

**Minutes of the Shevington Parish Council  
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting  
Held Wednesday, 5 May 2021  
7pm Virtual Meeting**

**Present:** Councillor Ira Whiteley (Chairman), Councillors William McKnight, Christopher Horridge, John Whiteley, Michael Grimes and Jessica Higham  
Co-opted Committee Members: Dist Cllr Janet Brown and Mr Brian Lomas  
One member of the public

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

**1. Apologies**

Cllr John Ball

**2. Declaration of Interests**

None

**3. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting  
(7 April 2021)**

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 7 April 2021 were approved as a true and correct record.

**4. Village Issues**

**Planting of Seeds by Standish Voice**

It was reported that Standish Voice had posted on the Parish Council's Facebook page that they wished to plant seeds on the grassed areas of the dual carriageway from the roundabout at J27 of the M6 to the road between Shevington and Standish. As they did not wish to encroach onto the Parish Council's area, they had enquired about the location of the boundary along that stretch of road. The Clerk gave a brief description of its location.

**Overgrown Hedge**

An overgrown hedge in Cressell Park would be reported to the enforcement officer by Dist Cllr Janet Brown.

**Humane Society Nomination**

In reply to a question from the Chairman the Clerk confirmed that the nomination for a Humane Society Award had been submitted.

**5. May Newsletter**

The text for the May edition of the newsletter had been previously circulated and was considered. A couple of minor grammatical amendments were made to an article

about the flooding issues in Crooke Village. A short paragraph referencing the view of the Parish Council was added to the article on East Quarry.

**Resolved:** The text for the May edition of the newsletter was approved.

## **6. Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting had been arranged for Wednesday, 19 May – to begin at 7pm. Because of Covid-related restrictions on numbers attending a meeting, it had previously been agreed that the meeting would take place outside. A summary of the restrictions anticipated to be in place from 17 May (taken from the GOV website) had been previously circulated to members.

Organising the meeting would involve

- involve asking people to bring their own chairs (or stand or sit on the ground, if dry) and umbrellas (just in case they were needed) and asking them to socially distance and wear masks once in the meeting. (The area might need to be marked out in some way.)
- the imposition of a limit of 30 on the number of individuals attending and asking attendees to download and print their own agendas and papers, if they wished.
- the list of attendees being kept by one individual – attendees would not be asked to sign it, as they usually were.
- care being taken when inviting recipients of awards to ask them to attend either on their own or with one family member at the most. They will need to reply to the invitation and could be asked to say who (if anyone) would accompany them.
- using the PA system, if feasible.
- sanitiser being available.

When this matter had been discussed previously no decision had been made about whether to hold the meeting in Memorial Park or at the Recreation Ground. As the work on the drainage would not be starting in May, it would be possible to hold the meeting in the park. Meeting on the Recreation Ground would involve seeking the permission of the Trustees. A Plan B was required if it was raining heavily.

Members discussed the arrangements at great length. From 17 May it would be possible to hold certain types of events indoors with up to 30 people attending. Consequently, some members were of the view that it would be easier to hold the Annual Parish Meeting indoors. Shevington Youth Club was suggested as a possible venue having sufficient space and the facilities to hold a socially distanced meeting of this nature. The majority of members were of the opinion that it would be wise to seek advice from relevant agencies - specifically the Police, the local Medical Officer of Health, the National Association of Local Councils, the LA.

The Clerk was delegated to seek advice from the relevant agencies. A decision about the venue would be made once advice had been received.

## **7. Opening of the Bowling Green for Casual Play**

Earlier this year a decision was taken to only open the bowling green for supervised and organised play by the home teams as part of league fixtures or practice. To date one team had booked the green for play each Thursday evening throughout the

season. Two of the teams had provided the dates of their league fixtures and were in the process of agreeing dates when they would be practising. There had been rumours that the fourth team were proposing to book the green for Wednesday afternoons.

Since the beginning of April the Clerk had received enquiries from several individual members about when the green would be open for them to pay their membership subscriptions and play on a casual basis. The matter of opening the green for individual play was reviewed.

**Resolved:** The Council agreed to re-open the bowling green for individual play from 1 June. As it had not been increased for several years and the green had been maintained throughout the past year without the costs being offset by membership subscriptions, the fee charged would be £20 for the four months that remained of the season.

**Resolved:** The arrangements would be announced in the May edition of the newsletter.

## **8. Use of Memorial Park for Commercial Purposes**

It was reported that complaints had appeared on social media about participants of exercise classes parking their cars across driveways and on the pavement along Shevington Lane. The exercise classes were being run commercially and being held in Memorial Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the morning and in the evening. The person running them was charging £5 per person per session and was advertising the sessions on Facebook. Photographic evidence had been provided by the complainants and had been previously circulated to the Committee.

The Council had allowed some organised activities in the park in the past when permission had been sought. However, the activities in question had not been run commercially. The matter was discussed. The Committee were largely of the same view.

As the park was a public place, it was difficult to prevent activities taking place. On the positive side: it was good to see the park being used. However, if an activity was being run commercially and on a regular basis, it was appropriate for the business owner either to make a donation – in this case to the Memorial Park Development Fund, since the cost of maintenance of the park was covered by local residents – or pay a licence fee. The owner would also need to provide a risk assessment, evidence of business status and proof of public liability insurance in the same way that contractors employed by the Parish Council were required to do.

**Resolved:** The organiser of the exercise classes was to be asked to submit a letter of application, accompanied by all the supporting documentation (*as referenced in the paragraph above*) required, for permission to use the park commercially. If the application had not been received by the Clerk by the evening of Sunday, 9 May, the exercise classes were to cease. It was agreed that, if permission was given, use of the park would be subject to a licence fee of £25 per week, which would be subject to review.

The organiser of the classes was also to be asked to ensure that her clients were not parking their cars in Shevington Lane or in such a way as to obstruct residents' driveways.

The matter would be considered again at the next meeting.

## **9. Issues Raised by Residents During the Consultation on the Memorial Park Loan**

As part of the consultation earlier this year about the loan to cover the cost of some of the improvements in Memorial Park residents were asked to submit additional comments. Members noted that some of the comments made had no connection to the issues relating to Memorial Park and made a commitment to consider these comments with a view to ascertaining how they could be addressed. The consultation results and this commitment were published in the March edition of the newsletter. An extract from the consultation results which contained the comments in question had been previously circulated. Comments in relation to flooding issues at Croke Village had not been included, as these had recently been discussed and addressing them was already a work in progress.

Cllr Mike Grimes was delegated to assess the issues raised and prepare responses for consideration at a future date.

## **10. Permission for New Plaque for Shevington Memorial Garden**

Shevington in Bloom had submitted a request for permission to install an A5 sign below the new Tibetan cherry tree recently planted in the Memorial Garden to explain the reason for it and who had funded it. Cllr Chris Horridge had offered to put it in for them. The request was considered.

**Resolved:** Shevington in Bloom's request was approved.

## **11. Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications to consider.

## **12. Dates of Next Meetings**

19 May (Annual Parish Meeting); 26 May (Annual Meeting of the Council);  
2 June (Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees)

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8:17 pm.

**Chairman**