

**Minutes of the Shevington Parish Council
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Held 6 June 2019
7.00pm Shevington Library**

Present: Councillor W McKnight (Vice Chairman), Councillors J Ball, C Horridge, J Higham, M Crosby, M Grimes and V Galligan
Co-opted Committee Members: Dist Cllr J Brown, Mr B Lomas, Mr D Crook and Mrs E Longmore
No members of the public were present.

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

The Committee observed a minute's silence in honour of those who lost their lives during the D-Day landings – a momentous occasion in the nation's history.

1. Apologies

Cllrs I Whiteley and J Whiteley

2. Declaration of Interests

None

3. Village Issues

Public Access to Toilets in the Village

This was to be an agenda item for the next Council meeting. Cllr M Grimes would prepare a report for circulation.

Car Parking on the Pavement in Broad O'th Lane

Dist Cllr J Brown had reported the issues to the LA and had been told that there was nothing that the LA could do. Bollards could not be installed, because they would block access to properties to the rear of the shops as well as the bus clearway. She had been advised that Greater Manchester Police had the power to deal with it and had been in touch with the local officers. It had been agreed that the PCSO would work closely with the parking enforcement officer once a week and speak to the hot food takeaway shop owners to seek their help with discouraging their customers from driving onto the pavement. Further possibilities were discussed.

Multi-Agency Surgery

A multi-agency surgery was due to be held at Shevington Youth Club from 4pm till 6pm on 11 June. Representatives of Wigan Housing, the ASB Team and the Police would be there to answer residents' questions.

Agenda Items

The Co-opted Committee member asked for three items to be included on future agendas: (1) progress with the notice board for Vicarage Lane Fields, (2) drainage of Vicarage Lane Fields Allotments and (3) the telephone box at Randall's Corner.

Youth Club Car Park

A member reported that the Youth Club car park was in very poor condition. She was advised by another member that a great deal of work was required improve it. The Clerk was asked to write to the Youth Club about the condition of the car park.

Overflowing Bins

A resident had complained to a member about bins belonging to the Parish Council that were overflowing. The Clerk advised that these issues had now been addressed.

Double Parking on Whiteacre

A Co-opted Committee member reported that some people were double parking too close to the junction of Whiteacre with Broadacre in Shevington Moor, obscuring the view of drivers using the junction and breaking the law. A letter would be sent to the LA and also to the local Police to ask them to target the area.

New Parking Provision in Randall Ave

Another Co-opted Committee member reported that, even though a new parking facility with capacity for twelve cars had been provided in Randall Avenue, people were still parking on the bend. The new facility was not being used fully. This was discussed.

Cross-Border Engagement

A member reported that he had been contacted by a councillor from Wrightington Parish Council about cross-border engagement. The member from Wrightington had invited a few district councillors and parish councillors from neighbouring parishes to an informal meeting to discuss this.

Drainage of East Quarry

It was reported that the contractor working on the draining of East Quarry into Calico Brook had been told by both the Environment Agency and Wigan Council to stop.

4. Shevington Community Fete Stall

Arrangements for covering the Parish Council's stall at the Fete were discussed. Cllrs W McKnight, M Grimes, C Horridge, J Higham, I Whiteley and Dist Cllr J Brown would take it in turns on a rota to cover the stall. Cllr Whiteley would be taking her Memorial Park Project display.

Resolved: The Clerk was authorised to spend up to £25 on dog poo bags for giving away to dog owners visiting the stall.

For reasons of eligibility only councillors voted on the expenditure.

5. Closure of Gathurst Lane Car Park on Fete Day

Resolved: The Committee approved the closure of Gathurst Lane Car Park to the public on the day of the Fete.

6. Memorial Park 'In Bloom' Entry

The contents of a report on the work required to prepare for the 'In Bloom' entry were noted.

7. July Newsletter

Suggestions for items for inclusion in the newsletter were considered

Resolved: The following items were approved for inclusion in the July edition of the newsletter:

- (a) Shevington Fete
- (b) 'In Bloom' Judging
- (c) CA Quiz Night
- (d) Annual Parish Walk
- (e) Bowling Green advertising
- (f) Fundraising for Appley Bridge in Bloom
- (g) Dog Fouling
- (h) Protection of Public Spaces – focussing on Memorial Park
- (i) Something that the Parish Council have done
- (j) Changes to Local Policing
- (k) Standard items

8. Review of Policies

(a) Equal Opportunities Policy

The Policy was reviewed. No changes were made.

