

**Minutes of the Shevington Parish Council
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Held Wednesday, 3 November 2021
7pm Virtual Meeting**

Present: Councillor William McKnight (Chairman), Councillors Christopher Horridge, Michael Grimes, Michael Crosby and Jessica Higham
Co-opted Committee Members: Mr Brian Lomas and Mr Charlie Neve

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

In the absence of the Chairman Cllr Jessica Higham took the chair and opened the meeting.

1. Apologies

Cllrs John Ball, Ira Whiteley and John Whiteley

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Chris Horridge w.r.t. Item No.10 (*personal*)

3. Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

There were no matters introduced by members of the public.

4. Reports from Committee Members

Cllr Chris Horridge joined the meeting.

Parking on Grass Verges

It was observed that the residents of properties in the stretch of Miles Lane near Forest Fold must have received the promised letters from Wigan Council about the practice of parking vehicles on the grass verges outside. A member reported that the practice had reduced significantly in recent days.

Street Lighting in Stockley Park

A member reported that he had recently driven past the park after dark and had observed that it was completely black along the footpath through the park.

5. Reports from Representatives

Shevington & District Community Association

There was no report.

Crooke Village Residents' Association

The representative reported that when he had been reviewing the Parish Council's risk assessment documents he had not found any references to risk from flooding in Crooke Village, whereas flood risk had been included in the risk assessments for several areas in Shevington Village. The Clerk explained that this was because the Parish Council did not own any land at Crooke.

A member informed the Council that the LA had a comprehensive flood risk management strategy which was published on the LA's website. However, he had not been able to find any references within the strategy to Crooke Village.

The CVRA representative expressed concern about this lack of inclusion, as he had recently attended a meeting at which Wigan Council's drainage engineer had stated that flooding events were to be expected at Crooke. There had been proof of this earlier in the week when there had been issues with potential flooding at the centre of the village.

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the drainage engineer about the situation.

Shevington Youth Club

There was no report.

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

There was no report.

'in Bloom' Groups

There was no report.

Patient Participation Group

The representative reported that the PPG had reviewed their structure and practices and had decided to have quarterly rather than monthly meetings, which would now be taking place at Shevington Youth Club instead of at Shevington Surgery. They were also going to reduce their membership until the next AGM – in other words, they would not be seeking to fill the vacancies that had recently arisen for the time being.

Vicarage Lane Fields Developments

There was no report.

Friends of Shevington Memorial Park

There was no report.

Cllr Bill McKnight joined the meeting.

Cllr Bill McKnight took the chair.

6. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting (6 October 2021)

Resolved: The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 6 October 2021 were approved as a true and correct record.

7. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Beacons Event

It was reported that there would be an additional bank holiday to celebrate Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. The late May Bank Holiday would be moved to Thursday 2 June 2022 and an additional Jubilee Bank Holiday would be granted on Friday 3 June 2022.

Local Councils were invited to take part in the beacon lighting event due to take place at 9:15pm on 2 June 2022. Bruno Peek, the Pageantmaster for the event, had written to local councils to explain things. Further information had been provided in the Guide to taking part, which could be found on the event website.

The Committee noted the information and, after a brief discussion, agreed that there was no suitable vantage point in the Parish at which a beacon could be lit.

8. Parish Council Logo

Four versions of the logo were considered for use by the Parish Council. Three of the versions were already in use in different situations. A fourth had been proposed. The way forward was discussed.

Resolved: The Committee agreed to maintain the status quo.

The Clerk reported that the e-version of the logo currently in use was not very distinct and did not enlarge well. It was agreed that the possibility of commissioning a clearer e-graphic of the logo would be investigated.

9. Annual Community Awards

For the past four years the Parish Council had been presenting awards to residents who have done something outstanding for the local community. The awards were usually presented by a local dignitary during the Annual Parish Meeting in March. The Committee discussed the way forward.

Resolved: The Committee recommended that the Annual Community Awards would be awarded in 2022 and that an appeal for nominations for awards should be included in the November edition of the Newsletter.

10. Allotment Car Park Storage Container

The lower car park at Forest Fold allotments held a small metal storage container which was now empty and surplus to requirements. Its previous contents had been moved to another location.

The area at the side of the container had for many years been used as a bay to which manure, etc for use by ploholders was delivered. The FFTA wished to increase the number bays at this location. These bays would be used as receptacles for deliveries of other materials for use by plot holders. To enable this they had asked for permission to remove the container to create space for the additional bays.

The Committee considered the FFTA's request.

Resolved: The Committee recommended that the container should be advertised for sale in the November edition of the newsletter. Potential buyers were to be invited to submit sealed bids to the Clerk and would be informed that they would have to bear the cost of the container's removal from the site.

11. November Newsletter

Text for the November edition of the newsletter and additional inclusions were discussed.

Resolved: The text for the newsletter was recommended for approval. Items relating to the sale of the storage container and the Annual Community Awards would also be included.

12. Wigan Houses in Multiple Occupation – Consultation

Wigan Council was currently consulting on a proposed Houses in Multiple Occupation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The guidance was being produced to better manage the provision of HMOs in the borough, improve the standards of the accommodation that was provided and reduce detrimental impacts on neighbours.

The SPD would be an important material consideration in the determination of planning applications for new and expanded HMOs. It was intended to assist in the interpretation of policies within the Wigan development plan and set out guidance and good practice for planning applicants to enable the delivery of better planning outcomes.

The SPD has been informed by extensive consultation with a variety of stakeholders throughout its preparation, including consultation at the pre-draft stage in the summer.

It was reported that there were no HMOs in Shevington. In view of this there was no need for the Council to submit a response. During the short discussion the Committee were advised by a member with prior professional knowledge of this sphere that the proposals in the Consultation were very good.

The Committee noted the above information.

13. Planning for Health – Consultation

Wigan Council was currently consulting on a proposed Planning for Health Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). The SPD had been prepared to facilitate the delivery of healthier developments in the borough, and positively influence the impact that planning decisions had on health and wellbeing. It was based around ten key topic areas, which were integral to the application of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for large schemes (those subject to Environmental Impact Assessment screening) and a Planning for Health Checklist for all other major developments.

The SPD also applied:

- a clear and consistent process for calculating developer contributions to address capacity issues in the health care system that resulted from new development proposals.

- a framework for managing the provision of new hot food takeaways in the borough to help tackle obesity and other related health issues.

The preparation of the SPD had been informed by extensive consultation with key stakeholders at the pre-draft stage, the details of which were set out in a Consultation Statement.

The Committee noted the Consultation.

14. DEFRA – Environmental Permitting Regulations

DEFRA were currently consulting on proposed amendments to the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016. NALC would be responding to the Consultation, which was closing on 22 December 2021, on behalf of its member councils. They would be focusing on the impact of the amendments on burial grounds and were seeking the views of their members.

The Clerk advised that, while the Parish Council did not currently manage a burial ground, it did have the power to manage one.

The Committee noted the Consultation.

15. GM Clean Air Zone

Previously circulated Information about the proposed Clean Air Zone for Greater Manchester was received and discussed.

Resolved: The Committee recommended that a brief item containing a link to the GM Clean Air Zone website should be included in the November edition of the newsletter.

16. Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

17. Dates of Next Meetings

24 November (Council); 1 December (Policy & GP and Finance Committees)

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7:59 pm.

Chairman