



# POLICY & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

WEDNESDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2022 ~ 7:00 P.M.  
THE COMMUNITY CENTRE AT VICARAGE LANE FIELDS

Attendees are invited to observe Covid-19 guidelines. A list of all present will be kept.

## 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. Village Issues** – *for information*  
To receive reports relating to the legitimate business of the Council from Committee members and Council officers (Committee members are asked to advise the Clerk in advance of any reports – including the subject matter they wish to make.)
- 4. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting (1 June 2022)**  
- to consider, agree and approve the signature of the previously circulated Minutes by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting (enclosed).
- 5. Annual Inspection of Property** - *for discussion and agreement* (to follow)  
The report on the Annual Inspection of Property will follow. The inspection has not yet been completed, as a visit to Crooke Village and Otters Croft and Crooke Woods has not yet been undertaken.  
*Members are invited to agree priorities.*  
*(Co-opted Committee members may vote on this.)*
- 6. September Newsletter** – *for approval* (enclosed)  
The text for some of the articles for the September edition of the Newsletter is enclosed.  
*Members are invited to approve it.*  
*(Co-opted Committee members may vote on this.)*
- 7. Tree Risk Management Policy** – *for discussion* (enclosed)

The Trees & Woodlands Officer at Wigan Council has, since the Tree Risk Management Plan was last tabled, written that “The TRMP meets recognised standards for a reasonable approach to risk management, I’m happy with its content.” He has been asked again to confirm the elements highlighted in red, but has not yet replied. This has been chased up. However, with regard to Ash Dieback (Appendix 8) he has written: “Standing advice from the Forestry Commission states that, unless there is less than 35% live growth and there are no other significant pests, diseases or structural defects only dead branches which pose a significant risk of harm should be removed and the trees monitored. If the grounds staff remove fallen leaves in autumn and dispose of them away from affected trees, the impact of the fungus which releases spores from fallen leaves, should be reduced.

Research is finding that younger trees are not as tolerant to the fungus as older trees.”  
*Members are invited to review the TRMP in depth with a view to adopting it at the end of October.*

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

#### **8. Treeworks in Memorial Park – for agreement**

(a) The residents of Nos 3 and 5 Fern Close have asked if the trees along the boundary of their properties with Memorial Park could be pruned. This was last done approximately 10 years ago. The Trees & Woodlands Officer has inspected the trees and has recommended that an application for a crown lift to clear the ground by 4 metres all round and crown thin the group as one canopy by 20% should be submitted.

*Members are invited to approve the submission of a treeworks application to the LA.*

(b) During his visit to the park he noticed that there is a dead Sycamore next to bluebell beds which can be removed under exemption but will need to be replaced. This is quite a small tree.

He has also spotted three Sycamores in the same area which are showing signs of what may be herbicide damage – small, weakened, yellowing and curled up leaves on the trunks. He has asked whether someone has been using herbicide near to these trees or applying it to the shoots on the stems of the Sycamores. The grounds maintenance team are trained to spray herbicide correctly when they use it and do not apply herbicide in that area – weeds and dead or dying undergrowth is strimmed. However, new fence panels have been introduced in recent months by the immediate neighbours. These have been painted. In the experience of the gm team, if the fence panels were sprayed in situ, it is possible that the spray could have contributed to the damage to the trees. It is possible that one or two of these trees may have died. Further discussion with the Trees & Woodlands officer is needed to ascertain the best way forward. Any trees that have to be felled will need to be replaced.

*Members are invited to approve further discussions with the Trees & Woodlands Officer about the future of these trees and the submission of an application to fell the trees, if necessary.*

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

#### **9. Remembrance Sunday – for agreement**

Remembrance Sunday is on 13 November 2022. As far as the Parish Council’s role is concerned, the arrangements are expected to be largely the same as in past years. Should circumstances require any Covid-related restrictions to be introduced nearer the time the arrangements can subsequently be tailored to fit in with those restrictions (or guidelines). Working on the assumption that things are normal, the following actions have to be taken in the coming weeks:

- a. The notice of the details of the Parade and Service, which begins at 10:45am, has to be confirmed with Wigan Council, who are responsible for publishing it.
- b. Police attendance – this has to be confirmed.
- c. Wreaths have to be ordered from the Royal British Legion for the War Memorials in Shevington and Appley Bridge and for the Miners’ Memorial in St Anne’s Church grounds.
- d. Permission has to be sought from Wroughtington Parish Council for a wreath to be laid at the War Memorial at Appley Bridge.
- e. Lamp post poppies were purchased from the Royal British Legion and from Wigan Council’s alternative supplier in 2018 to mark the Centenary of WWI. These will need to be attached to lamp posts to be in place for early November and will remain in place until the end of the month. Parish Council staff are responsible for doing this.