Resolved: The Policy was approved.

(b) Grant Awarding Policy

The Policy was reviewed.

The following change needed to be made to the Policy to bring it into line with the status quo:

Under 'Guidelines for Financial Aid Applications' the second part of No.3 needed to be amended from *'The application will be considered by any one of the committees, which will present its recommendations to the Parish Council. The actual grant payments will be approved by the Parish Council at their next meeting.'* to read *'The application will be considered by either the Finance Committee, which has delegated authority to approve financial aid applications, or by the Parish Council. The actual grant payments will be approved by the Parish Council at their next meeting.'*

Resolved: The above amendment to the Policy was approved.

9. The Parish Plan

The Parish Plan and the review undertaken in 2016 were discussed. The Committee were of the view that further review was needed.

Resolved: A Working Party consisting of Cllrs M Grimes and J Ball and Dist Cllr J Brown would review the Parish Plan and report back to the Committee at a date in the future.

10. The Image Presented by the Britannia Hotel

The appearance of the Britannia Hotel, both inside and outside, and the poor impression it gave of the area were discussed at length.

Resolved: A letter would be sent to the owner at his Head Office to bring the issues to his attention. Another letter would be sent to Wigan Council about the hoardings that the hotel had erected on land that it did not own.

11. Damage Caused by Motorcyclists in Elnup Wood

A member of Shevington in Bloom had recently reported the discovery of deliberate damage in Elnup Wood caused by motorcyclists using the wood illicitly. The Clerk had reported it to both the Police and the owners. The Police had replied that they would investigate, but the owners had not yet replied.

Possible follow-up action was discussed. This included writing about it in the July edition of the newsletter.

12. Public Footpath from Miles Lane to The Nook

A resident had raised concerns about the condition of the footpath, particularly that of the steep slope before the green bridge. Cllr C Horridge had investigated and the contents of his report and the way forward were discussed.

Resolved: Dist Cllr J Brown would contact the Rights of Way Officer at Wigan Council first and, following that, the Clerk would contact her to seek advice.

13. Appley Bridge Community Association Signage

Appley Bridge Community Association wished to introduce signage at the boundary of the village with Shevington in Miles Lane and had sent a letter asking the Parish Council whether they would be prepared to make a contribution to the cost of the signage. This was discussed.

Resolved: The Committee approved the initiative in principle and instructed the Clerk to send ABCA an application form for a grant.

14. Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

15. Consultation on the Vehicle Operator Licensing System

The Department for Transport had issued a new Consultation on the Vehicle Operator Licensing System which was due to come into force by 1 April 2020. NALC (National Association of Local Councils) would be responding and had asked its member councils for their views on two of the questions.

The Committee discussed the questions:

Question 1: Do you agree with changing PSV operator licence procedures so that applicants can have operational approval at the earliest opportunity (subject to normal safeguards)?

Question 3: Do you agree that introducing formal tribunal rules will be beneficial to the Traffic Commissioner's tribunal functions? If No, please explain why you are against the introduction of tribunal rules introduction.

Resolved: The Committee agreed to answer 'Yes' to both questions and instructed the Clerk to reply to NALC.

Cllr V Galligan joined the meeting.

16. Councillors' Training

At the request of the Council two training options have been explored:

Lancashire Association of Local Councils (LALC)

LALC provided training for new councillors on a variety of parish council specific topics and were willing to come to Shevington to do this. Details of the arrangements were noted. At present, because most parish councils had just had elections, this session was in great demand and there was a waiting list. The Parish Council had been added to the list, but would only hear in the Autumn when it could be accommodated.

Democratic Services Team from Wigan Council

The team from Wigan Council were willing to provide training in topics such as registerable interests, the work of the Standards Committee in handling complaints against councillors, community engagement and basic do's and don'ts of data protection. This would be provided on a Monday evening at 6pm at Wigan Town Hall on a date to be agreed for members of both Shevington and Haigh Parish Councils. There was no charge.

New members in particular expressed an interest in attending both.

17. Date of Next Meeting

27 June (Council)

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

Chairman