

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council Meeting
Held Thursday 25 August 2016
7:00 pm – Shevington Library**

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

Officer in Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

377 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs K Shaw and J Calderbank.
Dist Cllr M Crosby.

Cllr A Bland joined the meeting.

378 Declaration of Interests

Cllr W McKnight w.r.t. Item No.399 (*personal*).
Cllr C Horridge w.r.t. Item No.395 (*personal*).

Standing Orders were suspended.

379 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Shevington Car Park Flower Beds

The Secretary to Shevington in Bloom outlined a proposal for improving the design of the flower beds along the external boundary of the car park. The reasons behind the proposals, possible sources of funding and future long term maintenance were discussed. A decision would be made at the following month's meeting when the proposal would be considered formally.

Watering of Flower Beds

A request was for a change to the arrangements for the watering of the Parish Council flower beds in Shevington was put forward. At present watering only took place after long periods of dry weather, but it needed to happen more regularly. The watering of flower beds both in Shevington and Appley Bridge would be considered at a future meeting.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

380 Consultation to Reduce School Places in the Shevington Area

Correspondence exchanged between the Parish Council and a) the LA and b) Lisa Nandy MP was received. Cllrs I Whiteley, J Fletcher and A Bland had attended a meeting with the LA's Education officers on 20 July and the questions submitted by members and taken to the meeting were also received, as was a brief report on the answers provided by the Education Department's officers.

The consultation had ended on 24 July. The volume of responses had been substantial. To enable the Education Department to do justice to this in their report to Cabinet a decision on the next stage had been deferred to October. It was observed that nothing further could be done until the outcome of that meeting was known.

A member had submitted a request under the FOI Act 2000 for all correspondence in relation to the matter between Education officers and the Highways and Planning Departments: this had been refused. The member had challenged the refusal and reported on progress with the process. Some of the emails exchanged had been included amongst the papers circulated.

The Chair reported that the Save Our Schools Group were due to meet with Lisa Nandy MP in the next couple of weeks. The group had invited her to attend their next meeting, which was due to take place in the near future. She would be attending and would report back.

During the discussion it was agreed that all of the Parish Council's correspondence and reports in relation to this matter would be put on the website. A statement in connection with the submission of the FOI request would also be included.

A member raised a query about the questions that were actually asked during the meeting with the LA. He was concerned that the answers given did not appear to relate very much to the questions submitted by members. Those members who had attended the meeting explained that the meeting had been time-limited and that it had not been possible to cover all issues raised directly – some had been covered by implication.

Standing Orders were suspended.

381 District Councillors' Reports

There was no report.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

382 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council (30 June 2016)

Amendments

Item 349: '..... another grant of £5,000 towards the allotment gardens project at Vicarage Lane Fields.' to become '..... another grant of £5,000 towards the current projects at Vicarage Lane Fields.'

Item 350: '..... and the tarmac being pushed up.' to be removed.

Resolved: That, subject to the above amendments, the Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 30 June 2016, were approved as a true and correct record.

383 Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Council (13 July 2016)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 13 July 2016, were approved as a true and correct record.

384 Chairman's Report

The Chair reported the following:

- The Vicarage Lane Fields leases had been signed by Cllr Ball and herself.
- This year's Fete had been a superb event, helped by the very good weather. There had been many complimentary accounts on social media. All involved were to be thanked. *(At this point it was observed by another member that the Fete's future could be in question. The Chairman of the Fete Committee had resigned recently and no one was available to fill his shoes. More able-bodied, young volunteers were needed and an appeal should be included in the next edition of the newsletter.)*
- The project in relation to the plaque IMO Robert Inward Randall at Randall's Corner was still in the pipeline. However, as the refurbishment of Randall's Corner had not yet begun, it could not be taken further at present.

