

**Minutes of the Shevington Parish Council
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Held 4 September 2019
7.00pm Shevington Library**

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

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

1. Apologies

Cllrs J Higham and J Ball

2. Declaration of Interests

None

**3. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
(6 June and 7 September 2019)**

6 June 2019

Resolved: The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 6 June 2019 were approved as a true and correct record.

Cllrs I and J Whiteley were unable to vote.

7 August 2019

Resolved: The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 7 August 2019 were approved as a true and correct record.

Cllrs I Whiteley and W McKnight were unable to vote.

4. Annual Inspection of Property

The report on the Annual Inspection of Property was received and discussed.

Cllr M Crosby joined the meeting.

A councillor reported that she had been in contact with Wigan Council about the quality of the maintenance of the play area at Stockley Park and had been told that the sand was turned over once a month. The Clerk advised that this did not happen in Memorial Park and that it was unlikely that it happened in any of the parks in the Parish. It was agreed that the LA should be invited to delegate an appropriate officer

to attend a meeting of the Parish Council to discuss the quality of the maintenance of their parks in this area, particularly in relation to the play areas.

Resolved: The Committee identified the following as priorities:

1. Repair of the flagged footpath around the bowling green.
2. Repair of the boundary wall along the approach to and at the bowling green car park at Forest Fold.
3. The quality of the maintenance of Stockley and Whiteacre parks.
4. The quality of the maintenance of the play area at Memorial Park.
5. Removal of the gate into the park introduced by the owner of a neighbouring property.

5. Village Issues

Road Sweeper

It was reported that, for the first time this year, the LA had arranged for the pavements in Shevington Moor to be cleaned. Residents were hopeful that this would soon be followed by a visit from a road sweeper.

Award from Asda to the FSMP

The Friends of Shevington Memorial Park had been awarded a grant of £200 towards the cost of new play equipment by Asda. Cllrs I and J Whiteley and Cllr M Crosby had attended a presentation in the park to receive the cheque on behalf of the FSMP.

Shevington Vale Neighbourhood Watch

A Neighbourhood Watch group was being set up in Shevington Vale. It had been registered and an inaugural meeting was to be held at 7pm on Monday, 16 September at The Wheatsheaf pub.

Abstraction Licence for East Quarry

A member of the pressure group campaigning to prevent the drainage of the water from East Quarry, Appley Bridge, had contacted the Environment Agency to establish progress in relation to the application for an abstraction licence and discharge permit. The EA had confirmed that they had received a pre-application enquiry relating to the discharge permit, but no formal application had been submitted to date. The EA had explained that, once submitted, the application would be determined four months from the date on which it was made. The primary purpose of the permit was to control the quality of the water being discharged into Calico Brook. Therefore, it would include strict monitoring conditions which would require the permit holder to carry out water quality sampling at regular intervals as the depth of the water decreased. No final decisions had been made with regard to the exact discharge point. This decision would be in the hands of Wigan Council, who were waiting for some further information from the applicant before deciding on access rights, etc.

6. Speed of Traffic Travelling Along Vicarage Lane

Concerns had been raised by residents about the speed of traffic travelling along Vicarage Lane between Gathurst Lane and Oakwood Meadows. Being a residential area, Vicarage Lane had a speed limit of 20 mph. However, it had been reported that drivers who either lived on or visited adjoining estates regularly exceeded the speed limit. This matter had been raised with the LA on several occasions in the

past. On each occasion the LA had replied that it would not be appropriate to introduce traffic calming measures other than the speed limit. The matter was discussed. Members were concerned that, with the sports fields coming into use, children would be walking along the footpaths in large numbers and could be at greater risk because of the speeding traffic.

Resolved: A letter would be sent to the LA to ask them

- (a) to investigate the speed of traffic along Vicarage Lane and
- (b) why other traffic calming measures could not be introduced.

7. The Quality of the Maintenance of the Memorial Park Play Area

Concern has been expressed by members of the Council, members of Shevington in Bloom and residents (often on social media) about the quality of the maintenance of the Memorial Park Play area. Wigan Council had a Service Level Agreement with the Parish Council to maintain the play areas in Memorial Park. On the whole, Wigan Council adhered to its part of the bargain. Where it fell down was in relation to the way the LA maintained the sand. So far this year the sand had been rotovated only once. Weeds were allowed to grow to unacceptable heights and had only been treated with weed-killer a fortnight before the Northwest in Bloom judging day. They had been asked to remove the weeds completely, but did not do this. The job was, instead, carried out by SinB volunteers and the general grounds maintenance contractor's operatives, who had not charged for the extra work.

This had already been discussed under Item No.4, when an action had been agreed.

8. NALC Election Survey

As a follow up to the May 2019 elections the policy and communications team at NALC were undertaking some research on the experiences of councillors and councils when taking part in the election. This research had come in the form of two surveys: one for clerks to complete as a representative of the council and one for councillors - to be filled in by all councillors on the council.

The data gathered would be placed in a wider context of how many contested and uncontested elections took place and give a national picture of town and parish elections in England.

Resolved: The Clerk would complete the survey on behalf of the Council.

Councillors were invited to complete the survey in their own time.

9. September Newsletter

The text for the newsletter had been circulated previously by email, but this email appeared to not have reached the recipients.

Resolved: The Clerk would re-circulate the newsletter to members for comment and forward the final copy to the printers at the appropriate time.

10. Jim Rigby Memorial

For approximately a quarter of a century Jim Rigby had planned and led the Annual Parish Walk. On the last occasion that he did this he was well into his eighties. His health had, however, been ailing for some time and, sadly, over the Summer he had passed away.

Jim not only led the Annual Parish Walk, but he also led the weekly exercise walks in the village and had been a keen member of Wigan Ramblers.

It had been suggested that Jim's contribution to Parish life should be marked by some sort of memorial. Ways in which this could be done were discussed.

Resolved: The Chairman would look into the following possibilities:

- (a) A memorial book;
- (b) A memorial bench;
- (c) A new footpaths leaflet in memory of Jim Rigby.

11. Permissions

- (a) Women's Institute Plaque

Resolved: The Committee granted permission to Shevington Women's Institute to install a plaque beside the WI's Centenary tree in Memorial Park.

- (b) Memorial Bench

Resolved: The Committee granted permission to a family of residents to install a bench in memory of a recently deceased family member along the trimtrail in Memorial Park.

- (c) Dog Exercise Enclosure

Resolved: A request from a resident to lease a small parcel of land in Vicarage Lane Fields for use as a dog exercise enclosure was refused.

12. In Bloom Celebration Event

Cllrs I and J Whiteley and V Galligan and Dist Cllr J Brown would be the 4 delegates attending the 'In Bloom' Celebration Evening, which would be held on Thursday, 10 October 2019 at 6pm in the Marquee at DW Stadium.

13. Damage by Motorcyclists in Elnup Wood

The Committee received a letter, written by an Executive Director of Cheshire, Lancashire & Merseyside Groundwork Trust in reply to the Clerk's latest letter to the Trust about the damage in Elnup Wood. The letter outlined CLM Groundwork Trust's plans for dealing with issues in Elnup Wood. Its contents were noted and discussed briefly.

14. Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

15. Dates of Next Meetings

25 September (Council); 2 October (Policy & General Purposes Committee)

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8:15 pm.

Chairman