

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council
General Purposes Committee Meeting
Held Thursday 2 June 2016
7:00 pm Shevington Library**

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

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

Officer in Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllr J Calderbank and Mr B Lomas.

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllr K Shaw w.r.t. Item 11 (section 1) (*personal*).

**3. Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting
(3 March 2016)**

Resolved: The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 3 March 2016 were approved as a true and correct record.

4. Village Issues

Japanese Knotweed

It was reported that Japanese knotweed had been spotted growing on the recreation ground in the area behind the stone cottages. The Clerk would inform the Recreation Ground Trustees and the Environment Agency.

Fly Tipping in West Ward

A member reported that there seemed to have been an increase in fly tipping in West Ward. Issues in Back Lane had been dealt with by the volunteer litter pickers, but issues had arisen again on the land adjacent to the Old Mill House. A dozen or so lumps of soil with turf had recently been dropped there.

Cllr A Bland joined the meeting.

Councillor's Resignation

Cllr Shaw reported that, as agreed at the Council meeting in May, he had spoken to Cllr Calderbank earlier in the week about his position. On that occasion he had asked that his resignation be accepted. However, the Chair had visited him during the morning of 2 June and had spoken with him at length. He was not in good health

at present and he had agreed that, rather than resign, he would step back for a few months. Members discussed ways in which Cllr Calderbank could be supported.

Bench Missing from Memorial Park

In reply to a question about progress with the new bench, the Clerk reported that the new bench was being delivered and fitted the following day.

Anti-Social Behaviour

A member observed that school Summer holidays were approaching and the possibility of anti-social behaviour would once again increase.

Road Surface in Back Lane

Concern was expressed by a member about the deteriorating condition of the surface of the road in Back Lane. The potholes were now so bad that, to avoid them, drivers were being forced to move into the lane used by oncoming traffic. This could lead to a bad accident. The Clerk would write again to the LA.

Barrier at Motorway Roundabout

A member reported that part of the barrier at the motorway roundabout (the one located near the southbound slip road at J27) had been damaged. The responsibility for repair lay with Highways UK. It was understood that LCC had been approached about carrying out the work, but so far nothing had been arranged.

Public Spaces Protection Orders

A co-opted committee member reported that Wigan Council were in the process of applying for Public Spaces Protection Orders for Wigan and Leigh town centres. With a PSPO in place within a specific area the Police would have the power to do things they could not normally do, eg if a riot occurred, the Police could close off a road. A public space was defined as a town centre or a park. Mr King would look into the possibility of a PSPO for the centre of Shevington and would prepare a report for a future agenda.

Hackney Cab Consultation

CTS Traffic and Transportation had been appointed by Wigan Council to undertake an independent assessment of the LA's current policy of limiting hackney carriage licensing to establish whether it was still appropriate. A sheet with the questions being asked was circulated by a co-opted committee member. The questions were discussed. There were no Hackney carriage businesses in Shevington at the moment – only private hire firms. At weekends the area was virtually cut off from the outside world in relation to public transport. A reply would be sent saying that, while the Parish Council had no immediate interest in the issue, it would retain an interest.

5. Terms of Reference for Policy & General Purposes Committee

The proposed Constitution & Terms of Reference for the Policy & General Purposes Committee were considered. Several amendments were recommended, as follows:

Membership

'The Parish Council may approve the co-option of named persons.....on a short-term basis.' to become

*'The Parish Council may approve the co-option of **additional** named persons.....on a short-term basis. **They will not have voting rights.**'*

Delegated Powers

'make decisions relating to the management of land.....Council;' to become
*'make decisions relating to the **non-strategic** management of land.....Council;'*

'comment on planning applications within the Parish on those.....in some way impact on the Parish;' to be replaced by
'comment on planning applications and development plans affecting Shevington Parish and adjacent areas;'

Voting Rights

'the management of land.....Council;' to become
*'the **non-strategic** management of land.....Council;'*

Resolved: Subject to the above amendments, the Constitution & Terms of Reference for the Policy & General Purposes Committee was recommended to the full Council for approval.

6. Arriva Rail North – Community Involvement Policy

Two emails had been received from Arriva Rail North in connection with their Community Involvement Policy. One of them was a general communication to Level 2 adopters and 'Friends' groups which extended an invitation to their representatives to drop-in sessions at which they would be able to discuss future plans with representatives of Arriva Rail North.

