

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

**Present:** Councillor I Whiteley (Chairman), Councillors W McKnight, C Horridge, J Whiteley, M Grimes, J Higham and M Crosby  
Co-opted Committee Members: Dist Cllr J Brown, Mr D Crook and Mr B Lomas  
Mr K Till and Mrs M Till of the Friends of Gathurst Station were present for Item Nos 1 to 4.

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

**1. Apologies**

Cllrs V Galligan and J Ball  
Mrs E Longmore

**2. Declaration of Interests**

None

**3. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting  
(2 October 2019)**

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 2 October 2019 were approved as a true and correct record.

**4. Friends of Gathurst Station**

The Chairman welcomed Keith and Mavis Till, the Group Leader and Secretary respectively of the Friends of Gathurst Station, who circulated photos of the Southport-bound platform before they began working on it and as it was now and explained their policy and the motivation behind what they were trying to do.

*See Appendix A.*

Mr & Mrs Till were told that the Parish Council very much appreciated what they were doing – it could only enhance the village. The Clerk would send them contact details for local grant funding sources.

*Mr & Mrs Till were thanked for coming and left the meeting.  
Cllr C Horridge left the meeting.*

**5. Village Issues**

**Footpath Behind Broadacre, Shevington Moor**

It was reported that the footpath behind Broadacre continued to flood.

This would be reported to the LA.

### **'In Bloom'**

Cllrs J Whiteley and C Horridge and Mrs M Carter had attended the awards ceremony for North West in Bloom in Southport on 1 November. They had collected two awards for Memorial Park (a Gold award for its entry in the small parks category and the RHS National Certificate of Distinction for Parks) and a Level 3 (Advancing) award for Millbrook Primary School in the category in which it had been entered.

### **Overgrown Trees in The Oval**

A member reported that she had received a complaint from a resident about the overgrown trees in the Public Realm in The Oval. The matter was referred to Dist Cllr J Brown to deal with.

### **St Anne's Mothers' Union**

A member reported that she had received an invitation from the Mothers' Union to give a talk some time in 2020 about the Parish Council. She opened up the invitation to other members to join her.

### **Roof of Former Shevington Community School Building**

Residents had expressed concerns about sightings of young people on the roof of the former Shevington Community School building. Dist Cllr J Brown had contacted Central Watch about this. The project manager had visited the site and was investigating ways of making the site more secure.

### **Wigan Council Volunteers**

Earlier that day a party of 10/11 volunteers from the IT Department at Wigan Council had worked on the flower beds and the SinB planters in the centre of Shevington under the supervision of the SinB Co-ordinator. They had then had lunch at the Juniper Bar & Restaurant and had collected litter on the Recreation Ground in the afternoon. A letter thanking them would be sent to the IT Department.

### **Glass Near the Play Area**

A member reported that she had been told that glass from broken bottles had been seen in the vicinity of the play areas.

*Cllr J Higham withdrew from the meeting.*

### **The FSMP and the Co-op Community Fund**

The FSMP had become one of the Co-op Community Fund's chosen Charities. Members were encouraged to join the Co-op – if they were not already members – and support the FSMP by shopping regularly at the local shop.

### **Children's Residential Home**

The Chairman reported that she had recently met up with the neighbours of the children's residential home in the area. There had been issues with the behaviour of the children resident at the home, but the neighbours reported that things had settled down because the disruptive children were no longer living there.

*Cllr J Higham re-joined the meeting.*

## 6. Unadopted Road Behind the Parade of Shops

Dist Cllr J Brown reported that it had been established that the unadopted road behind the parade of shops in Gathurst Lane was almost entirely owned jointly by the owners of the shopping units. According to the deeds, apart from a small area at the library end of the road (which was owned by the LA), the owner of each unit was responsible for the maintenance of the section of road behind it.

Dist Cllr Brown had written to the owners of all of the units, asking them if they would be willing to make a contribution to the cost of the upgrading of this service road. The LA were willing to manage the upgrading. Most responses had been positive, although two owners had not responded at all.

*Cllr C Horridge returned to the meeting.*

The LA had estimated that upgrading the service road properly – to include good drainage – would cost approximately £20,000. However, they had stated that they would not be able to fund this and that the work could only be carried out if all of the owners were in agreement. The matter was discussed.

**Resolved:** The Committee agreed that the Clerk would work with Dist Cllr J Brown to produce a letter addressed to the owners of the units. The letter would inform each owner how much his/her contribution would be and seek a signed commitment that the contribution would be honoured.

Dist Cllr J Brown was thanked for her work on this project.

## 7. Name of Vicarage Lane Fields

A longtime resident of a housing estate near the sports fields had recently asked why they were constantly being referred to as Vicarage Lane Fields, when they had once belonged to a farmer called Ormerod and were always referred to locally as Ormerod's fields. The official name of the fields was considered.

**Resolved:** The fields would be known officially as Vicarage Lane Fields, but, when the sign was installed it would include, in brackets, after the official name the statement: 'locally known as Ormerod's Fields'.

## 8. November Newsletter

The text of the November edition of the newsletter and proposals for additional items were considered and discussed.

**Resolved:** The text for items for the November edition of the newsletter was approved. It was agreed that the following items would also be included:

- Friends of Gathurst Station – to include an appeal for volunteers;
- Wigan Council's Volunteer Day in Shevington.

*Cllr M Grimes withdrew from the meeting.*

## **9. Memorial Park Project**

A report prepared and presented by the Chairman on the Memorial Park project was received. *See Appendix B.*

*Cllr M Grimes re-joined the meeting.*

## **10. Annual Achievement Awards**

The matter was discussed.

### **Resolved:**

- (a) The Parish Council will present Achievement Awards in 2020;
- (b) An appeal for nominations would be made to community leaders and groups directly via email and to individual residents via the newsletter;
- (c) The awards would be presented during the Annual Parish Meeting.

## **11. VE Day Celebrations**

The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of VE Day would be celebrated over the weekend of 8 to 10 May 2020. Wigan Council had plans for that weekend which would include a parade in the centre of Wigan. Members were asked to consider possibilities for celebratory events in Shevington. One suggestion was that of a heritage event in which local schools would take part.

## **12. Feedback from Councillors' Training Session**

Members who had attended the Councillors' training session provided by Wigan Council's Democratic Services Department provided feedback. During the session the members had learnt about The Deal, the Report It App for Councillors, registration and declaration of interests and engagement with the community. They also learnt about how Wigan Council functioned, as the training was very much principal council centred as opposed to being parish council centred.

## **13. Report It App for Councillor**

During the training session provided by Wigan Council the members who attended were told about the Report It App for Councillors. Wigan councillors are able to report issues via this app and council officers investigate and have to reply to those councillors within a specified period of time. Members were keen to share in this facility. It was reported that so far the LA had agreed to share the facility with the Parish Council, not with individual parish councillors. This meant that enquiries would need to be raised initially with the Clerk, who had been registered with the app on behalf of the Parish Council. A proforma had been designed to enable this. Members were asked to complete the proforma, when submitting an enquiry, and email it to the Clerk together with a photograph of the issue and its exact location.

The IT Department were seeking to find out if individual councillors could be allowed to use this app.

#### **14. Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications to consider.

#### **15. Dates of Next Meetings**

27 November (Council); 4 December (Policy & GP and Finance Committees)

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

**Chairman**

**DRAFT**