

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors of Shevington Parish
Held Wednesday 16 March 2017
7pm Shevington Library**

Present: Cllr I Whiteley (Chair), Cllrs W McKnight, J Ball, C Horridge, C Miles and J Fletcher.

Five members of the public.

Clerk to the Parish Council: Mrs K Pilkington

Cllr I Whiteley, Chair of the Parish Council, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and introducing herself.

1. Apologies

Cllr K Shaw
Mr B King and Mr B Lomas
Dist Cllrs M Crosby and D Edwardson

The Chairman explained that Mr B King, who should have been leading the item on the Parish Plan Review, was unable to attend because he had been admitted into hospital for tests.

2. Minutes of the Last Annual Parish Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for 2016 had been circulated before the beginning of the meeting.

Resolved: The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 17 March 2016 were accepted and approved as a true and correct record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. Clerk's Report

The Clerk presented her report, which had been circulated to those present.
See Appendix A.

Resolved: The Clerk's Report was accepted by the Annual Parish Meeting.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman presented her report, which had been circulated to those present.
See Appendix B.

The Chair highlighted the Council's plan to repair the drainage system in Memorial Park and asked those present to sign a document indicating their support for the project.

Resolved: The Chairman's Report was accepted by the Annual Parish Meeting.

6. Parish Plan Review

The Chair presented the Parish Plan Review document, which had been previously circulated to those present.

A Parish Councillor observed that the Council had made some improvements based on the Parish Plan which was originally drawn up in 2006. Depending on what happened with the new Mayoral elections and the devolution of powers, perhaps there would be new funding available in the future to enable the Council to fulfil their long term obligations.

Attention was drawn to the Appendix at the back of the document. It summed up the tasks that had to be undertaken and the progress made. Residents were invited to take the booklets away with them and judge for themselves the progress made by the Parish Council since 2006.

Mr B King was thanked for the hard work he had done on this project.

7. Closure of Shevington Community Primary School

Cllr C Miles, who was on the Transition Committee, had brought the plans for the extension to Shevington Vale to the meeting. These were now on the Wigan Council website, but had not yet been submitted to the Planning Department.

A Parish Councillor raised two matters of concern: the travel plans for pupils from the centre of Shevington and the availability of recreational space for children at Shevington Vale. Cllr Miles informed the meeting that agreement with the bus companies over the bus passes for Shevington-based stakeholders was still awaited and that the extension would not encroach onto the playing fields.

The Chairman gave a brief overview of the history of the fight to save Shevington Community Primary School. Although the number of children attending the school was low, the fact that the school had been judged by Ofsted to be 'Outstanding', making the proposed closure very difficult to accept.

The Education Department argued that Shevington had an ageing population and the 'Save Our Federation Schools' group argued that, because of the size of the new developments in Shevington and on the Parish boundary in Standish, the local school population was likely to grow.

The action group were very pro-active in the way they managed their campaign. The Education Department commented that they had never come across such reasoned, forceful, aggressive, yet pleasant, arguments. The group even succeeded to persuade the Director of Education to walk the route from the centre of Shevington to Shevington Vale Community Primary School. He did this on a wet day and in the dark (with a double buggy) to experience the worst possible scenario for parents and children.

Wigan Council's Cabinet had approved the closure of Shevington Community Primary School earlier this year and the schools were now in the transition period. The parents' group had decided to continue to work together to ensure a smooth transition and adequate support for parents. The Parish Council would continue to support them.

The Council would work to ensure that the school's two hundred year heritage was not lost. Both the archives and the land had to be protected.

There are plans afoot to organise an art project to commemorate Shevington Community Primary School. The project will need financial support and, the Chairman was sure, the Parish Council would be willing to award a grant towards this.

8. Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Anti-Social Behaviour

A resident sought the Parish Council's views on the application for a Liquor and Music Licence for the new restaurant proposed for the cottages in Church Lane. The Chairman informed the resident that the Council had discussed the application and had expressed reservations about it.

The anti-social behaviour that occurred over a long period of time during the Spring of 2016 was recalled. A parish councillor observed that during the Winter months young people tended to congregate on the footpath on the Recreation Ground. The footpath ran behind the wall at the back of the cottages. There was concern that the grant of a licence and an outdoor dining area could attract unwanted behaviour of various varieties.

Anti-social behaviour in the village and the restrictions under which the Police worked were discussed. The Police had attended the Annual Parish Meeting the previous year and had told residents that their hands were tied and that often there was very little they could do.

The Parish Council would consider the suggestions that the Police should be contacted again and asked if they (along with Wigan Council's ASB unit) would be prepared to visit Shevington High School to talk to students about behaviour in public places and not causing a nuisance or vandalising property. It had to be remembered that only a minority of students were causing the problems.

Shevington Sharks ARLFC 'Fun Day'

A representative of the rugby club reported that the club proposed to hold a 'Fun Day' on the Recreation Ground on Saturday, 3 June. The aim was to raise funds for the Vicarage Lane Fields project. The club had already received permission to use St Bernadette's School car park, but would need permission to use the other car parks in Shevington village. He was advised by a councillor that 10am till 2pm (when the Fun Day would be taking place) was the busiest time of day for shoppers and closing the car parks to the public could cause problems.

There were also plans to sell pitches for stalls. As Shevington Fete would not be taking place this year, Cllr Miles agreed to share the list of regular stall holders with the club. The charge for stalls would be £10. The Parish Council would help with advertising the event.

There being no further business, the Chairperson thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 8pm.

Chairman