

**Minutes of the Shevington Parish Council  
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting  
Held Wednesday, 2 September 2020  
7.00pm Virtual Meeting**

**Present:** Councillor I Whiteley (Chairman), Councillors W McKnight, C Horridge, J Whiteley, M Crosby, M Grimes, V Galligan and J Higham  
Co-opted Committee Members: Mr B Lomas and Dist Cllr J Brown  
No members of the public

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

**1. Apologies**

Cllr J Ball and Mrs E Longmore

**2. Declaration of Interests**

None

*Mr B Lomas joined the meeting.*

**3. Anti-Social Behaviour at East Quarry**

As Cllr K Jukes of Wrightington Parish Council had been unable to join the meeting the item was deferred. A member reported that Police were regular visitors to the area at weekends. This was particularly so in good weather, which tended to draw crowds of young people to the site. The young people often arrived by train and had to be escorted back to returning trains.

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

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

**5. Village Issues**

**Roadsweeper in Shevington Moor**

A co-opted Committee member raised the issue of the roadsweeper – it had still not visited Shevington Moor to clear the gutters and plants in the road were growing quite tall. It was reported that the gully cleaner had visited Shevington village that week, but, as there were only three of them in the Borough, the LA's operatives were hard pressed to fulfil their commitments in this respect. Both the Clerk and Dist Cllr J Brown would write to the LA to request that the roadsweeper visit Shevington Moor.

*Cllrs V Galligan and J Higham joined the meeting.*

### **Shevington Surgery Issues**

A member described a relative's difficulties in relation to obtaining a face-to-face appointment with a doctor at the surgery. The Council's liaison with the Patient Participation Group explained that patients were being offered telephone or video appointments (if people had the latter facility) with doctors in the first instance and were then invited to come in by the doctors, if face-to-face appointments were deemed necessary. The feedback from the PPG had been that the system was working very well. The processes employed, both currently and previously, by the Surgery when dealing with patients were discussed at length. The Clerk was asked to write to the PPG to ask them to clarify the situation.

### **Break-ins**

It was reported that two properties in Lyndon Avenue had recently been broken into. Suspicious characters had also been observed walking along streets and trying door handles in the early hours of the morning. The Police were currently patrolling the area.

### **Annual Parish Walk**

17 people had joined the Walk this year and £50 had been collected in aid of Shevington Community Pantry.

### **Mini Roundabout Opposite the Co-op**

A member observed that since the roundabout had lost its hump people were just driving over it. Dist Cllr Brown agreed to ask that the hump be re-instated.

### **Great British September Clean Up**

This was taking place locally a week on Saturday. Volunteers were being asked to meet at 10am outside Shevington Library on 12 September. Litter pickers would be provided and social distancing would be maintained. There would also be litter picking groups working in Appley Bridge on 12 and 13 September.

## **6. Memorial for Resident**

The Committee considered a request from a resident to plant a tree and install a bench in Memorial Park as memorials to her late mother.

**Resolved:** The Committee approved the planting of a Tibetan Cherry tree in the Memorial Garden and the installation of a bench at an agreed location in Memorial Park.

## **7. Play Area Sand**

Following the recent heavy rains, large puddles had formed under frequently used items of play equipment. A resident had asked if extra sand might stop the problem of puddles occurring in the play area. Members discussed the situation. The Clerk reported that the sand was due to be rotovated once it had dried out and that 10 tons of new sand were scheduled to be added to the play areas as part of the SLA. It was agreed that the Council would wait until the new sand had been introduced and its impact had been witnessed before any further action was considered. The Chairman would inform the resident of this.

## **8. Vehicles Mounting Pavements in Broad O'th Lane**

Earlier in August a resident had witnessed a near fatal accident at the front of the shops in Broad O'th Lane. As someone was waiting to cross the pedestrian crossing a car drove up and over the kerb that had been lowered for people to cross. The car was then parked at the side of the road with the olive tree on the parade in front of the shops. When the resident had challenged the driver he had been met with verbal abuse and was told by the driver that he could park anywhere he wished.

The resident had asked if bollards could be introduced to prevent cars from driving onto the pavement and parking at the front of these shops. Dist Cllr Brown reported that she had on a previous occasion tried to arrange for bollards to be introduced at this location, but without any success, as not all of the pavement was owned by the LA – some sections were owned by the owners of the properties. However, she agreed to try again. A request for bollards to be introduced in this area would also be submitted by the Parish Council.

## **9. September Newsletter**

The previously circulated text was considered. One or two alterations were made. Some items were still awaited.

**Resolved:** The text for the September newsletter was approved.

## **10. Community Engagement Strategy**

The Parish Council engaged with the community in many different ways. For the benefit of residents many councils had an agreed Community Engagement Strategy which they published on their website. Three such examples had been circulated to members, who briefly discussed the possibility of preparing and agreeing a published strategy.

**Resolved:** Cllr V Galligan and the Clerk would work together on producing a Community Engagement Strategy to propose to the Committee.

## **11. Virtual Meeting Etiquette**

Wigan Council had produced an etiquette for virtual council meetings to help their members when taking part. An adaptation more appropriate to parish councils had been circulated to members, who considered the document.

**Resolved:** The Committee adopted the Virtual Meeting Etiquette.

## **12. Review of Standing Orders**

The Council's Standing Orders were reviewed. Relevant changes brought in by the 2020 Coronavirus Regulations needed to be inserted into the Council's Standing Orders on P.15. The proposed insertions had been previously circulated.

**Resolved:** The amended Standing Orders were approved.

### **13. Annual Inspection of Property**

Arrangements for the Annual Inspection of Property were discussed.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that the Annual Inspection would take place over several different dates and that the Council's properties would be visited on different occasions by different teams of councillors.

The Clerk was asked to make the arrangements.

### **14. Changes to the Current Planning System**

NALC had drawn parish and town councils' attention to this consultation on the current Planning system. Two documents had been circulated. One was a briefing from NALC and the other was the consultation document. NALC proposed to respond to the consultation on behalf of the sector and were inviting local councils to forward their responses to them by 17 September. Members discussed the best way forward.

Cllr M Grimes agreed to prepare some responses for submission to NALC. It was suggested that it would be helpful if documents relating to consultations of this nature could be circulated well in advance of the meeting at which they would be considered to provide sufficient time for an assessment of the material to be made. The Clerk agreed to do this, if it was feasible.

### **15. Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications to consider.

### **16. Dates of Next Meetings**

30 September (Council); 7 October (Policy & General Purposes Committee)

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7:55 pm.

**Chairman**