

Shevington Parish Council

Clerk's Report to the Council Meeting of 25 October 2018

Our Tommy

The 6ft figure of 'Our Tommy' has, since my last report, visited The Vale Methodist Church, Millbrook School, All Saints Church and School in Appley Bridge, St Joseph's Church and School in Wrightington and St Peter's High School in Orrell. In the coming weeks it will be visiting Crooke Methodist Church, the Veterinary Surgery in Shevington Moor, Shevington Scout HQ, St Anne's Church, Shevington High School and St Anne's School, from where it will go to Shevington Community Association's WWI tree planting in Standish Lower Ground on 9 November. After that it will be visiting Shevington Conservative Club and on 11 November will be taken to the Remembrance Day services at the War Memorial and St Anne's Church. From St Anne's Church it will be taken to Shevington Vale Primary School for a week. Subsequently it will join the WWI display at Shevington Library.

Light in Memorial Garden

The faults in the armoured cable have been repaired. Unfortunately, the light bulb popped when the engineers switched it on. A new bulb has been ordered and will, hopefully, be fitted before Remembrance Sunday.

Memorial Park Survey & Feasibility Study

The on site topographical survey was carried out about two weeks ago. TGMS visited the site again on 18 October to collect soil samples, which have been sent for laboratory tests. The surveyor also met with me to seek information about conditions on the site in wet weather and what the Council wished to use the site for in the future. Once the results of all tests are known a very detailed report would be prepared and recommendations would be made.

The surveyor advised that the best time to introduce drainage somewhere like a park was in late Summer, with over-seeding taking place in the early Autumn, when germination would be at its most fruitful. New grass would then be able to establish itself and be better able to cope with a draught the following year.

Vicarage Lane Fields Allotments Lease

The lease has been executed by our solicitor, but we are still waiting for Orica to approve and sign the Deed of Covenant in relation to the overage agreement. Our solicitor has chased this, but so far there has been no response.

ABCAGE Annual General Meeting

ABCAGE held their AGM on Wednesday, 10 October at 7pm in All Saints School Hall. This was followed by a public meeting about the proposals for the West Lancashire Local Plan that are currently being consulted upon.

Remembrance Sunday

Most arrangements for Remembrance Sunday are now in place:

- The bugler has been booked;
- The Vicar is using the same order of service as in past years;
- The uniformed groups and St Anne's Choir will be attending;
- The march will begin at Bewleys and will leave in time for the Service to begin at 10:45am – I am due to meet with PS Forshaw on site to discuss the Police's role in relation to traffic control while the procession crosses the road;
- The PA system has been tested in situ and the Caretaker will be setting it up on the day and ensuring that the Memorial Garden is clean and tidy;
- The wreaths have been ordered;
- I am waiting to hear from Wrightington Parish Council about the arrangements at Appley Bridge.

New War Memorial Plaque

The new plaque for the War Memorial has recently been fitted. The old one has been put into storage.

Display Poppies

Several months ago the Council agreed to place an order for 160 display poppies from the Royal British Legion. It has only been possible to source 130 of the 160 poppies from the RBL, because the RBL have run out of stock. In view of this Wigan Council (who were also experiencing a shortage) arranged for display poppies to be printed on corex. We have been able to purchase 20 of these poppies. Cllr Horridge is making the other 10 poppies out of materials suitable for use outside. Th

Christmas Shop-Front Competition

Leaflets about the competition have been circulated to all shops. The local artist invited by the Parish Council to act as the judge has accepted the commission and has been briefed. She will be attending the December Council meeting to announce the winners.

Christmas Decorations

The new lamp post motifs have been made, the Christmas trees have been ordered and arrangements have been made for them to be dressed by Wigan Council's operatives.

New Litter Bins

The three new litter bins have arrived and have been fitted.

Forest Fold Bowling Green

The basic Autumn renovation of the bowling green was carried out by the Greenkeeper during the first week in September, as per contract. However, the extremes of weather experienced this year have taken their toll and the areas of grass that had been the first to react to the drought did not seem to be reviving once the rains returned. Not only that, but moss that had been successfully removed the previous year was showing signs of a resurgence. Concerned about this, the Bowling Club invited a Green Restorer with a good reputation to assess the green and make recommendations in relation to the additional work that was required. The Bowling Club approached me about permission for the necessary work to be carried out and said that they would commission the work and supervise and pay for it themselves. As the work had to be carried out the following week, it was not possible to consult the whole Parish Council, so two councillors (the Vice Chairman and Cllr Horridge) were consulted and permission was given. The Green Restorer has discussed follow up work with the Greenkeeper, who has visited the Bowling Green to do this and will continue at appropriate times.

'For Sale' Sign at Forest Fold

A few weeks ago a 'For Sale' sign appeared at the entrance to Forest Fold. The sign related to one of the properties outside the allotments and was attached to the street sign. At the request of a District Councillor the LA's property team asked the estate agent to arrange for its removal. However, it was only removed from the street sign and a stand alone structure was erected on the grass in front of the Parish Council's notice board. I reported this to the LA's property team, who have written to say that they will contact the estate agent again and ask him to remove it as soon as possible.

Extension of Forest Fold Lease

The LA's property department have written that they have not yet replied to the Parish Council's enquiry about the possibility of including the stretch of land at the front of Forest Fold in the Parish Council's lease because they have not received a response to the enquiries they made earlier in the year.

Meeting of the Friends of Shevington Memorial Park

I was invited to attend this meeting, which took place on 11 October. On consultation with the Vice Chairman, it was decided that I should attend. Most of the meeting was taken up with updating those present on where the group were up to in relation to various initiatives. One of the items for discussion was progress with the preparation of the consultation leaflet due to be published in

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November. I have asked them to forward it to me by 26 October, so that the Policy & General Purposes Committee can approve it at their meeting on 1 November.

The group were provided with the agreement offered to them by the Parish Council that had been approved by the Council. They were invited to come along to the Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting on 1 November to discuss this.

I also took the opportunity to advise the FSMP on the importance of seeking the permission of the appropriate authorities / landowners in relation to activities they wished to carry out when necessary. Anything they wished to do on property for which the Parish Council was responsible required the permission of the Parish Council, as it was the Council that would ultimately be liable if anything went wrong.

Donation to FSMP

We have received an email from the Treasurer of the FSMP thanking us for our donation of £200.

Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

Greater Manchester's Mayor and 10 council leaders have called on the government to provide greater clarity on housing figures as they seek to bring forward the second draft of the GMSF for consultation. Recently published ONS population figures and household projections have created new assumptions for housing growth, but the government's decision to apply a new formula to them means the Spatial Framework can't proceed until it is published. In response the Mayor and leaders have united to demand the government acts quickly and publishes its revised methodology to determine the number of homes that Greater Manchester would be required to build.

K.M.P. 19.10.18