



# **POLICY & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2019 - 7 P.M.  
SHEVINGTON LIBRARY**

## **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 (6 June 2019 and 7 August 2019)** - to consider, agree and approve the signature of the previously circulated Minutes by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting. (enclosed)
- 4. Annual Inspection of Property** – *for discussion and agreement* (enclosed)  
Members are invited to discuss the report and agree an order of priorities.  
*(Co-opted Committee members may vote on this.)*
- 5. 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.)
- 6. Speed of Traffic Travelling Along Vicarage Lane** – *for discussion and agreement*  
Concerns have been raised by residents about the speed of traffic travelling along Vicarage Lane between Gathurst Lane and the Taylor-Wimpey estate. Vicarage Lane is a residential area and has a 20 mph. However, it has been reported that drivers who either live on or visit adjoining estates regularly exceed the speed limit. This has been raised with the LA on several occasions in the past and each time the reply has been that it would not be appropriate to introduce other traffic calming measures.  
*Members are invited to discuss the issues and agree the best way forward.*  
*(Co-opted Committee members may vote on this.)*

## **7. The Quality of the Maintenance of the Memorial Park Play Areas**

*– for discussion and agreement (enclosed)*

Concern has been expressed by members of the Council, members of Shevington in Bloom and residents (often on social media) about the quality of the maintenance of the Memorial Park Play area. Wigan Council have a Service Level Agreement with the Parish Council to maintain the play areas in Memorial Park. The current one has been enclosed. On the whole Wigan Council adheres to its part of the bargain. Where it falls down is in relation to the way the LA maintains the sand. So far this year the sand has been rotovated only once. Weeds are allowed to grow to unacceptable heights and were treated with weed-killer only a fortnight before the Northwest in Bloom judging day. They were asked to remove the weeds completely, but did not do this. The job was, instead, carried out by SinB volunteers and the general grounds maintenance contractor's operatives, who did not charge for the extra work.

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

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

## **8. NALC Election Survey - for information (enclosed)**

As a follow up to the May 2019 elections the policy and communications team are undertaking some research on the experience of councillors and councils when taking part in the election. This research comes in the form of two surveys: one for clerks to fill in as a representative of the council and one for councillors - to be filled in by all councillors on the council.

The data gathered will be placed in a wider context of how many contested and uncontested elections took place and give a national picture of town and parish elections in England.

NALC wish to invite all councils and councillors to complete these surveys.

A more detailed introduction to the surveys, which outlines the purpose of this research, is enclosed.

Below is the link to the survey for councillors to fill in:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GHKRX5J>

## **9. September Newsletter – for approval (to follow)**

The text for the articles to be included in the newsletter is currently being compiled and will follow as soon as it is available or on Monday at the latest.

*Members are invited to consider and approve the text for the newsletter.*

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

## **10. Jim Rigby Memorial – for discussion & agreement**

For approximately 3 decades Jim Rigby planned and led the Annual Parish Walk. By the last occasion he was well into his eighties. His health had, however, been ailing for some time and, sadly, over the Summer he passed away. Jim not only led the Annual Parish Walk, but led the weekly exercise walks in the village and had been a keen member of Wigan Ramblers. It has been suggested that Jim's contribution to Parish life should be marked by some sort of memorial.

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

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

## **11. Permissions – for approval / agreement**

Members are invited to consider the following requests:

### **(a) Women's Institute Plaque**

The Secretary to Shevington W.I. has written:

'In 2015 we were given permission to plant a tree on the village green. We now request permission to place a stone plaque at the base of the tree and this will measure 9" x 8" and the wording on it will read "Donated by Shevington W.I in commemoration of 100years of W.I in the U.K - 1915-2015" It will be securely cemented in place to prevent theft.'

By the 'village green' the Secretary means Memorial Park.

*Members are invited to approve the request.*

### **(b) Memorial Bench**

A family of Parish residents have asked for permission to install a bench in memory of a relative (also a resident) in the park. The bench would be a metal one similar to the two - made by the fabricator based in UpHolland - that we already have in the park. The family would like the bench to be installed in a location from where the sitter will be able to see the play areas. We have agreed a location along the trimtrail footpath. The

bench will carry a memorial plaque. The family will cover the costs of the installation, but the Clerk will be supervising the project.

*Members are invited to consider and approve the project.*

(c) Dog Exercise Enclosure

A resident has written the following: 'I write this e-mail regarding the land on Vicarage Lane, I have noticed on many occasions that when I take my dogs for a walk that parts of the land are not being used near the allotments, I would like to know would it be possible to lease a parcel of land which has the big mound of soil on it and turn it into a dog field for Shevington, I would maintain the land and erect a fully secured fence around it to make it safe, a fee would be payable for the use of the land this would allow dog owners 30 mins of free lead time, I hope you can help me with this and would really appreciate it.'

*Members are invited to consider the request and agree the best way forward.*

**12. 'In Bloom' Celebration Event – for agreement**

As members will recall, we have been invited to send 4 delegates to the 'In Bloom' Celebration Evening, which will be held on Thursday, 10 October 2019 at 6pm in the Marquee at DW Stadium. Because the deadline for replies was 19 August, the Clerk accepted the invitation on behalf of the Council and reserved four places. Cllrs I and J Whiteley agreed at the full Council meeting to take up two of the places. Two places remain available.

*Two further members are invited to agree to attend.*

**13. Damage by Motorcyclists in Elnup Wood – for information only (enclosed)**

Enclosed is a reply from Cheshire, Lancashire & Merseyside Groundwork Trust to the Clerk's latest letter about the damage in Elnup Wood. The letter is for members' information only.

**14. 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.

**15. Dates of Next Meetings:** 25 September (Council); 2 October (Policy & GP Committee)

# OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

*K Pilkington*

Clerk to the Parish Council