

**Minutes of the Shevington Parish Council
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Held Wednesday, 5 February 2020
7.00pm Shevington Library**

Present: Councillor I Whiteley (Chairman), Councillors C Horridge, J Whiteley, M Grimes, V Galligan and J Higham

Co-opted Committee Members: Mrs E Longmore and Dist Cllr J Brown
Mr J Harker (Strategic Manager - Armed Forces at Wigan Council) and Mr C Neve (Director – Armed Forces HQ)

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

1. Apologies

Cllrs J Ball, M Crosby and W McKnight

2. Declaration of Interests

None

Standing Orders were suspended.

3. VE Day Celebrations

The Chairman welcomed Mr J Harker (Strategic Manager - Armed Forces at Wigan Council) and Mr C Neve (Director – Armed Forces HQ), who both told the meeting a little about themselves. As well as being a Director of Armed Forces, Mr Neve was a former submarine commander and a resident of the Parish. They had come to tell the Parish Council about the plans so far for the VE Day celebrations in Wigan.

The 75th Anniversary of VE Day would involve a huge national celebration, with events taking place everywhere. In Wigan the events taking place that weekend would lead to a Church service on the Sunday at the Parish Church. Wigan Council had a vision of a carnival taking place in Wigan town centre which would take in Mesnes Park. Planning and making bookings for this had started 6 months ago. Mr Harker had been too late to secure the Red Arrows, but he had potentially managed to book a Spitfire.

Cllr V Galligan joined the meeting.

The Carnival would open on the Friday with a Parade, which would start at Mesnes Park at 10:30am and pass through the town centre. He had found there to be very little appetite for a big event in central Manchester, because of the Mayoral elections taking place on 7 May. Consequently, they had received a great deal of support from central Manchester, including the provision of a marquee, amongst other things.

The Parade would be led by a military band and floats depicting WWII history and the end of WWII in Europe were being encouraged. Other bands had been booked for other days, including a ukulele band for two hours on the Saturday. There would be

many mini-marquees in Mesnes Park, shops would be open and there would be many other things going on.

Frederick's were designing a VE Day ice-cream. Uncle Joe's mint balls were going to be sold in a memorial tin and 20p from the sale of each tin would be going towards the support of military charities.

The team were trying to promote these events throughout the Borough. They would like local schools and other groups to get involved.

(Cllr V Galligan reported that she had received an email from Rev Jenny Brown about holding a Service in Shevington on the Sunday.)

Some of the ward councillors were considering funding events in their own wards using Brighter Borough funding. Mr Harker's team had been allocated a budget of £15,000 for the event in central Wigan.

The discussion was opened to involve everyone present.

Locally, it had been suggested that groups could have (a) floats in the parade or march separately in the Parade and (b) a marquee in Mesnes Park that the groups could share. The Appley Bridge in Bloom co-ordinator reported that ABinB were already involved in something that Appley Bridge Community Association were doing on the Sunday.

The organisers of the central Wigan event were looking into the possibility of providing a 'Park & Ride' service free of charge to minimise traffic in the town centre.

Wigan Borough had raised £2,800 to pay for a Spitfire called 'Wigan District'. During the War it had been flown by a Czech 'Battle of Britain' pilot called Rudolf Patech, who had been killed towards the end of the War. Surviving members of his family lived in Poland and had come over to visit a couple of years ago. They wished to come over this year. Mr Harker was still waiting to hear if he had been successful in getting a flyover on the Saturday.

The Chairman thanked Mr Harker and Mr Neve for their presentation.

Mr Harker and Mr Neve left the meeting.

Cllr J Whiteley withdrew from the meeting briefly and then returned.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

4. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting (4 December 2019)

Resolved: The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 4 December 2019 were approved as a true and correct record.

5. Village Issues

Bin Issues

It was reported that issues with the emptying of bins in general were continuing.

Car Parking Outside Schools at Peak Times

A poster requesting people to switch their engines off while waiting in cars in Church Lane to collect children from school was being created. Dist Cllr J Brown was going to talk to the Headteacher at St Bernadette's Primary School to see if the children could produce something. She was also going to talk to the Headteacher at the High School, because the double yellow lines had now been introduced, but they did not cover a long enough stretch of road.

Dist Cllr Brown reported that the introduction of crossings at Church Lane and Old Lane was not guaranteed.

Sad News

The Chairman reported the sad news that a former parish councillor – who had been a member for a very long time – had been diagnosed with a serious illness. A card and flowers would be sent to her and her husband from the Parish Council

Dog Fouling

A member reported that he had received a telephone call from a resident who was concerned about the amount of dog fouling. This resulted in a discussion. Dist Cllr Brown advised that the dog wardens had ways of catching the owners responsible, but they were often not successful.

Car Park at Woodnook Shops

The car park at Woodnook Shops had been tarmacked, with the work being paid for by the owners of the properties. It looked very good.

