

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council Meeting  
Held Thursday 27 October 2016  
7:00 pm – Shevington Library**

**Present:** Councillor I Whiteley (*Chair*), Cllrs J Ball, C Horridge, C Miles, K Shaw, A Bland and J Fletcher.  
Eight members of the public.

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

**427 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs J Calderbank and W McKnight.  
Dist Cllrs M Crosby, P Collins and D Edwardson.

**428 Declaration of Interests**

None.

*Standing Orders were suspended.*

**429 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public**

There were no matters introduced by members of the public.

**430 District Councillors' Reports**

The District Councillors' report was received. *See Appendix A.*

*Cllr K Shaw joined the meeting.*

The Council were told the sad news that Dist Cllr Collins had recently lost both his parents in the space of about six weeks and agreed to send the Council's condolences.

*Standing Orders were re-instated.*

**431 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council  
(29 September 2016)**

A member raised a query about the accuracy of the recording of the third vote under Minute 409. The member recollected that, according to her tape recording of the meeting, Cllr C Horridge had abstained during this vote and that there had been no need for the Chair to use her casting vote.

The Clerk advised that she would listen to the official recording of the meeting and, if it became apparent that this was the case, she would amend the minutes.

It was agreed that the approval of the minutes would be deferred to the next meeting.

## **432 Chairman's Report**

### **Democratic Services Course**

The Chair and the Vice Chair had recently attended a course delivered by Wigan Council's Democratic Services Department. The course had been held in the Council chamber. As well as providing guidance on the registering of interests the course had included talks by officers Pamela Welch on press releases and Terry Bolton on personal safety. Those attending were also provided with a simple guide on how Wigan Council worked.

### **WW1 Tree Planting**

The Community Association would be planting a third tree to commemorate WW1 in Whiteacre Park, Shevington Moor, at 11am on 11 November. The Mayor of Wigan would be attending and The Silver Tally would be providing tea and biscuits.

## **433 Reports from Councillors**

### **Charity Bag Door Collections**

It was reported that rogue Charity bag collectors were operating in the area. They were arriving earlier in the day than the bona fide collectors and removing filled Charity bags that had been left on doorsteps before the latter could do this.

### **Dog Litter Bin**

A member had received a request from a resident for a litter bin to be fitted at the entrance to the ginnel at the junction of High Park with Longbrook. Dog walkers were currently bagging dog litter and then throwing the bags into the hedgerows.

### **Reinstatement of Litter Bin in Shevington Lane**

The Chair had received a request for the litter bin that had been removed from the bus stop outside Paradise Farm in Shevington Lane to be reinstated.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour in Shevington**

A member reported that the anti-social behaviour that had created issues earlier in the year appeared to be starting up again. There was a large gang congregating outside this evening. A letter would be sent to the Police to try to establish what was happening in Shevington and to seek a greater Police presence in the area, as there appeared to be no PCSOs allocated to the area. The letter would include a query about Police response times to reports made via the 101 number, as there appeared to be long delays between the reporting of incidents and their being dealt with.

### **Street Cleaner in Mill Lane, Appley Bridge**

A resident of Appley Bridge had complained that the street cleaner in Mill Lane did not appear to know the location of the boundary between Wigan and West Lancashire and was terminating his/her duties too soon. After the discussion that followed the member agreed that she would look into the matter.

### **Charging for Green Re-cycling Bins**

Another member reported that, from next year, West Lancashire Borough Council would be charging for emptying the green re-cycling bins.

## **434 Reports from Representatives**

### **Shevington & District Community Association**

The Annual Achievement Awards would be presented during the Lancashire Night celebrations on 25 November. Lancashire Day was on 27 November and the declaration would be read during a ceremony in the Memorial Garden at 2pm that day.

The remainder of the meeting, which had taken place earlier during the week, had been taken up with discussion about the schools' situation.

### **Crooke Village Residents' Association**

There was no report.

### **Shevington Youth Club**

There was no report.

### **Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees**

The tree branches overhanging Highfield Avenue had been reported to the Secretary of the Recreation Ground Trustees. He had replied to say that he had noted the matter.

### **'In Bloom' Groups**

Appley Bridge in Bloom had been awarded Level 4 'Thriving' again.

Shevington in Bloom would be attending their awards ceremony the next day, when they would learn what they had been awarded. However, they had also won an award at the ceremony which ABinB had attended.

### **Standards Committee**

The last meeting was on 4 October, when the updated Social Media was accepted – to be ratified by the Council. Three independent persons were appointed, subject to references, to give advice to hearings panels prior to decisions being made. There were fewer complaints being dealt with these days than in the past. The Committee raised concerns over the cancellation of hearings at the request of the subject member and was advised that there was a limit to the number of times that this could happen. A hearing in absence would be considered if the member refused to engage with the process.

### **Shevington Surgery Patient Participation Group**

The Surgery had no money to fund expansion and the PPG had written to the Chairman of the Bridgewater Trust, who owned the clinic, to see if a way forward could be established.

