

**Shevington Parish Council**  
**Clerk's Report to the Council Meeting of 25 August 2016**

**Water Plus**

United Utilities have written to inform us that they are joining forces with Severn Trent to form a new, enhanced water retail company specifically for their business customers. The new company will be called Water Plus. They say that it will bring together the best of both companies to provide excellent customer service, great value and new service offerings. It will provide billing, meter readings, account management, water efficiency advice and more. There will be no change to our water supply or wastewater treatment services. These will continue to be provided by United Utilities. There will also be no changes to the tariffs or prices we are being charged. However, from April 2017 businesses will be able to select which company they buy their water supply.

**Raised Bed Allotment Holders**

Two raised bed allotments which were not being cultivated now have new tenants.

**Metal Detecting Permission**

As promised, the beneficiary of the Council's metal detecting permission has sent photographs of recent finds (25.07.16).



The coin in the photographs on the left and in the middle is one minted to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary of HM the Queen and Prince Philip. They can be found on sale on eBay for £1. A coin of interest in the photograph on the right is the cartwheel penny on the bottom left. These were minted in 1797 only and, if in good condition, can cost a collector about £38 to buy. Sadly, this one does not look as if it would fetch very much. These coins, I understand, were found in Memorial Park.

**Road Surface in Back Lane, Appley Bridge**

The work for restoring the damaged surface along the stretch of Back Lane in the vicinity of Golden Days Garden Centre went out to tender earlier this Summer. So far they have not been included in the schedule on the LA website and there has been no further news.

**'In Bloom' Competitions**

All 'In Bloom' entries were judged on the dates arranged. As usual the results will only be announced in October. We have received an email from the Secretary to Shevington in

Bloom thanking us for our support and the contractor for the work his staff put in. However, we have also received an email from the co-ordinator of Appley Bridge in Bloom expressing disappointment that there was a small area of discoloured grass at the front section of the entrance to Forest Fold. Both have been conveyed to the contractor.

### **Appointment of Caretaker**

The appointments panel met on 21 June to interview the candidates for the post of Caretaker and appointed Mr Tony Frain, who began work on 16 August and is currently undergoing a period of induction.

### **ABCAGE Update on West Quarry**

In July we received the following update from Rob Unsworth of ABCAGE about the latest discussions in relation to West Quarry:

*“The owner of the site has approached ABCAGE and the local parish councils to discuss options. Mr Fell suggests 3 options. The 1st option was to continue trying to move forward with the proposal from last year. The 2nd option is to build a plant to enable the anaerobic digestion of ‘sludge’ to produce methane to be burnt to run electricity generators. The 3rd solution is to put solar panels on approximately half of the site, build industrial units on the rail pad and providing car parking for rail users. Mr Fell has asked that we gather feedback from the community with regard to the options. The third option which was the most favourable option during the meeting does not come without risks. If the rail pad were used for the building of industrial units we would then lose the protection from the Local Plan which details that it must be used for rail use. We plan to meeting with West Lancs to discuss the options available to us. If you have any comments please email them to [abcagegroup@gmail.com](mailto:abcagegroup@gmail.com)”*

*We had a meeting with the site manager at the West Quarry to discuss 2 points. HPH haulage are presently using the West Quarry to store their HGV's for parking their empty vehicles once they have unloaded at IKO rather than travel back to the main depot at Preston thus reducing the amount of the HGV's on the road!!!*

*Do any residents have any details relating to the previously agreed operating times for HGV's travelling to and from IKO as they appear to be operating at hours that we think are outside of the original arrangement?*

*We also informed the site manager that the general consensus from people at the meeting and other discussions is that the solar farm is the best alternative. However, it would be prudent if Neil and other representatives of the West Quarry would meet at a public meeting to discuss this matter in greater detail. Neil is happy to attend a public meeting to discuss this. We will arrange a date for this meeting.”*

To date we have not received any information about the public meeting mentioned above. We were not one of the Parish Councils consulted by Mr Fell.

### **The Pensions Regulator**

We have recently submitted our statutory declaration of compliance to the Pensions Regulator. Its receipt has been acknowledged.

### **Vicarage Lane Pitch and Car Park Leases**

In mid-July we received notification from our solicitor that the final versions of the leases

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were acceptable to the sports clubs. In the light of this the Parish Council's signatories signed our counterpart documents. The signature of the sports clubs' counterparts is being expedited by their solicitor.

**July Newsletter**

Copies of the July newsletter were delivered to all properties in the Parish – a little earlier in the month than usual.

**Shevington Fete**

Thank you to everyone who manned the Parish Council stall. The Fete proved to be a very successful event and the stall provided a good opportunity for community engagement.

**Visit to Taylor Wimpey Protected Woodland**

As requested, I have contacted Taylor Wimpey about the promised opportunity for the Parish Council to visit their protected woodland, but have had no response other than an out of office reply.

**Hedge at Whiteacre Park**

We have received a complaint again about the fact that the hedge at Whiteacre Park has not been pruned. This has been passed on to the LA.

**Allotments**

Earlier this year Mr S Boyle took over the management of the waiting list and allocation of plots from Cllr C Horridge. The allotments are the responsibility of Parish Council and managed in partnership with Shevington Gardening Club. However, there is no written partnership agreement or policy other than the tenancy agreement. This is causing confusion in relation to roles and something that will need to be considered.

**Allotment Skip**

The first of the two skips that the Parish Council provide for tenants non-garden waste was booked for earlier in the Summer.

**OPSTA**

Alan Fantom wrote in July promising an update on the campaign to keep our Piccadilly and airport services very soon. OPSTA intend to host an open meeting with Northern (the rail company) later this Summer and will send out details in due course.

**No.635 Evening and Weekend Service**

Attached is the reply from TfGM to our request that the route for the evening and weekend service should be altered so that it is the same as the weekday daytime route.

**Dog Fighting in Stockley Park**

I recently received an email from a resident of about a vicious dog fight that took place between an unrestrained Staffordshire Bull Terrier and a dog of the Husky family in Stockley Park near the children's play area. The resident was very concerned about the safety of children using the park and, at his request, I have passed on his email to the district councilors. I also advised him that he should report the incident to the Police on the 101 number.

**K.M.P. 26.08.16**