give members time to read all of the documentation and have a meaningful discussion before submitting such a response.

Resolved: Detailed discussion was deferred until 29 November.

9. Planning Applications

- **A/23/96023/PDQ - Wood Farm, Back Lane, Appley Bridge, Wigan, WN6 9LE**
Prior notification for change of use from agricultural building to 5 dwelling houses.

It was reported that this application had been refused.

Resolved: The Committee noted the above.

10. Dates of Meetings 2024

The Committee received and discussed the proposed dates for meetings in 2024. Several amendments were made.

Resolved: The Committee recommended the amended list of dates for 2024 to the Full Council for approval.

Mr Brian Lomas left the meeting.

11. Dates of Next Meetings

29 November (Council); 6 December (P&GP and Finance Committees)

Resolved: Following a short discussion it was agreed to recommend to the Full Council that the Council meeting scheduled for 13 December should be cancelled.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7:45 pm.

Chairman