

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

**Present:** Councillor I Whiteley (Chair), Councillors J Ball, C Horridge, A Bland and K Shaw

Co-opted Committee Members: Dist Cllr J Brown, Mr B Lomas and Mrs E Longmore  
No members of the public were present.

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

**1. Apologies**

Cllrs J Fletcher, C Miles and W McKnight  
Mr D Crook

**2. Declaration of Interests**

None

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

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 7 February 2019 were approved as a true and correct record.

**4. Village Issues**

**Unsolicited Leaflet Drop**

It was reported that residents were asking why an unsolicited piece of card was being dropped through their letter boxes. They wished to know who had sent it and what it was all about. The Committee discussed ways of dealing with it and agreed that the best way forward was to include information about what the Parish Council did in the newsletter.

**J27 Roundabout**

It was observed that in other parts of the country cycle lanes were identified by markings that were of a different colour to others on the highway, but at this location the lanes did not even have cycle signs painted on them. It was impossible to distinguish between the cycle lane and the pedestrian footway. The H&S issues relating to this and the best way forward were discussed. Letters would be sent to the LA and to Highways England. Dist Cllr J Brown agreed to try to ascertain whether a named officer from Wigan Council could meet with her, Mr B Lomas and the Clerk on site to further discuss matters.

*Cllr A Bland joined the meeting.*

In addition concerns were raised about traffic issues, particularly during peak times, in connection with the way the newly introduced traffic light system was being operated.

#### **Site of Former Shevington Community Primary School Site**

A member reported that two people had asked how they could acquire houses that were expected to be built on the playing field behind the former school buildings. Long running rumours of a housing development on the site had fuelled these questions. Recent presentations by Wigan Council officers had indicated that there were no plans for large developments on any sites in the Parish.

#### **Shevington Memorial Park**

The Chairman reported that an officer from the Heritage Lottery Fund was ringing her the following day to discuss the enquiry she had submitted in relation to the bid for grant funding for the Park.

#### **Council Tax**

A Co-opted Committee member reported that, even though Wigan Council were not increasing their Council Tax charge, other authorities were increasing their precepts. The Deal initiative had been a tremendous success and it would be developed further.

#### **Road Surface at the Junction of Back Lane with Crow Orchard Road**

Issues with the deteriorating road surface at this junction were discussed. It was reported that this area was the responsibility of a neighbouring authority, but it would be raised in the letter to Wigan Council's Network Management.

#### **Access to Garage at J27**

Another Co-opted Committee member reported that, since the access to the garage at J27 had been changed, articulated lorries were tending to park in Crow Orchard Road instead of within the curtilage of the garage. It was observed that yellow lines were needed along this stretch of road to prevent this.

### **5. Consultation on the Revised Draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework**

The proposed framework was discussed. The proposals were not expected to impact very much on the Parish.

**Resolved:** The Consultation questionnaire would be responded to in such a way that it reflected the Parish Council's view that there was a need for a balance of social infrastructure, affordable housing, green and healthy living spaces and improved transport connections in the northwest of the Borough. Development of the access point at J25, which would take the pressure off J27 and Standish, would be supported.

### **6. The Great Spring Clean**

Keep Britain Tidy's national initiative for volunteers to collect litter and Wigan Council's local initiatives were discussed. It was agreed that the initiative would be promoted through the newsletter.

## **7. Column Christmas Trees**

The possibility of artificial Christmas trees bearing solar powered lights to be used on street lighting columns in some areas of the Parish was discussed. The specifications had been forwarded to the LA's Street Lighting Department to establish whether local columns were suitable to support these trees. A response is awaited. The matter was deferred until more information was available.

## **8. March Newsletter**

The text for inclusion in the newsletter had been previously circulated and was discussed.

**Resolved:** The text submitted for the March newsletter was approved. A further article emphasising what the Parish Council did would be prepared for inclusion in the newsletter by the Chair and the Clerk.

## **9. Strengthening Ethical Standards**

Information circulated by the SLCC and Wigan Council's Deputy Monitoring Officer about a recently published report to Government, prepared by the Independent Committee on Standards in Public Life, which recommended steps that should be taken to improve ethical standards in local government was received and noted.

## **10. GDPR: Retention of Records Schedule**

**Resolved:** The previously circulated Retention of Records Schedule was adopted.

## **11. Planning Applications**

There were no planning applications to consider.

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

20 March (Annual Parish Meeting); 4 April (Policy & General Purposes Committee)

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7:45 pm.

**Chairman**