

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council  
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting  
Held Thursday 1 September 2016  
7:00 pm Shevington Library**

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

Co-opted Committee members: Mrs E Longmore and Mr B King (non-voting).

Two members of the public.

Mr M Worman of Arriva Rail North was present for Item Nos 1 – 3.

**Officer in Attendance:** Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

### **1. Apologies**

Cllr J Calderbank.

Mr B Lomas and Mr R Bridge.

*Cllr C Miles joined the meeting.*

### **2. Declaration of Interests**

Cllrs C Horridge, I Whiteley, W McKnight, J Ball and C Miles w.r.t. Item No.13 (*personal*).

### **3. Arriva Rail North – Community Involvement Policy**

The Chair welcomed Mr Matthew Worman, Arriva Rail North's Stakeholder Manager (Central Region), who explained the company's Community Involvement Policy and discussed several matters raised by the Committee. *See Appendix A.*

Mr Worman was thanked for his presentation and left the meeting.

### **4. Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting (5 May 2016)**

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on 5 May 2016 were approved as a true and correct record.

### **5. Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting (4 August 2016)**

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on 4 August 2016 were approved as a true and correct record.

## **6. Annual Inspection of Property**

The report on the Annual Inspection of Property was received and discussed.

**Resolved:** The following were identified as priorities for the coming year:

- Toilet floors;
- Additional bins for and the condition of the pathway in Stockley Park;
- A sign saying 'No Horses' at the entrance to the Recreation Ground;
- Drainage in Memorial Park.

## **7. Maintenance of Whiteacre Park**

The quality of the maintenance of Memorial Park and that of the grass verges along Miles Lane in Appley Bridge was discussed.

**Resolved:** The possibility of the Parish Council's taking over the maintenance from the LA would be explored with Wigan Council.

## **8. Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting (2 June 2016)**

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting held on 4 August 2016 were approved as a true and correct record.

## **9. Village Issues**

### **Grass Cutting at Forest Fold**

It was reported that there had been an issue with the cutting of the grass at the entrance to Forest Fold at the time immediately before the 'in Bloom' judging. The Clerk reported that the matter had been taken up with the contractor. It was suggested that the specification for the following year should be changed.

### **Caddy Bags**

A member reported that there were still no caddy bags available from the Post Office at Appley Bridge. This had been reported to Dist Cllr P Collins.

### **Suspected Drug Dealing in the Bowling Green Car Park**

A member had observed what she suspected drug dealing to have been taking place in the bowling green car park the previous evening. The handling of sharps, should any be found, was discussed. The LA provided a sharps collection service, details of which, as well as a list of chemists who accepted used sharps, could be found on the LA's website.

### **Annual Parish Walk**

The Parish Walk had been very pleasant. Thanks went to Mr J Rigby and Mr A Mohring for organising the route and to Mrs S Milnes and Mrs G Vidler for serving the refreshments. £87.80 had been collected in donations, which would be divided between Guide Dogs for the Blind and Wigan & Leigh Hospice.

### **Save Our Schools Group**

The parents of the 'Save Our Schools' group were meeting with Lisa Nandy MP and with the Director of Education the following week.

### **Welcoming Migrants**

A resident had enquired about the Parish Council's contribution towards welcoming the migrants staying at the Britannia Hotel. This was discussed briefly. The system, about which very little was known, would be investigated. The Chair would write to Lisa Nandy MP.

### **Theft of Milk**

A resident had written to the Chair to report that he had heard that about 100 bottles of milk had been stolen from doorsteps in Shevington Moor over the Summer. The resident was concerned that migrants would be blamed for this and had proposed writing to the press about it. He had invited the Parish Council to lend its name to the letter. The Committee took the view that this course of action was unwise, as it would simply encourage undesirable sentiments. The Chair would let him know accordingly.

### **Watering in Appley Bridge**

A member asked that the watering of Appley Bridge in Bloom's planters and flower beds should be considered at a future meeting.

### **Footpath Signage**

It was observed that repeater signs were needed for footpaths, particularly in places where they became private roads, so that people using them would know that they were still on the right track. Two local footpaths – from Houghton Lane to The Nook and from Vicarage Lane to Crooke Village – were identified as being in need of this treatment. The Clerk would write to the Rights of Way Officer at the LA. The responsibility for re-instatement of footpaths that had been ploughed over was also discussed.

### **Planning Conditions for the Pepper Lane Estate**

A report on the planning conditions in relation to drainage on the new estate in Pepper Lane was circulated and discussed.

### **ASB in Memorial Park**

The Clerk reported that a resident whose garden shared a boundary with Memorial Park had contacted her about a recent attempt by teenagers to set fire to a tree in the park. When she had visited the park earlier in the day to inspect the damage the resident was in the process of putting out a small grass fire that he had found a group of primary school children lighting behind his fence. He would be advised that in future he should report all such incidents to the Police on 101.

## **10. Bus Services Bill**

Mr B King's report on the Bus Services Bill, which was currently making its way through Parliament was received. The aim of the Bill was to give more powers to bodies like TfGM and to make it easier to provide services. The report was discussed. *See Appendix B.*

## **11. Greater Manchester Transport Strategy 2040 - Consultation**

Mr B King's report on the consultation was received and his suggested responses were considered. *See Appendix C.*

**Resolved:** The consultation responses were agreed.

Mr King was asked to forward any material he thought might be useful to Lisa Nandy MP.

## **12. Memorial Park Play Area ROSPA Report**

The inspector's report was received and discussed.

## **13. Arrangements for the Management of Forest Fold Allotments**

Several issues in connection with the arrangements for the management of Forest Fold Allotments and the best approach to take in looking into the matter were discussed.

**Resolved:** The Committee recommended that a working party should be set up by the Council to look into the arrangements for the management of the allotments at Forest Fold, the membership and terms of reference to be agreed by the Council.

## **14. Public Spaces Protection Order**

Public Spaces Protection Orders were first mentioned in connection with the anti-social behaviour that was occurring on a regular basis in the centre of Shevington earlier this year. Their suitability in dealing with the problems experienced around Memorial Park and the centre of Shevington was discussed.

**Resolved:** A letter would be sent to Wigan Council's CEO to ask why this Order could not be applied to deal with the above problems.

## **15. September Newsletter**

*Cllr J Fletcher withdrew from the meeting for a time and then re-joined it.*

The text to be used for items in the newsletter was received and discussed.

**Resolved:** Subject to several amendments, the text was approved.

## **16. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

A letter had been received from Wigan Council's Planning Department informing the Parish Council that, following full consideration of the CIL Examiner's report, the LA had decided not to implement CIL at this time. Instead, the Council would continue to use planning obligations / Section 106 agreements to address unacceptable

impacts of development. Given the pooling restrictions now in place where projects can only be pooled from a maximum of 5 different schemes, the Council was now adopting a 'smart pooling' approach to ensure that schemes were funded effectively.

This meant that the Parish Council would not now receive 15% of the CIL collected from new building projects in the Parish.

**Resolved:** A letter would be sent to the LA to ask them why CIL was no longer going ahead.

## **17. Planning Applications**

None.

## **18. Dates of Next Meeting**

29 September (Council); 6 October (Policy & General Purposes Committee).

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9:30 pm.

**Chairman**