

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

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

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

**1. Apologies**

Cllr J Ball and M Crosby

**2. Declaration of Interests**

Cllrs I Whiteley, V Galligan and J Whiteley w.r.t. Item No.6 (*personal & prejudicial*)  
Cllr M Grimes w.r.t. Item No.6 (*personal*)

**3. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting  
(7 October 2020)**

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 7 October 2020 were approved as a true and correct record.

In reply to a question from a member the Clerk reported that to date no letters had been written recently to any agencies in relation to East Quarry issues. This was because the only application that had so far been identified was the one that had been submitted to the Environment Agency in June 2019 and then withdrawn in March 2020.

**4. Village Issues**

**Parking on Whiteacre**

It was reported that the parking of vehicles by outsiders along Whiteacre had been made worse by the fact that gas mains were currently being laid in neighbouring streets. Vehicles were now being parked on both sides of the road. After a short discussion it was agreed that a letter should be sent to Traffic Management.

**Parking in Whitehall**

A member reported that there were also issues with parking along the stretch of Miles Lane in Whitehall. Bollards had been introduced several years ago to prevent vehicles being parked along the grass verges. As some of the residents of properties in the area were Council house tenants, Dist Cllr J Brown agreed to raise the issues with the officer in charge of estate matters.

### **Virtual Remembrance Service**

St Anne's Church had recorded an online service for Remembrance Sunday. Louise Wade and Cllr J Whiteley had been recorded in front of the War Memorial making their contribution to the service. A link would be available on the Facebook site.

### **The Wheatsheaf Pub**

It was reported that the Wheatsheaf pub had been closed shortly before lockdown. It had been raided by the Police and had been found to be in breach of Tier 3 restrictions. Apparently, several fines had been issued.

### **Shevington Community Pantry**

A member reported that the Pantry would be open on Saturday mornings during lockdown.

### **Fireworks**

It was reported that there had been a number of complaints on Shevy News about fireworks going off each evening in the run up to Guy Fawkes Night.

## **5. Annual Inspection of Property**

The Annual Inspection of Property had been carried out over several days in October. The report on the Inspection was received and discussed. *See Appendix A*

The principal focus of the discussion was the condition of the wall along the approach road to the bowling green car park. The Clerk explained that the repairs to the wall would have to be done in stages, as costings obtained so far had indicated that sufficient funds were not available to carry out repairs to the whole of the wall at the same time. There were, however, a number of minor repairs which needed to be carried out – sufficient funding was available to do this.

In answer to a question from a member the Clerk replied that she had not yet been able to make arrangements to meet with the contractor to discuss repairs to the footpath in Memorial Park, but it was on her list of things to do.

It was agreed that the Clerk would compile a list of priorities with respect to urgent work that needed to be carried out on Parish Council property for the Council's information.

*Cllr W McKnight took the Chair.*

## **6. The Memorial Park Project**

Cllr McKnight invited comments from members of the Committee on the project.

Cllr I Whiteley said that she wished to make the Committee aware of the amount of work that the Friends of Shevington Memorial Park (FSMP) had put in with respect to fundraising. The group had so far raised approximately £7,000 towards the project. Cllr V Galligan had been particularly active in this area and suggested that Cllr Galligan should elaborate on that.

The Committee discussed the project. Points made by members included the following:

- The costs of drainage and all other elements of the project were significant.

- Changing the location of the play area would probably incur additional costs in relation to the drainage.
- Because of what had happened to grant funding sources as a result of the Covid crisis, the Council needed to consider taking out a loan.
- Caution was needed in relation to raising the precept to pay for a loan, especially in view of Covid-19 situation.
- The Council could not at this stage commit to loans for play equipment, because no costs had been obtained.
- Play equipment needing replacement in the near future should be considered when budgeting.
- There were economic benefits of having a really good park in the centre of Shevington. It would help to attract greater footfall, which could have a positive impact on businesses in the centre of Shevington. This year had had a negative impact on businesses in general.
- The provision of drainage was paramount. Nothing else could realistically be done until the drainage had been sorted out and the Council was satisfied that it was working. A two-stage approach was a good way forward.
- This was a big project, which could only be carried out within a realistic time-frame. It could easily take five years to accomplish and needed to be done in stages.
- The FSMP could seek indicative quotes for play equipment and the possibility of applying for a loan for both could be investigated.

The Clerk advised:

- (a) Permission was needed from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a loan. Once permission had been obtained, a loan from the Public Works Loans Board was usually automatic.
- (b) If the Council wished to raise the precept in order to repay the loan, a public consultation about this would be needed before applying for the above permission and its outcome would need to be included with the application as evidence. It was the Council that would have to carry out the consultation.

Some members expressed reservations about moving the location of the children's play area, the introduction of adult gym equipment and making the project too big.

Ways of carrying out consultations were discussed. A hard copy consultation would be needed in order to reach all residents and a FREEPOST reply service could be funded. A door-to-door consultation of nearest neighbours would also be needed in relation to the location of the play area if it was to be re-located further into the park.

**Resolved:** An Extra-Ordinary meeting would be called by the Vice-Chairman to discuss the Memorial Park Project in more detail.

*Cllr I Whiteley returned to the Chair.*

## 7. November Newsletter

The text for the next edition was reviewed. The Clerk reported that, because of lockdown, the newsletter would only be delivered in early December and would be a December edition.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that the article on the HLF grant bid would be re-written and that an article on the position in relation to the former Miles Lane Community

Primary School site would be prepared and included the text for the December edition was approved.

## **8. Meeting with Wigan Council Officers**

Members of the Parish Council had met via MS Teams with senior Wigan Council officers on 20 October 2020. It had been quite a productive meeting. Those present had raised the issue of the roundabout at the junction of New Miles Lane with Gathurst Lane. The Minutes of that meeting had been prepared by Democratic Services and, having been previously circulated to members, were received and noted.

## **9. Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications to consider.

## **10. Dates of Next Meetings**

25 November (Council); 2 December (Policy & GP and Finance Committees)

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8:30 pm.

**Chairman**