



# **POLICY & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2021 ~ 7:00 P.M. ~ TO BE HELD VIRTUALLY**

Please let the Clerk know if you intend to join the meeting by emailing [clerk.shevingtonpc@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:clerk.shevingtonpc@yahoo.co.uk) by Monday, 1 February so that you can be sent an invitation and joining instructions.

## **AGENDA**

- 1. Apologies** – to receive apologies from Committee members.
- 2. Declaration of Interests** - to receive any declarations of interest (personal and/or prejudicial) with regard to items on the Agenda.  
Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest, (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest), they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 28 June 2012 and amended on 25 October 2012. Members are reminded that if they have any personal interests of a prejudicial nature or a disclosable pecuniary interest they must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room. Any member needing clarification must contact the Clerk.
- 3. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meetings (2 December 2020)** - to consider, agree and approve the signature of the previously circulated Minutes by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting. (enclosed)
- 4. Village Issues – for information only**  
To receive reports relating to the legitimate business of the Council from Committee members and Council officers (Councillors are asked to advise the Clerk in advance of any reports – including the subject matter - they wish to make.)
- 5. Text for Council Tax Letter - for agreement** (enclosed)  
The precept request has been sent to the LA. Enclosed is the text proposed for inclusion in the Council Tax letter. Members are invited to approve it.
- 6. Community Engagement Strategy – for adoption** (enclosed)  
The Community Engagement Strategy has been updated in line with suggestions made during the meeting in February. Members are invited to adopt it.
- 7. School Crossing Patrol in Church Lane - for agreement** (enclosed)  
Enclosed is a letter from the Headteacher of St Bernadette's School. In the letter she expresses concern about the lack of a school crossing patrol in Church Lane. Members are invited to consider and agree the best way forward.

- 8. Dog Attack in Elnup Wood – for information and agreement (enclosed)**  
We have received an email recounting one resident's experiences when their family dog (which was on a lead) was attacked by another dog (which was not on a lead) while being taken for a walk in Elnup Wood. I have replied to the resident, saying that we would include the story in the March edition of the newsletter. The resident has supplied photos of their dog's injuries and has consented to one of them being used with the article. The content of the email is enclosed for members' information. Members are invited to agree the best way forward.
- 9. RHS 'In Bloom' Entry – Memorial Park – for discussion and agreement (enclosed)**  
After careful consideration the RHS have decided to take a positive view regarding the pandemic and invite applications for Britain in Bloom. They have extended the application deadline to 30 April 2021 which is a month later than normal to give everyone extra time to make their decision. They will assess the situation regarding the pandemic in May and decide the safest way of assessing the entries. This may range, for example, from judging as normal, judging with limited contact, or to an assessment through photographic evidence. As 'in Bloom' staff are unable to access the office at the moment, they would like to limit the number of postal entries and invite applications via email. They would also prefer entry fees to be paid by BACS. Memorial Park has on two occasions been entered in the 'Small Parks' category and has done very well. The RHS are mainly interested in plant displays and the part of the park we have usually entered is the Memorial Garden. Judging usually takes place in July. The work is carried out by a combination of the grounds maintenance contractors and Shevington in Bloom volunteers. If we wish to enter the park in 2021, we will need to consult SinB before we make that decision. The cost of entry is £85. Members are invited to discuss this matter and agree the best way forward.  
*(Co-opted Committee members may vote on this.)*
- 10. East Quarry & Parbold – for information and agreement (circulated earlier & to follow)**  
Permission has been given for East Quarry to be partially emptied and a copy of the consent document was circulated earlier this month. A further report is being prepared and will follow early next week. Members are invited to discuss the issues and agree the way forward.
- 11. Complaint to the Ombudsman re Environment Agency – for discussion and agreement**  
A reply to our FOI enquiry sent to the Environment Agency about applications for a Water Abstraction Licence submitted by Maybrook Investments Ltd stated:  
*"Maybrook Investments Ltd did submit an application in summer 2019 and very soon after made an amendment. Although there have been long periods of inactivity in the applicant submitting further information requested by the Environment Agency and further amendments made, the application was not withdrawn at any point. The Environment Agency has now received all the required documentation, the consultation period has closed and the licence is currently being issued."*  
The statement that the application has never been withdrawn is curious, as the information that it was withdrawn in March 2020 was originally seen on the Environment Agency website. The Council have, moreover, been told in the past by the group campaigning against the abstraction of water from East Quarry that the application had been withdrawn. When the above was reported to the Council meeting in January, members agreed to consider lodging a complaint against the Environment Agency with the Ombudsman. Members are invited to discuss matters and agree the best way forward.
- 12. Mobile Phone Mast Consultation – for consideration and agreement (enclosed)**  
Enclosed are a pre-application consultation letter and proposed plans (as well as several other documents) in relation to the proposed upgrade to the existing telecommunications installation at the site in Back Lane. We have received these because we are an official consultee. The intention is to carry out a simple upgrade. No date is given as a deadline for responses. At the time of preparing this summons the planning application had not been submitted. Members are invited to give the plans their consideration and agree whether to forward a comment now and/or make a representation once the planning application has been submitted. If members wish to make a representation after the application has been submitted, agreement on the nature and detail of the representation may be deferred.  
*(Co-opted Committee members may vote on this.)*
- 13. Agreement with Forest Fold Allotments Tenants' Association**

– *for consideration and agreement*

When the Parish Council agreed that a Tenants' Association should be set up at Forest Fold it was also agreed that there would be a simple written agreement as to the nature of the functions to be carried out by the Tenants' Association Committee. This is something that needs to be explored with the Tenants' Association Committee.

Members are invited to discuss this and agree the best way forward.

*(Co-opted Committee members may vote on this.)*

**14. Parish & Town Training Courses** (enclosed)

Enclosed is information about a Chairmanship workshop and workshops for new councillors and clerks to be provided via Zoom by Parish & Town Training. The cost of the Chairmanship workshop is £25 per person and the cost of the new councillors and clerks workshops is £30 per module.

**15. Planning Applications** – *to consider for comment*

At the time of the preparation of this agenda there were no relevant planning applications to bring to the attention of the Committee.

**16. Dates of Next Meetings:** 24 February (Council); 3 March (P&GP and Finance Committees)

## OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

*K Pilkington*

Clerk to the Parish Council