

**Minutes of the Shevington Parish Council
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Held 7 February 2019
7.00pm Shevington Library**

Present: Councillor I Whiteley (Chair), Councillors J Ball, C Horridge, W McKnight, J Fletcher and K Shaw

Co-opted Committee Members: Dist Cllr J Brown, Mr D Crook and Mrs E Longmore
Mr C Pennington, Street Lighting Officer at Wigan Council, was present for Items 1-3.
No members of the public were present.

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

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming Mr C Pennington.

1. Apologies

Cllrs A Bland and C Miles
Mr B Lomas

2. Declaration of Interests

None

Standing Orders were suspended.

3. Christmas Decorations

Mr Chris Pennington, Street Lighting Officer at Wigan Council, discussed the following with the Committee:

- Possible expansion of Christmas lighting provision in Appley Bridge (in the area around Costcutter & Booth's), Shevington Vale (Woodnook shops and open spaces), Shevington Moor (the commercial area in Shevington Moor road and the area around Whiteacre Park) and Crooke Village – because of the expense involved, a phased approach was necessary.
- The provision of small Christmas trees with lighting for over the shops in the Parish.
- The erection of ornate fencing around the Christmas tree in the centre of Shevington - the pros and cons and whether this would be permitted at this location.

The purpose of the discussion was to find out what residents and the Parish Council would like to see and Mr Pennington was asked to establish the costs involved.

See Appendix A.

Mr Pennington was thanked for attending and left the meeting.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

4. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting (6 December 2018)

Resolved: The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 6 December 2018 were approved as a true and correct record.

5. Village Issues

Raised Beds at Vicarage Lane Fields Allotments

Construction of the twelve raised beds was almost complete. Six had already been allocated to prospective tenants. Three had been designated for use by people suffering from dementia.

Repairs to Wall at Forest Fold

In reply to a question from a Co-opted Committee member about progress with repairs to the wall along the approach to the Forest Fold site the Clerk advised that so far no decisions had been made about the form that the repairs should take. The Co-opted Committee member reported that the 'in Bloom' groups had been donated wild flower seeds to sow and, if it was decided that the wall at the front were to be removed to create a slope, this area would be suitable for planting the seeds. The matter would be an agenda item at a future meeting.

Large Hole Near the Entrance to Abbey Dale

A member reported that a large hole had appeared near the entrance to Abbey Dale – possibly (as the visual evidence suggested) in connection with repairs to the telephone system. However, there were no barriers around the hole. A Co-opted Committee member offered to look into the matter.

FSMP

The Chairman reported that the Quiz Night had been a fantastic evening and that £576 had been raised for the renewal of Memorial Park. The FSMP had heard recently that the project had been accepted for the Asda 'Bags for Life' programme and shoppers at Asda would be able to support it in April, May and June. All of this would be included in the next newsletter.

Health & Wellbeing Roadshow

It was reported that this would be visiting Shevington Methodist Church from 1pm till 3pm the following Monday.

Prince's Park & Woodlands Drive

A member reported concerns that, due to a lack of parking spaces at Gathurst Station, rail users had started parking their cars in these residential streets and then walking to the station.

Attack on Bus

Another member reported that the bus on which he had been a passenger earlier in the evening had been attacked by a group of young people. A brick wrapped in a ball of mud had been thrown at the bus and had hit and cracked the front windscreen – fortunately, not on the driver's side. It had also been reported that a group of young people had also been seen vandalising litter bins in Memorial Park. The resurgence of anti-social behaviour in the centre of Shevington was discussed. A Co-opted Committee member observed that the Police patrolled the area every evening, but had reported that there was never any evidence of anything untoward

taking place. She agreed to try to obtain information from the bus company about the frequency with which buses had been attacked in this area.

Parking in Randall Avenue

A Co-opted Committee member reported that concerns had been raised about parking issues in Randall Avenue. He was advised that there were plans in place for fourteen additional parking spaces to be introduced on the green open space in the street.

6. Consultation on the Revised Draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

The size of the documents associated with the GMSF (and also GM's 2040 Transport Strategy Delivery Plan) and the logistics of absorbing and analysing the information they contained within such a short space of time was discussed. Members were informed that an information event had been scheduled to take place at Wigan Atrium on 26 February between 4pm and 7pm. The event would include drop-in sessions and members were welcome to attend.

A superficial trawl through the documents had indicated that the GMSF would have a positive impact on the local area, but there were transport issues that needed to be addressed.

Resolved: Representatives of Wigan Council would be invited to attend a Council meeting to discuss the initiatives. A decision with regard to a response would be deferred until after the LA's representatives had engaged with the Parish Council.

7. Consultation on Burscough Parish Neighbourhood Plan

Burscough Parish Neighbourhood Plan was discussed briefly. The Committee noted the contents of the Plan and were wholly in support of Burscough Parish Council's vision and objectives, particularly objective no.6, which related to the wider integration and improvement of existing transport infrastructure. The Parish Council would continue to support OPSTA in their work to improve rail services in the area. However, the Committee were of the view that a request that the possibility of cross-boundary ticketing in relation to both rail and bus services from Wigan to destinations in Lancashire be considered should be included in the response to the consultation.

Resolved: The Committee agreed that the above comments should be submitted to West Lancashire Borough Council.

8. Consultation on Wigan Post Office Re-Location

The issues relating to the proposed move of the Post Office from its current location in a purpose built historic building, where it had been for more than a century, to the branch of WH Smith's in Standishgate were discussed.

Resolved: The Committee noted the consultation and agreed to submit a response which would focus on the issues surrounding ease of access to WH Smith's for the disabled and other individuals arriving by rail, bus, taxi and car and the amount of space available for moving around the shop for the increased number of customers.

The Clerk was also instructed to enquire about the future proposed for the existing Post Office building.

9. Shevington Vale School's Consultation

Shevington Vale Community Primary School wished to promote health and wellbeing within the community and were proposing to apply for a lottery grant for equipment that would be used for this purpose. As part of their bid they were consulting members of the community over the equipment that they should purchase with any grant that they succeeded in securing. The consultation was discussed.

Resolved: The Clerk would write to the school to inform them that the Parish Council would support the school in whatever they wished to purchase. The consultation would also be posted on the website.

10. Canal Towpath Upgrade

On Tuesday, 22 January 2019 six local walkers had joined the towpath above Herons Wharf and had experienced an extremely wet and muddy walk until they reached the Lock keeper's cottage and barge; from there the path was wider. There were so many deep puddles it was impossible to look out for wildlife. They had written to the Parish Council to ask whether there was any possibility of improving that stretch of towpath. The request was considered. The canal towpath was the responsibility of the Canal & River Trust – a Charitable Trust that was willing to support volunteer groups in the maintenance and repair of towpaths. The Clerk would contact the Trust to try to establish the best way forward.

11. Precept Information for Council Tax Letter

Resolved: The precept information for the Council Tax letter was approved.

12. Planning Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

13. Dates of Next Meetings

28 February (Council);

7 March (Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees)

CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

Resolved: That, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

The Co-opted Committee members remained for this part of the meeting.

14. Achievement Awards & Annual Parish Meeting

Resolved: The format for the Annual Parish Meeting was agreed.

The Committee received and discussed nominations for the 2019 Achievement Awards.

Resolved: The Committee agreed to recommend six individuals to the Council for the receipt of Achievement Awards.

The retirement of Wigan Council's CEO was discussed. This would be an agenda item at the full Council meeting.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

Chairman