Break-ins

A member reported that there had been a series of break-ins in the Parish. Someone had actually come across a burglar in her house. This had happened during the day. Everyone was advised to keep external doors locked, even if they were at home. The burglars were masquerading as charity shop bag delivery persons and were trying handles of front doors. If they found they were unlocked, they would enter and burgle the property. Warnings about this had appeared on local social media.

Fundraising for Memorial Park

The fundraising initiatives for Memorial Park were in the local newspaper today.

6. HLF Bid

Cllrs I Whiteley and M Grimes provided an update on progress with the bid to the HLF.

The bid was not yet quite ready. Cllr Grimes was trying to finalise financial matters. He was proposing to include the cost of the new trees in the bid. Most of the letters of support had been received. The podcasts were being worked on. Once the project had been completed local residents would need to be invited to carry out an evaluation.

7. Test Flagging

Cllrs I and J Whiteley and the Clerk had met with a representative of Fir Tree Fishery CIC to discuss what the CIC could offer in relation to work in Memorial Park. The main focus of the discussion was the flagging. Their students work for two days a week, because for the remainder of the week they have to be in full time education. He anticipated that they would work as a team of four and that the flags could be re-laid in stages. The company are used to dealing with grant funding and the representative appreciated that the drainage would have to be done before the flagging. The cost of their students doing the work was eligible for a grant funding application. He had suggested that, in order to demonstrate the quality of their work, they could perhaps be allowed to re-lay a small section of 6 flags that members could inspect. This suggestion was discussed.

Resolved: The Committee agreed that Fir Tree Fishery CIC would be invited to re-lay a demonstration set of 12 flags.

8. North West in Bloom – the Way Forward

The way forward in relation to the entry of the Memorial Park and Garden in the North West in Bloom's Small Parks competition was discussed.

Resolved: The Committee agreed that an entry would be submitted to the NWInB Small Parks competition. Whether the whole park or just the Memorial Garden were entered would depend on the advice received from the members of Shevington in Bloom.

9. Great British Spring Clean

The Committee noted that Keep Britain Tidy's 'Great British Spring Clean' initiative would run this year from 20 March to 13 April and that Dist Cllrs M Whitham and Brown would be leading the initiative locally.

10. Telephone Boxes at Vicarage Lane and Randalls Corner

Vicarage Lane

The telephone box at the junction of Vicarage Lane with Gathurst Lane had been removed in mid-January.

Randalls Corner

BT had notified the Parish Council that an active consultation was taking place with Wigan Council for the removal of this telephone box. The consultation would close on 18 February. If there were no objections the box would be removed. In the meantime they had arranged for their engineer to attend to make it safe as soon as possible.

The Parish Council were advised that, if they wished to adopt the box, information about BT's 'Adopt a Kiosk Scheme' could be found on their website and they should contact the LA's Chief Planning Officer.

Members discussed the best way forward and decided that the Council would not be adopting the telephone box.

11. Improving Infrastructure & Transport

A recent consultation, allowing residents to have their say on proposed upcoming major junction improvements, closed on 24 January. Information about this consultation could be found on Wigan Council's website and included proposals to improve traffic capacity and provide new walking and cycling facilities, some of which would benefit residents of this area – specifically the extension of the Standish Mineral Line.

This project would extend the Standish Mineral Line to provide the missing connection to the work completed by Highways England at Junction 27 of the M6, and would include cycling and walking routes, and a crossing point.

The scheme would provide additional and improved sections of on and off-road facilities, creating high quality multi-user routes (walking, cycling, equestrian and wheelchair) to extend the existing Standish Mineral Line. It would provide a safe route for journeys into the shopping centre in Standish, as well as to schools, health services and leisure venues.

The improvements would involve resurfacing existing informal routes, public rights of way, and bridleways, providing new connections, crossing points and links to new housing developments.

The LA's aim was to commence works on site in Spring 2020 and for the work to be completed by the end of Summer 2020. A map of the plans had been circulated.

Members discussed the information and noted that much of this project related to Shevington Moor and the northern area of the Parish.

12. Liverpool John Lennon Airspace Transition Consultation

A previously circulated information sheet about Liverpool John Lennon Airport's (LJLA's) consultation process in relation to its proposed airspace change, which would involve potential changes to the routes taken by aircraft departing from and arriving at the Airport was discussed.

Resolved: Cllr J Whiteley would read the consultation document and make recommendations in relation to the meeting in either March or April.

13. Precept Information for Council Tax Letter

The precept information included on the 2019 Council Tax letter had been previously circulated. Members briefly discussed the information to be included on the Council Tax letter for 2020.

Resolved: The Committee agreed that Cllr M Grimes would prepare the text for the 2020 Council Tax letter and send it to the Clerk for submission to Wigan Council.

The text would have to be approved retrospectively by the Full Council at its meeting at the end of the month.

14. Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

15. Dates of Next Meetings

26 February (Council); 4 March (Policy & GP and Finance Committees)

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

Chairman