

**Minutes of the Shevington Parish Council
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Held Wednesday, 4 March 2020
7.00pm Shevington Library**

Present: Councillor W McKnight (Vice Chairman), Councillors C Horridge, J Whiteley, M Crosby, V Galligan and J Higham
Co-opted Committee Members: Mrs E Longmore, Mr B Lomas and Mr D Crooke.
Two members of the public
Mr P Gallagher (Community Capacity Officer - Wigan Council) was present for Items 1, 2 and 3.

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

1. Apologies

Cllrs J Ball, I Whiteley and M Grimes

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllr C Horridge and Mrs E Longmore w.r.t. Item 7 (*personal*)
Mrs E Longmore w.r.t. Item 8 (*personal & prejudicial*)

Standing Orders were suspended.

3. GM Walking Festival

The Vice Chairman introduced Mr P Gallagher (Community Capacity Officer at Wigan Council), who was leading on the Greater Manchester Walking Festival on behalf of the Borough.

Mr Gallagher explained that in total 13 Walks were planned – one of them in the Shevington area. Wigan Council officers were linking with Shevington Youth Club and hoping to co-ordinate with local groups. The route covered by the Walk was 6.5 miles in length and John O'Neill's guides had been taken into consideration when planning it. The Walk would take place on Friday, 29 May, starting at 1pm.

95% of the Walk would be via public footpaths. Everyone was invited, but anyone who had stories to tell about the history of the area would be especially welcome. Walkers could bring dogs with them, but they had to be on short leads.

Another Walk had been planned for Saturday, 16 May. This one would cover a route from Appley Bridge to Hindley, with walkers returning by train.

A Committee member raised concerns about safeguarding processes in the event that young people wished to join the Walk and were unaccompanied and was re-assured that parental permissions would be required and other safeguarding criteria would be met.

The Committee were informed that the new Wigan in Bloom officer, Lucy Murphy, was taking up her post the following week and would be getting in touch with 'in Bloom' groups in connection with the initiative, which was being promoted by both Wigan Council and Inspiring Healthy Lifestyles. Local community groups were being encouraged to re-Tweet in formation and circulate it via Facebook.

Mr Gallagher was thanked for his presentation and left the meeting.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

The Committee discussed the Parish Council's potential involvement. It was agreed that the Council's role would be to promote the activities.

The discussion was opened to involve everyone present.

4. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting (5 February 2020)

Resolved: The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 5 February 2020 were approved as a true and correct record.

5. Village Issues

Vehicular Collision

A member reported that a resident had been in touch with her about a collision in which she had been involved on 15 February. She was seeking witnesses and CCTV evidence.

Burglaries

It was reported that there had recently been another burglary in addition to all the others that had taken place. The PCSO had attended the District Councillors' surgery the previous Saturday and had engaged with a group of residents present who had been exasperated with the increase in the crime rate. The PCSO had instructed them to report burglaries by ringing 999 if the burglary was in progress and 101 if it had already occurred. Residents were also advised to increase security and maintain vigilance over neighbouring properties.

Dog Fouling

Another member reported that he had received a complaint about dog fouling in the Vicarage Lane / Randall Avenue area.

Parking in Randall Avenue

A Co-opted Committee member reported that the new parking spaces provided continued to be under-used. Residents were still parking in the road it was suggested that signage be installed to let people know that parking spaces were available around the corner.

Provision of Litter Bins

The provision of litter bins and the Parish Council's policy in relation to this and its historical agreement with Wigan Council were discussed.

Telephone Box at Randall's Corner

A Co-opted Committee member reported that BT's consultation over the telephone box at Randall's Corner had finished. In answer to a question from the member the Clerk replied that she had not received any notification of its outcome.

6. Plans for VE Day Celebrations

Cllr V Galligan updated the Committee on progress with arrangements for the VE Day celebrations:

- St Anne's and St Bernadette's Brownies had agreed to attend the Service at Shevington Memorial on Sunday, 10 May. She was awaiting confirmation from the Scouts.
- An email from the Rev Jenny Brown containing suggestions in relation to the Service had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- The Shevington in Bloom Co-ordinator would put poppies in the Memorial Garden.

It was also reported that several things would be happening in Appley Bridge that weekend.