385 Reports from Councillors

JP Oils

In reply to a question from a councillor, the Clerk reported that she had raised an enquiry with the Planning Department (as requested), but had not yet received a reply. JP Oils Ltd had a website which provided details of the products they handled and services they provided. She had also discovered that the owners of Paradise Farm in Shevington Lane were licensed to operate two vehicles from the site. During the discussion concerns were raised about the safety of Shevington High School pupils when arriving at and leaving the school. A further enquiry would be raised with Environmental Health in relation to the nature of the storage permitted on the site.

Potential for Flooding in Old Pepper Lane

Concerns were raised about the possibility of the new buildings on the estate adjoining Old Pepper Lane having a detrimental impact on flooding along the road. The outcome of the discussion was that Mr B King would be asked to look into the planning conditions for the site with regard to drainage.

Food Re-Cycling Bags in Appley Bridge

A member reported that for some time the post office, which was the outlet in Appley Bridge for food caddy re-cycling bags, had had none in stock. An enquiry had elicited that, while they had been ordered, none had been received. The Chair offered to draw this matter to the attention of the district councillors by writing to them about it.

Grass Cutting at the Top of Broadriding Road

A councillor drew the Council's attention to the fact that grass verges at the top of Broadriding Road were often not cut on occasions when the grass in the area was being mown by Wigan Council's operatives. Possible reasons behind this were discussed. The Chair offered to add this issue to her email to the district councillors. Looking into the possibility of taking over the maintenance of grass verges was suggested and would be considered under an agenda item at a future meeting.

Allotment Issues

A member expressed disappointment that, despite a request being put forward by a councillor that allotment issues should be on the agenda for this Council meeting, they had not been included. In her opinion the matters in question should be discussed by the full Council, not a Committee. The Clerk advised that the whole

issue was very complex. The Chair informed the meeting that a Policy was needed and that a discussion would take place at the Policy & General Purposes Committee the following week. Things needed to be looked into and dealt with slowly. Decisions could then be made at the right time by the full Council.

Abandoned Cars in Shevington Methodist Church Car Park

Two cars had been abandoned in the Methodist Church car park. When contacted, the Police had said that they could not deal with them, because they were on private land. The Clerk advised that it was the responsibility of Wigan Council to deal with such matters. She would provide the member reporting this issue with the contact details of the officer in the ASB unit whose responsibility it was.

Damaged Bollard

A councillor reported that on his way to the meeting this evening he had noticed that the bollard outside the Muffin Man shop in Gathurst Lane had been badly damaged. The Clerk agreed to report it.

Unadopted Road Behind the Parade of Shops in Gathurst Lane

In answer to a query from a councillor the Clerk informed the meeting that it was not yet known what proportion of the costs of the repair to the road surface Wigan & Leigh Homes were willing to contribute. She would look into the matter.

Hérons Wharf

The Vice Chair reported that one of the planning conditions to be met by the developer during the expansion of the Herons Wharf estate involved the provision of a new play area to replace the old one. The Vice Chair would investigate and report back.

386 Reports from Representatives

Shevington & District Community Association

The next meeting was on the Tuesday of the following week.

Crooke Village Residents' Association

There was no report.

Shevington Youth Club

The Youth Club Committee had made a decision to paint the doors and railings outside. Work on the floor and the interior walls was also considered, but it had been agreed that they were not a priority.

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

There had been no meeting as yet.

A member reported that residents of Highfield Avenue had been complaining about the impact that the over-growing trees along the boundary were having on vehicles. He asked that maintenance of the trees at the appropriate time be considered.

'In Bloom' Groups

Shevington in Bloom: The centre of Shevington had really impressed both sets of 'in Bloom' judges. The Parish Council's support was much appreciated.

Appley Bridge in Bloom: The team wished to thank everyone for their comments, which would spur them on. The judges, as usual, had given little away, but seemed positive. It would be October before the results were known. Finally, the team wished to remember the many other people who had contributed in many different ways and without whom they could not manage.

Standards Committee

Cllr Fletcher had attended her first meeting of the Standards Committee on 6 August. There had been two open items on the agenda:

A draft Social Media Policy, containing recommendations for councillors about what they should and should not do, was presented. It was a lengthy document and still in the process of being prepared.