### **Shevington Rugby & Football Clubs**

There was no report.

### **Friends of Otters Croft & Crooke Woods**

There was no report.

## **435 DRAFT Minutes of the Meetings of the Policy & General Purposes Committee (6 October 2016)**

The DRAFT Minutes of the meetings of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees of 6 October 2016 were received.

### **436 School Closure**

The Chair had met with the Leader and Deputy Leader of Wigan Council before the Cabinet meeting on 20 October and provided a brief report on both this and the Cabinet meeting. Of the points made by the Chair the only one to be taken on board was the one about children having to travel longer distances to get to school. The Cabinet decided to issue a statutory notice of closure of Shevington Community Primary School.

The following evening there had been a meeting at Shevington Youth Club. It had been attended by 50/60 people - parents of children, residents and teachers at the schools. There was a lot of anger at that meeting. There were strong feelings that things had not been handled properly. Those present decided that they would continue the fight.

The Council discussed the issues and the next steps.

**Resolved:** The Council agreed that correspondence would be issued as follows:

- a) A letter would be sent by email to The Rt Honourable Justine Greening MP, Secretary of State for Education advising her of the situation (making reference to the new build in Standish and Orrell, the consequent need for extra capacity, which Shevington would be able to provide, the historical element of the school and its recent Ofsted judgement) and asking her to intervene. The email would be marked for the attention of the Secretary of State and labelled URGENT.
- b) The above letter would be copied to Lisa Nandy MP and the Prime Minister.
- c) A letter would be sent to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator to ask if they would intervene.
- d) An FOI request would be made asking for the number of children who had left each school to go to another primary school.
- e) A letter of complaint would be sent to Wigan Council's CEO raising concerns about the way this matter had been handled.

### **437 Remembrance Sunday Arrangements**

Remembrance Sunday arrangements were discussed. Since this matter was last discussed the musician had agreed to attend and had nominated the Royal British Legion as her chosen Charity. Mr S Heyes had also agreed to check and set up the PA system.

**Resolved:** The Council agreed to:

- a) Make a donation of £50 from the Chairman's Allowance to the Royal British Legion.
- b) Appoint S Heyes Home & Garden Services to check, set up and take down the PA system for a fee of £50.

### **438 Tree Replacement in Memorial Park**

**Resolved:** A quotation from Moss Bank Nurseries of £150 for the planting of two replacement beech trees in the Memorial Park and Garden was approved.

#### **439 Additional Key for Storage Facility for Shevington in Bloom**

**Resolved:** A request from Shevington in Bloom for an additional key for the storage pavilion at Forest Fold was turned down.

#### **440 November Newsletter**

The contents of the November newsletter were discussed.

**Resolved:** Items in relation to the following would be included in the November edition of the newsletter:

- a) 'In Bloom' results
- b) School Closure
- c) Christmas Shop Front competition
- d) Remembrance Sunday
- e) Anti-Social Behaviour resurgence in Shevington
- f) Parish Plan review
- g) Funding from the Community Association
- h) Standard inclusions

Approximately two pages would be devoted to the school closure. 'Winter Gritting' would be deferred to the January edition.

#### **441 Christmas Tree Stars**

A quote from Blachere Illuminations for the construction and provision of stars, similar to the one in use on the tree at Appley Bridge, for the other three Christmas trees was considered.

**Resolved:** The Council decided to shelve this project.

#### **442 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk's Report was received. *See Appendix B.*

The letter on anti-social behaviour with respect to the No.635 bus service would be displayed on the notice board.

#### **443 Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit 2015/16**

The effectiveness of the Internal Audit 2015/16 was reviewed.

#### **444 Appointment of Internal Auditor 2016/17**

**Resolved:** Mr Ian Cropper was appointed to carry out the Council's internal audit for the financial year 2016/17 for a fee of £110.

*Cllr C Miles withdrew from the meeting.*

#### **445 Financial Aid Applications**

- **St Anne's Churchyard**

**Resolved:** A donation of £400 towards the maintenance costs of St Anne's churchyard was approved.

- **Save Our Schools**

An application from the Save Our Shevington Federation Schools Group for a grant towards campaign materials was considered.

**Resolved:** A s137 grant of £200 was awarded to the Save Our Shevington Federation Schools Group.

#### **446 Payments, Income & Bank Balances**

The Income / Expenditure Schedules for September/October were received.

*See Appendix C.*

**Resolved:** That the Accounts be approved and the cheques signed in payment, due notice being given to the bank statements exhibited.

#### **447 Planning Applications**

- **A/18/82837: 20 Newgate Avenue, Appley Bridge – Erection of timber framed art studio and concrete block storage room in garden**

The application was noted.

#### **448 Next Meetings**

3 November (Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees);

24 November (Council).

#### **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

**Resolved:** That, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

*Members of the public left the meeting.*

#### **449 Fencing for Christmas Trees**

**Resolved:** Mr S Heyes would be employed on a temporary basis to set up and take down the security fencing for the Christmas trees.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:41pm.

**Chairman**