

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Held Thursday 3 November 2016
7:00 pm Shevington Library**

Present: Councillor I Whiteley (Chair), Councillors W McKnight, C Horridge, J Ball, K Shaw, A Bland and J Fletcher.

Co-opted Committee member: Mr B Lomas.

Four members of the public were present.

Officer in Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs J Calderbank and C Miles
Mr B King

2. Declaration of Interests

None.

**3. Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
(6 October 2016)**

Resolved: The Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on 6 October 2016 were approved as a true and correct record.

4. Village Issues

Capacity of Standish Schools

When objections to the development allocations for Standish were being raised Wigan Council circulated leaflets informing residents that schools in Standish were at capacity. Now they were saying that there was sufficient space in all of them to cater for all the children from the new estates. A member said he wished to know why things had changed.

School Closure

The Chair had joined members of the 'Save Our Schools' group at a meeting with representatives of the Education Department earlier in the week. They had been told that the statutory consultation on the closure of Shevington Community Primary School would begin on 10 November and would run until about 10 December. Notices would be posted in newspapers, on library notice boards, etc. Everyone was being encouraged to write to the LA during that period of time. Comments had to be sent in letters, each of which had to be unique. Cllr Whiteley described the ways in which the group were planning to help people prepare their letters.

Additionally James Winterbottom, the Director of Education, had agreed to walk with Cllr Whiteley and another member of the group from Shevington Community Primary School to Shevington Vale Primary School to determine how long it would take and other aspects of the journey. A request was made that free transport should be provided. The LA were not obliged to do this, as the distance was under three miles. But, because of the age of the children, the rules might be waived.

The Chair had spoken to both the out-going and in-coming Executive Headteachers. It was a very distressing conversation. Both had been devastated at the hostility they had received from both the staff and the public. However, both of them had had to remain neutral, as had the governors.

Cllr A Bland joined the meeting.

New Housing in Orrell

A member observed that she had recently seen an article in the local press about a large new development proposed for Orrell.

Mill Lane Street Cleaner

It had been established that the street cleaner, the quality of whose work at the bottom of Mill Lane had been giving concern, had a Wigan Council wheelie bin. After a complaint was lodged with the LA another operative had attended and tidied up the area.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Members discussed the recent re-surgence of the anti-social behaviour in the centre of Shevington. Missiles had been thrown at cars driving along Church Lane as well as at buses.

5. November Newsletter

The text of the contents of the newsletter was discussed. Several other items were also considered for inclusion.

Resolved: The text of the newsletter was approved for publication. An item on the Parish Plan Review would also be included. An item on the removal of telephone boxes would only be included if there were space. The consultation on the Draft Greater Manchester Spatial Framework would be signposted via a link on the website.

6. Community Rail Conference

An invitation had been received from Northern for a delegation of two people to attend their first community rail conference. It was an all day event due to be held in Manchester on Monday, 7 November. No one was available to attend.

7. Grant Awarding Policy

The Grant Awarding Policy was reviewed. No changes were made.

Resolved: The Grant Awarding Policy was approved.

8. Referenda on Parish Council Precepts

LALC had written to suggest that a letter be sent to the local MP about the proposals to extend referenda on council tax to parish councils and had sent a template letter which could be adapted for the Council. At the recent NALC AGM there had been an overwhelming vote to oppose the government suggestion which in effect would cap parish council precepts and would involve extra expense at a time when Principal Authorities were reducing services and devolving them to town and parish councils.

Members considered the suggestion.

Resolved: It was agreed that the letter would be adapted and sent to Lisa Nandy MP.

9. Planning Applications

None.

10. Dates of Next Meetings

24 November (Council);

1 December (Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees).

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 7:30 pm.

Chairman