



# **POLICY & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2020 - 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. **VE Day Celebrations** – *for information, discussion and agreement*  
Please welcome Mr John Harker, Strategic Manager – Armed Forces at Wigan Council, who will be attending the meeting to talk to the Parish Council about Wigan Council's plans for the weekend of 8 to 10 May, when the VE Day celebrations are due to take place, and how local groups could become involved.  
Mr Harker attended Shevington Community Association meeting earlier this week to outline plans for events in the centre of Wigan. There will be a carnival based in Mesnes Park, which will include a parade of floats, a classic car show, stalls, military parade etc and the Armed Forces are keen to get Shevington involved — in running a stall at Mesnes Park and perhaps by holding events locally.  
At previous meetings the following were suggested:
  - (a) A memorial service in the park — the churches and the schools could perhaps be approached about this? It could perhaps be run on the Sunday, so as not to conflict too much with the Wigan-based celebrations.
  - (b) A letter has already been circulated to the schools about a Heritage Day – this has met with positive responses and would be organised by the schools.Members are invited to discuss the possibilities and agree the best way forward.  
*(Co-opted Committee members may vote on this.)*

**4. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting (4 December 2019)**

- to consider, agree and approve the signature of the previously circulated Minutes by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting. (enclosed)

**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. HLF Bid – for discussion and agreement (to follow)**

To receive an update on progress with the HLF bid.

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

**7. Test Flagging – for approval**

Cllrs I and J Whiteley and the Clerk met with a representative of Fir Tree Fishery CIC to discuss what the CIC could offer in relation to Memorial Park. The main focus of the discussion was the flagging. Their students work for two days a week, because for the remainder of the week they have to be in full time education. He anticipated that they would work as a team of four and that the flags could be re-laid in stages. The company are used to dealing with grant funding and the representative appreciated that the drainage would have to be done before the flagging. The cost of their students doing the work was eligible for a grant funding application. He suggested that, in order to demonstrate the quality of their work, they could perhaps be allowed to re-lay a small section of 6 flags that members could inspect.

Members are invited to approve this.

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

**8. North West in Bloom – the Way Forward - for discussion and agreement**

The Parish Council have for the past two years entered Memorial Park in the Small Parks category of the NWinB competition. Each time we have been awarded 'Gold'. Although we have entered the whole park the principal focus of the entry has usually been the Memorial Garden. As the drainage project may be taking place in the main body of the park at the time of the judging, it clearly may not be possible or practical to enter the whole of the park – judging took place in very early July last year. If work schedules are on time the heavy drainage work will have been completed and we will be in the second month of the maintenance period, which is due to be completed by the end of October. Indeed, the maintenance period (and the drainage installation) could be incorporated into the entry portfolio, as we told the judge last year that the Council were proposing to improve the drainage. Any entry would need to be subject to the support of the Shevington in Bloom team, as they would be needed to maintain the flower beds at the entrance and in the Memorial Garden. To this end they have been contacted to find out whether they are willing and able to do this. We would also have to take into account the judge's feedback from last.

Members are invited to discuss and agree either:

- (a) To enter the whole park or
- (b) To just enter the Memorial Garden or
- (c) Not submit an entry.

The cost of entry is £85.

This year's themes are 'Grow Social' (i.e. reaching beyond the garden gate – RHS) and the Olympic Games (Wigan in Bloom).

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

**9. Great British Spring Clean – for discussion and agreement**

Keep Britain Tidy's 'Great British Spring Clean' initiative will this year run from 20 March to 13 April. Members are invited to consider whether they would like to organise and lead any litter collection groups in the area. We would need to work with Wigan Council on this, as our ability to dispose of litter is somewhat limited.

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

**10. Telephone Boxes at Vicarage Lane & Randalls Corner – for discussion and agreement**  
Vicarage Lane

At last week's Council meeting a resident asked whether there had been any progress in relation to the removal of the vandalised public phone box at Vicarage Lane. After that meeting we received an email from Dist Cllr M Whitham to say that on her way home from the meeting she had noticed that the box had gone. She had then established that it had been removed that afternoon.

