

**Minutes of the Shevington Parish Council
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Held Wednesday, 2 December 2020
7.05pm Virtual Meeting**

Present: Councillor Ira Whiteley (Chairman), Councillors William McKnight, Christopher Horridge, John Whiteley, Michael Grimes, Michael Crosby and Jessica Higham

Co-opted Committee Members: Dist Cllr Janet Brown and Mr Brian Lomas
One member of the public

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

1. Apologies

Cllr John Ball

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllrs Ira Whiteley w.r.t. Item Nos.8 & 9 (*personal & prejudicial*)
Cllr Mike Grimes w.r.t. Item No.9 (*personal*)

**3. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
(4 & 18 November 2020)**

Policy & GP Committee Meeting (4 November 2020)

Resolved: The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 4 November 2020 were approved as a true and correct record.

Extra-Ordinary Policy & GP Committee Meeting (18 November 2020)

Resolved: The Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 18 November 2020 were approved as a true and correct record.

4. Village Issues

Horse Riding in Park

It was reported that a message had been received via the Facebook page that a horse rider travelling through Memorial Park had received abuse from a member of the public. The rider had not been aware that horses were not allowed in the park and a member asked whether signage advising people of this could be put on display. This would be an agenda item at the Full Council meeting.

Estate Agent's Signage

A Co-opted Committee member reported that an estate agent had positioned a 'For Sale' sign on a grass verge adjacent to the pavement in the vicinity of Ferndale. This practice was illegal and the matter would be reported by the member to the LA and ask them to deal with it.

Car Parking in Shevington Village

The shortage of car parking facilities in the centre of Shevington were discussed. A resident had suggested that perhaps the Parish Council car park in Gathurst Lane could be extended into part of the Recreation Ground. The Committee agreed that this was not feasible. Another possibility was to extend the Recreation Ground car park in Church Lane by utilising some of the land belonging to the Trustees behind the car park. As neither the Parish Council nor the Trustees had the funds to do this, it was suggested that Wigan Council could be approached and asked to either lease or purchase the land from the Trustees in order to provide additional car parking facilities for the area. Such a provision would solve several issues in the area. The first step was to write to the Recreation Ground Trustees and put forward the suggestion. The Clerk was asked to do this.

Footway Outside Whitehill Cottage

It was reported by a Co-opted Committee member that a resident had raised concerns that the footway outside Whitehill Cottage (opposite Merrybone Farm) in Shevington Lane was too narrow. This route to and from Shevington was a popular one with pedestrians, who, in the view of the resident, were at risk because of the speed at which traffic travelled to and from the motorway. The member had passed this concern on to Traffic Management at the LA.

SPID in Gathurst Lane

A resident reported that the SPID along Gathurst Lane (near Vicarage Lane) appeared to not have been working for quite some time. The resident was of the view that the SPID might have more impact on traffic speed along Gathurst Lane if, once repaired, it indicated the speed of on-coming traffic. This had been reported to the LA.

Barry King's Funeral

The Late Barry King's funeral would be on 11 December at 10:30 am at Charnock Richard Crematorium. Cllrs Ira and John Whiteley would be attending and would represent the Parish Council.

Standing Orders were suspended.

Wigan Armed Forces Hub Christmas Party

A member of the public reported that she had earlier in the day returned from a visit to Wigan Armed Forces Hub. Twenty young veterans had booked to join a Christmas lunch at the Hub. Because of their experiences, the mental health of these veterans was critical and the member of the public wondered if there was a way in which funding could be provided to buy a Christmas present to give to each of them to open while they were at the lunch to make them feel appreciated.

The member of the public was informed that it might be possible for Wigan Council's Brighter Borough funding to be used to fund a contribution towards the costs of the lunch party. The Parish Council would discuss making a contribution from the Chairman's Allowance at the Full Council meeting in mid-December, when it would be an agenda item.

Speed Limit Warning Signs in Church Lane

The member of the public reported that the school crossing patrol operative was due to return to Church Lane on 7 December. She also observed that the two warning signs along the road were not working. This would be reported to the LA by a Co-opted Committee member.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

5. Local Government Ethical Standards Consultation

The Committee on Standards in Public Life had recently launched a consultation as part of its review into the institutions, processes and structures in place to support high standards of conduct. The terms of reference of the review were to:

- review the evidence as to how well ethical standards were upheld in public life in the UK,
- review the evidence on the strength of the UK's arrangements for regulating and promoting ethical standards,
- review the adequacy and continuing relevance of the Seven Principles of Public Life and
- identify examples of best practice in the promotion of cultures that celebrate and encourage high ethical standards.

NALC would be responding to the consultation and had invited member Councils to make a contribution to their response. The consultation questions had been previously circulated and were discussed.

Resolved: Answers to the consultation questions were agreed and the Clerk was instructed to forward them to NALC by the deadline.

6. Community Engagement Strategy

The previously circulated Community Engagement Strategy, prepared by Cllr Vicky Galligan, was discussed. It was considered to be a good document. Cllr Mike Grimes put forward several additions and agreed to review the section on support for organisations, which needed to be re-phrased. He would liaise with Cllr Galligan. The adoption of the document was deferred.

7. January Newsletter

The contents of the January newsletter were discussed.

Resolved: The following items were agreed for inclusion:

- (a) Community Service & Good Neighbour awards
- (b) Vicarage Lane Fields Community Building
- (c) External Audit 2019-20
- (d) Christmas Shop-Front Award
- (e) Christmas Decorations
- (f) Obituaries for Veronica Maloney & Barry King
- (g) Standard Items

8. FSMP Survey

In February 2019 the FSMP (at the request of the Parish Council) agreed to carry out a Parish-wide consultation. The consultation leaflet was approved by the Parish Council. However, the outcome had not been shared with the Parish Council until now.

The consultation leaflet used at the time and the outcome had been circulated for members' information. Another document - 'The Memorial Park Project – Elements' – had also been circulated. This had been put before the Parish Council on more than

one occasion in 2018 and had been shared with the FSMP. The document listed the suggestions made for the development of Memorial Park in 2018. Only a small number of the suggestions listed had so far been discussed by the Council. No formal Parish-wide consultation has taken place in relation to most of them.

Members discussed matters. The Clerk reported that she had now received the list of supporting evidence that had to be submitted to the MHCLG when applying for permission to apply for a loan. One of the pieces of evidence required was the outcome of a Parish-wide consultation showing that residents supported the project and the application for a loan to fund it.

Resolved: The Clerk would prepare a consultation leaflet for circulation in January. The leaflet would be considered by the Full Council on 16 December.

9. Agreement Between the FSMP & the Parish Council

During the Extra-Ordinary Committee meeting held on 18 November it was reported that an enquiry had been submitted by a District Councillor to the Legal Department at Wigan Council about elements of the Constitution of the FSMP. This had been confirmed by the Legal Department, who had written to the Clerk with this information. The Legal Department were looking into the enquiry and would write again once they had a reply.

The Clerk reported that the Council did not have a copy of the current Constitution of the FSMP on file. The Clerk's advice was to defer decisions about the details of an agreement until more information had been received from the LA's Legal Department. The Committee agreed to defer the matter.

10. British Citizen Award

The Committee considered previously circulated information about the British Citizen Award and decided that it was not suitable for the nomination they were considering. However, the Royal Humane Society Award had been identified as a possibility. The Clerk was asked to look into it – it would be discussed by the Full Council at its meeting on 16 December.

11. Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

12. Dates of Next Meetings

16 December (Council); 3 February (Policy & GP Committee)

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8:17 pm.

Chairman