The advantages and disadvantages of drop-in sessions as opposed to conferences were discussed.

Resolved: The Clerk would attend one of the drop-in sessions and invite representatives of the 'Friends of Gathurst Station' and 'Appley Bridge in Bloom' to accompany her.

7. July Newsletter

Suggestions for the contents of the July edition of the newsletter were discussed.

Resolved: The Committee agreed that items on the following would be included in the July edition of the newsletter:

- Bowling Green advert
- Parish Council grants
- Ring & Ride
- Police 101 Number
- Shevington Fete
- Annual Parish Walk
- Appley Bridge Farmers' Market
- News from 'In Bloom'
- Shevington Footballers' Tea Towel Sales
- No Horse Riding on Pavements
- No Fly Tipping

It was agreed that, in the event of a glut of contributions, the bowling green advert would be removed, as most of the season would be over by the end of July.

8. Cumfy Bus No.635 Evening Service

The route followed by the No.635 bus in the evenings, at weekends and on public holidays differed from the daytime route in that Back Lane, Hullet Close and Woodnook Road were not served. Concerns about this had been expressed by residents of Shevington Vale, who wished the route to be the same at all times. Residents were also concerned that they were rarely consulted or informed of changes to bus routes. These issues were discussed.

Resolved: The Clerk would write to TfGM to draw the above concerns to their attention. Copies of the letter would be sent to Cumfy Bus and Stagecoach.

9. The Parish Plan Review Consultation Outcome

Mr B King's report on the responses received to the consultation on the Parish Plan Review was received. *See Appendix A.*

The level of response was disappointing – only 17 responses had been received and, for a variety of reasons, only 13 could be used in the report. Consequently, it was difficult to assess to what extent these responses were representative of the residents of Shevington.

Mr King explained the rationale behind the recommendations associated with each section and suggested that the Committee consider them in turn during future meetings. The final stage would be to update and amend the review document to take account of the consultation and other matters. The review document would then be brought back to the Committee in September for publication in the Autumn.

10. New Devolution for GM Combined Authority

Extracts from a report summarising a review of the functions and governance arrangements of the GMCA, now that the Cities and Local Government Devolution Act had been passed, had been circulated to Committee members. The report included an assessment of how additional functions and arrangements would be likely to improve the exercise of statutory functions in Greater Manchester. The report had been prepared by Tony Lloyd, the GM Interim Mayor, and Liz Treacy, GMCA Monitoring Officer.

As required by law, a public consultation (which had ended in mid-May) had been carried out over the additional functions proposed for the GMCA. Mr B King explained the impact of the additional functions, which were listed in the previously mentioned extracts.

11. Planning Applications

- **A/16/82487/HH: Proposed new vehicular access – 58 Shevington Lane, Wigan, WN6 8DA**
The application was noted.

- **LCC 08/13/0140: The installation and operation of a 5MW bio-liquid to power generation facility. Railway Pad, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge**

The Parish Council had received the Minutes of the meeting of representatives of ABCAGE with LCC's Planning Officer after the Policy Committee meeting in May. They had been circulated to members with May's Clerk's Report. As it was clear from the minutes that the Council's questions about this application had not been asked, the questions had been re-phrased slightly and sent to the Planning Officer for his replies which were as follows:

1. *Written notification of the date of commencement of the construction phase of the development was provided on 18 April 2016 to the County Planning Authority and hence was within 7 days of such commencement on the 16 April 2016.*
2. *Details reserved by Condition 7 were approved on 15 April 2016.*
3. *The access gates at the entrance to the private access road to the site off the west side of Appley Lane North were re-positioned on or before 16 April 2016 so as to be a minimum distance of 10m from the nearside edge of the footway on the west side of Appley Lane North, and they do open away from the highway. The work was undertaken prior to any other aspect of the development.*
4. *The development - the subject of planning permission 08/13/0140 - did commence prior to the expiry of the permission on 17/04/16 and is therefore still valid.*

Committee members noted the replies.

12. Dates of Next Meeting

30 June (Council); 4 August (Annual Inspection of Property).

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9:17 pm.

Chairman