The need for councillors to undergo DBS (Disclosure & Barring) checks was discussed. As a check was not mandatory for the standard role of councillor, the conclusion had been that there would be no requirement for elected members to undergo one, unless his/her role involved contact with children.

Shevington Surgery Patient Participation Group

The PPG's first newsletter had been published and copies had been given out at the Fete. It would now be distributed to every household.

Shevington Rugby & Football Clubs

There was no report.

Friends of Otters Croft & Crooke Woods

There was no report.

387 DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy Committee (4 August 2016)

The DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of the Policy Committee of 4 August 2016 were received.

388 Annual Parish Walk

Cllr C Miles reported that the Annual Parish Walk would be led by Mr Jim Rigby in conjunction with Mr Alan Mohring. Mrs Sheila Milnes and Mrs Gillian Vidler would be serving refreshments at the end of the Walk.

389 Training for Parish Councillors to be Provided by the LA

Cllrs I Whiteley and W McKnight confirmed that they would be attending the training provided by the LA on Monday, 17 October at Wigan Council Chamber. Cllrs J Ball, A Bland and J Fletcher were not able to attend.

390 LCTP Training Sessions

Information about training to be provided in Chairmanship and Finance in November was received. No interest in attending was expressed.

391 LALC Annual General Meeting

Information about the LALC Annual General Meeting in November was received. The Council were entitled to send 3 voting delegates.

392 September Newsletter

The contents of the September edition of the newsletter were discussed.

Resolved: The following were approved for inclusion in the September edition of the newsletter:

- a) Annual Achievement Awards
- b) 'In Bloom' Judging
- c) Shevington Fete (including an appeal for more volunteers)
- d) Annual Parish Walk
- e) Bowling Green Fun Day
- f) St Anne's Mothers Union Fun Day
- g) Reduction in School Places Consultation
- h) Shevington Sharks event
- i) Shevington FC Tea Towels
- j) Dangers of West Quarry

393 Clerk's Report

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

The findings in Memorial Park of the resident who had permission to detect for metal on Parish Council property were discussed. The Clerk was asked to contact the resident and ask him if he would consider detecting in Vicarage Lane Fields before the drainage work started and let them know what he had found.

394 Financial Aid Applications

None.

395 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure Schedules for June/July/August were received.
See Appendix B.

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

The Clerk reported that the tenant of plot number 13 had been judged as the winner of the prize for the Best Kept Allotment by an independent judge and asked the Council to approve the award. The process of awarding the prize and its source were discussed.

Resolved: The recommendation that the prize for the Best Kept Allotment should be awarded to the tenant of plot number 13 was approved.

A councillor asked for a recorded vote.

FOR: Cllrs Ball, Miles and Whiteley

AGAINST: None

A member asked to be provided with the history of decision-making in relation to this award.

396 Planning Applications

- **A/16/82597/FULL: Erection of 1 detached and 3 terraced dwellings together with landscaping and access on land to be severed from 89 Gathurst Lane, Shevington**

The Clerk reported that a decision in relation to this application was still pending.

397 Next Meetings

1 September (Policy & GP and Finance Committees); 29 September (Council).

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

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.

Cllr A Bland and members of the public left the meeting.

398 Access to Otters Croft & Crooke Woods

Issues in relation to access to Otters Croft & Crooke Woods were discussed.

Resolved:

The landowner's offer to provide signage for the fencing and to tidy up the Parish Council's accessway was accepted.

The Council agreed to erect a sign informing all-comers that there was 'No Public Access' at the entrance to the accessway and would give the landowner four days' notice if access by permitted personnel was required.

The wording on the risk assessment would be amended from 'access pathway' to 'maintenance accessway'.

The Clerk would write to the landowner to thank him for his offer and inform him of the Council's decision

399 Gatekeeper Post

Variation to the Gatekeeper's contract were discussed.

Resolved: The variations would be discussed with the Gatekeeper.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9:10 pm.

Chairman