7. Forest Fold Allotments Tenants Association

After the allotments at Forest Fold were originally set up several decades ago a tenants' association was also formed. This tenants' association worked in partnership with the Parish Council to manage the allotments. Over the years this tenants' association grew in membership and developed into the organisation that was now known as Shevington Gardening Club which had a much wider brief and a membership that included people from all over Wigan. Only about 4 members of the existing Shevington Gardening Club now had allotments at Forest Fold. The majority of the membership had no connection at all with the Forest Fold site.

Approximately three years ago the Parish Council had consulted the current tenants about the possibility of setting up a new tenants' association. The responses from current tenants had indicated that there was very little interest. However, in recent months several tenants had taken a more pro-active approach and had met on several occasions to discuss the possibility of setting up such an association with a view to working with the Parish Council to manage some aspects of the allotments. To this end they had agreed a constitution, which they had proposed to the Parish Council. The group had also made several other suggestions. All of these were discussed.

Resolved: The Committee approved:

1. the setting up of the Forest Fold Allotments Tenants' Association and their constitution.
2. the suggestion that the annual tenancy agreements should begin on 1 March instead of in April and end on the last day of February. *(As it was too late for this year, the tenancy agreements would run from 1 April until 28 February 2021.)*
3. the suggestion that all tenants at Forest Fold Allotments would automatically be members of the Association at no extra cost to them.
4. the suggestion that plot rents should be due 40 days after the start date of the tenancy agreement.
5. the suggestion that the Association would work with the Parish Council to manage certain aspects of the allotments. This would include making

decisions about giving notice to quit to plot holders in the event of a breach of their tenancy agreements. *(A simple formal agreement would be drawn up to define responsibilities and data sharing. A formal procedure for dealing with tenancy breaches would also be approved. The procedure would include an opportunity for appeals.)*

Cllr C Horridge and Mrs E Longmore were not able to vote on this Item.

8. Vicarage Lane Fields Allotments Drainage

Mrs E Longmore explained the issues being created by the poor drainage of the land surrounding the allotments site. It was reported that some of the surface water was coming from the playing fields. The issues were discussed and the Clerk was asked to contact the Secretary to Shevington Sharks ARLFC to establish the locations into which the drainage from the playing fields emptied. The Committee concluded that further advice would need to be sought from drainage experts.

9. March Newsletter

The previously circulated text was considered.

Resolved: The text for the March newsletter was approved.

10. Achievement Awards - Citations

Resolved: Approval of the citations was delegated to the Finance Committee.

11. Re-Designation of Standish Voice as a Neighbourhood Forum - Consultation

Standish Voice's designation as a Neighbourhood Forum is due to expire on 14 May 2020. They had applied to be re-designated for another 5 years.

Resolved: The Committee agreed that the Parish Council would support the application.

12. Liverpool John Lennon Airspace Transition Consultation

Cllr J Whiteley reported that the changes proposed would have very little impact on the Parish's airspace and recommended that no response was needed.

Resolved: The Consultation was noted.

13. Proposed Double Yellow Lines for Church Lane

Standing Orders were suspended.

A long time resident of the Parish and owner of several commercial properties in Church Lane had attended the Parish Council meeting in February and had raised concerns about the proposed introduction of double yellow lines to a section of Church Lane. Loading and unloading would still be allowed. The resident's concerns and his correspondence with Wigan Council had been circulated to Committee members. A copy of the Notice of Intent had also been circulated.

The resident reported that he had carried out a survey of traffic in Church Lane over a substantial period. During that time only eight HGVs had been driven along the road. For 90% of the time the road was a quiet road with light traffic, no buses and very few HGVs. The issues arose mainly at school pick up time, when double-parking occurred, resulting in room only for single file traffic.

Further along the road, near the entrance to Churchfield, there were single yellow lines restricting parking along that stretch of Church Lane to a period before school start time and for a period after the end of the school day. The resident had no issues with that type of restriction, but was of the view that a 24 hour restriction at the proposed location would be detrimental to the businesses in Church Lane.

Alternative solutions, which included the introduction of a car park in Memorial Park, were discussed.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

Resolved: The Committee agreed that an objection to the proposals would be sent to Traffic Management, asking them to consider alternative solutions. Mr D Finlay – the local Traffic Engineer – would be invited to come to a meeting to discuss the issues.

14.Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

15.Dates of Next Meetings

11 March (Annual Parish Meeting); 25 March (Council);
1 April (Policy & General Purposes Committee)

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

Chairman