### Randalls Corner

After last week's meeting I updated and re-sent the letter I originally sent about six months ago and this time we have received an email from BT to let us know that there is now an active consultation with Wigan Council for the removal of this box. The consultation will close on 18 February. If there are no objections the box will be removed. In the meantime they have arranged for their engineer to attend to make it safe as soon as possible. Should the Parish Council wish to adopt the box, we have been advised to visit <https://business.bt.com/campaigns/communities/adopt-a-kiosk/> for more information on BT's 'Adopt a Kiosk Scheme'. It seems they make very good housings for things like small art galleries and defibrillators. There are of course cost implications with respect to maintenance, especially as they seem to be a popular focus for vandalism. If the Parish Council wish to make a permanent commitment, we should then contact the LA's Chief Planning Officer.

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

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

### **11. Improving Infrastructure & Transport – for information and discussion**

A recent consultation, allowing residents to have their say on proposed upcoming major junction improvements, closed on 24 January. Information about this consultation can be found at [www.wigan.gov.uk/majorprojects](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/majorprojects)

You will find information on proposals to improve traffic capacity and provide new walking and cycling facilities, some of which will benefit residents of this area.

There are proposed changes to the Smithy Brook Road junction, which is where the A49 and M58 link roads will converge when complete.

In addition to alleviating congestion and enabling quicker east-west connections, the improvements will support the Greater Manchester Bee Network by creating better walking and cycling facilities.

When the link roads are complete, motorists will benefit from high-quality road infrastructure and faster journey times. As a result, Smithy Brook Road will become a major intersection.

The proposed improvements will:

- Provide better access to Wigan town centre and M6 and M58 motorways
- Enable quicker connections across the east and west of the borough
- Help to alleviate traffic congestion on key routes such as Ormskirk Road and Poolstock etc.
- Create additional traffic lanes in both directions between Smithy Brook Road and the A49 link road roundabout
- Create an additional left turn lane on the A49 Warrington Road approach into Smithy Brook Road
- Improve pedestrian and cycle facilities at the junction, including toucan crossings and two-way segregated cycle lanes to aid connectivity and maintain road safety

The improvement scheme is expected to cost in the region of £1.4m and is being funded by a combination of the Greater Manchester Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund and Growth Deal Minor Works Funding.

The plan to create cycling and walking routes across the city-region is fronted by Chris Boardman, the GM cycling and walking commissioner, who is also a former pro-cyclist and Olympic champion.

### The Standish Mineral Line Extension (enclosed)

This project will extend the Standish Mineral Line to provide the missing connection to the work completed by Highways England at Junction 27 of the M6, and will include cycling and walking routes, and a crossing point.

The scheme will provide additional and improved sections of on and off-road facilities, creating high quality multi-user routes (walking, cycling, equestrians and wheelchair) to extend the existing Standish Mineral Line. It will provide a safe route for journeys into the local shopping centre in Standish, as well as to schools, health services and leisure venues.

The improvements will involve resurfacing existing informal routes, public rights of way, and bridleways, providing new connections, crossing points and links to new housing developments.

The LA's aim is to commence works on site in Spring 2020 and for the work to be completed by the end of Summer 2020. A map is enclosed. Members are asked to note that much of this project relates to the northern area of this Parish.

- 12. Liverpool John Lennon Airspace Transition Consultation – for agreement** (enclosed)  
Enclosed is an information sheet about Liverpool John Lennon Airport's (LJLA's) consultation process in relation to its proposed airspace change, which will involve potential changes to the routes taken by aircraft departing from and arriving at the Airport. The consultation started on Monday, 13 January and will end on Thursday, 9 April 2020. Members are asked to note that the Parish lies within the proposed airspace. The consultation document, which is 114 pages long, is also enclosed but being circulated by email only.  
We have been invited to respond to the consultation, the questions for which can be found online.  
Members are invited to consider one of the following options:  
(a) All read the document and agree the responses at a future meeting – March or April  
(b) Delegate the reading of the document and preparation of answers to a small working party or possibly one interested member who will make recommendations to a future meeting – March or April  
(c) Note the consultation.  
Members are invited to discuss the above and agree the best way forward.  
(*Co-opted Committee members may vote on this.*)
- 13. Precept Information for Council Tax Letter – for discussion and agreement** (enclosed)  
The precept information included on the 2019 Council Tax letter has been enclosed. Members are invited to consider, make proposals and agree the precept information for the 2020 Council Tax letter.
- 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:** 26 February (Council);  
4 March (Policy & GP and Finance Committees).

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

***K Pilkington***

Clerk to the Parish Council