

**Minutes of the Shevington Parish Council
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Held 2 October 2019
7.00pm Shevington Library**

Present: Councillor I Whiteley (Chairman), Councillors W McKnight, C Horridge, J Whiteley, J Higham and V Galligan
Co-opted Committee Members: Mrs E Longmore, Mr D Crook and Mr B Lomas
No members of the public were present.

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

1. Apologies

Cllrs M Grimes, M Crosby and J Ball

2. Declaration of Interests

Mrs E Longmore w.r.t. Item 5 (*personal*)

**3. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
(4 September 2019)**

Resolved: The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 4 September 2019 were approved as a true and correct record.

4. Village Issues

Shevington Off Licence

It was reported that the Off Licence was under new ownership/management. The takeover had been accompanied by a much improved service.

New Car Parking Facility in Randall Avenue

The new car parking facility in Randall Avenue was under-used by residents.

Slobbery Chops

A new business catering for 'man's best friend' was opening its doors for business in Broad O'th Lane the following week.

Mr B Lomas joined the meeting.

Abstraction Licence for East Quarry

A member reported that he had been informed that the owner of East Quarry had withdrawn his application for an abstraction licence.

Name of Vicarage Lane Fields

A member reported that his wife had recently taken a phone call from a resident who had asked why the Parish Council kept referring to the new sporting facilities as 'Vicarage Lane Fields' when the fields had always been referred to locally as

'Ormerod Fields'. The resident had stated that he had had a conversation about this with the Chairman approximately a year ago. During that conversation the possibility of installing a plaque carrying the historical name of the fields had been mentioned. The matter was discussed briefly. This would be an agenda item at a future meeting.

New Councillor Training at Wigan Town Hall

Three members had attended the training provided by Wigan Council for new parish councillors. The Democratic Services Manager had mentioned the 'Report It App for Councillors' and had agreed to make arrangements for parish councillors to be able to use it. There had also been a presentation on community engagement.

Sink Hole in Newgate Avenue, Appley Bridge

A member reported that a small sink hole had appeared near the rear gate to Shevington Vale Community Primary School. It had been barricaded and was being dealt with.

Haigh Parish Council's Late Summer Social

A member had attended Haigh Parish Council's Late Summer Social, a community engagement exercise which had been held at the Courtyard at Haigh Hall. About 40 people had attended and had been asked to complete feedback forms about what they wanted to see happening in the parish.

Jim Rigby Memorial

The Chairman reported that she had met with a resident who had taken part in the Annual Parish Walk since its inception and had discussed the possibilities. It had emerged that 147 people had taken part in the first ever Walk. Discussion would continue.

Overgrown Hedge and Undergrowth

The Chairman reported that the hedging and undergrowth along the boundaries of a property near the junction of Aspinall Road with Shevington Lane were seriously overgrown once again. The undergrowth was encroaching onto the footpath to the extent that it posed significant risk to pedestrians. The Clerk advised that a District Councillor had quite recently undertaken to pursue this and would have raised a request for the enforcement officer to contact the owner.

Signage at Vicarage Lane Fields

The Chairman had received a phone call from a member of Shevington FC expressing concern that he had found an individual playing golf on the sports pitches and, when asking him to stop, had been told that there were no signs forbidding it. The football club member had asked if the Parish Council could put up signage to that effect. The Clerk advised that she had received an email from the Secretary of the football club some time ago about signage for the facility and she had suggested that he arranged a meeting between representatives of the club and the other lease holders to discuss the matter. The Clerk had said she was willing to attend that meeting. To date she had not received a reply. The matter was discussed further. It had become apparent that some of the lease holders needed to familiarise themselves better with their responsibilities under the leases. The Chairman agreed to reply to the football club member.

The football club member had also reported that a car had been seen entering through the gap at the side of the gate and driving around the car park. The Clerk advised that this had been discussed at a previous meeting not very long ago and actions had been agreed at that time.

Dist Cllr J Brown had sent a report on several matters to be included under 'Village Issues'. See *Appendix A*.

5. Equitable Distribution of Expenditure on 'In Bloom' Projects in the Parish

The Parish Council considered the distribution of expenditure on 'In Bloom' projects in the Parish and whether it is equitable. The distribution of expenditure in 2018/19 – the last complete financial year – was used to inform the Committee. It was agreed that the provision in Shevington Moor was, in terms of equity, much lower than in other areas.

Resolved: The Committee agreed that the number of planters provided in Shevington Moor should be increased.

The Committee were of the opinion that Whiteacre Park should be made more accessible and that flowers should be introduced into the Park. The possibility of setting up an 'In Bloom' group in Shevington Moor was discussed. To this end volunteers would be sought via Shevington & District Community Association's Facebook page and North Ward councillors would approach the Wigan in Bloom Co-ordinator about the matter.

The provision in Appley Bridge and Shevington Vale was also discussed. Appley Bridge in Bloom already had many floral displays in both areas. These exceeded the number of planters provided by the Parish Council and took up much of the available space. In view of this the Parish Council would endeavour to use its influence with Wigan Council to ensure that the quality of the cutting of grass verges in West ward was improved, particularly at 'In Bloom' judging times.

6. Northwest in Bloom Awards

The Britain in Bloom North West Awards would be taking place on Friday, 1 November 2019 at Southport Floral Hall. Ceremonies would start at 10.30am and end around 4:30pm. Tickets were priced £30. It was anticipated that Shevington Memorial Park was due to receive an award.

Resolved: Cllrs C Horridge, J Whiteley and Mrs M Carter (the Shevington in Bloom Co-ordinator) would attend on behalf of the Parish Council. The Committee recommended to the Council that the cost of the three tickets and travel expenses should be covered by the Council.

7. Fields of Remembrance

The Parish Council had been invited by the Royal British Legion to consider taking part in their 'Fields of Remembrance' event. The Parish Council had received a small wooden cross bearing a poppy from the RBL. If the Council so wished, they could write a message of remembrance on the cross and return it – with a donation – to the RBL to be planted as part of a Field of Remembrance at one of several locations.

Resolved: The Committee agreed that the Council would take part in the commemoration and recommended to the Council that a donation should be made to the RBL.

8. Consultation on Audit Code of Practice

The National Audit Office had issued the second part of its consultation on the new Code of Audit Practice which was due to come into force by 1 April 2020. NALC would be responding to some of the questions and had asked parish councils to make a contribution to their answers. This was discussed briefly. The Committee noted the consultation and decided the Council would not respond, as the questions posed by NALC were badly phrased and needed clarification.

9. Manchester Future Airspace

The CEO of Manchester Airport had invited the Parish Council to reply to their consultation about future flight paths for aircraft flying at heights up to 7,000 ft. The Committee noted the consultation.

10. Gathurst Station

The Clerk and Dist Cllr M Whitham had recently met with the representatives of the Friends of Gathurst Station, who had adopted the facility and were carrying out wonderful work on the Southport-bound platform, which was in Wigan Council's Pemberton ward. The group wished to extend their programme to the Wigan-bound platform and were invited to come to a future Parish Council meeting to discuss their plans.

11. Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

12. Dates of Next Meetings

30 October (Council); 6 November (Policy & GP and Finance Committees)

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7:57 pm.

Chairman