

Shevington Parish Council
Clerk's Report to the Meeting of the Council – 29 November 2023

Raised Bed Area Allotment Shed

The shed in the raised bed allotment area has been dismantled and removed by the handyman. Communal items have been stored in the storage pavilion on the bowling green pending installation of a replacement storage shed. The handyman, who will not be installing the shed, has advised on a number of elements to look for when selecting the shed and the price range of sheds of the same size and quality.

Updating the Honours Board

The Honours Board has now been updated.

Proposals for the Naming of a New Road After Dr Surman

The Council's appeal over the naming of the new road near the surgery has been rejected. However, the officer responsible for making decisions about the naming of new roads in Wigan has said that the suggestion of naming a new road in Shevington after Dr Surman has said that the nomination will be kept on record and considered when the opportunity arises again.

Christmas Decorations

All Christmas decorations have now been installed and lights were due to be switched on for the first time this evening. The tree lights in the centre of Shevington will be switched on all day every day. All other lights are timed to come on at 4pm and switch off at 11pm. If there are any issues Street Lighting will undertake to rectify them as soon as they can. Mr Booth will be switching on the lights on the tree in Appley Bridge on 1 December.

The stars for the trees at Booths, Crooke Village and Shevington Moor were found to be not functioning. They have been replaced.

Meanwhile, it is delightful to see local shop-keepers decorating their windows for the festive season. Many are already 'good to go' for next week's judging.

Remembrance Day

The Remembrance Day parade and service in Shevington went to plan – apart from the weather. For the first time in several years we had rain and it was quite cold. Cllr Mike Grimes laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the War Memorial at Appley Bridge.

Services and ceremonies arranged for the 10th and 11th – on the other hand – experienced good weather. Cllrs Jess Diggle and Mike Grimes attended the ceremony on 10 November organised by Shevington Vale Community Primary School in Shevington Vale, where Cllr Diggle laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

On Saturday, 11 November Cllrs John Whiteley, Helen Thompson and Mike Crosby led the ceremony at Whiteacre Park in Shevington Moor, Cllr Chris Horridge led a short ceremony at the War Memorial at Shevington and Mr Charlie Neve led the ceremony at Crooke Village.

Removal of Bins from Canal Towpaths

We have received further correspondence from the Canal & Rivers Trust regarding the removal of bins from canal towpaths. They have written that their programme of bin removal has been progressing and they are now looking for formal confirmation about whether, or not, we wish to take sole responsibility for the servicing of the bin, which was previously jointly serviced by the Parish Council and Canal & River Trust, at the following locations:

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- Bridge 43, Leeds & Liverpool Canal

I have again confirmed again that the Parish Council already own the bin and will take continue to take responsibility for its maintenance and regular emptying.

Christmas Shop Fronts

Community Notice Boards in the Parish

I have recently, on request from an officer from Wigan Council who is compiling a list, provided the officer with locations of those Community Notice Boards by the Parish Council.

Voluntary Work Carried out by Members of Shevington Village Bowling Green

Over the winter months several members of the SVBC are planning to carry out some necessary maintenance work at the bowling green. For many years there has been an area of the green that has always been damp. Because the ditch between the allotments and the bowling green was filled in many years ago, the run off from the allotments has nowhere to go except the bowling green. To try to alleviate this issue they plan to dig out part of the gully at the edge of the green, fill it with stones and re-cover the gully with the Astroturf already in place. This will be at no cost to the Parish Council.

The group are also looking into the possibility of restoring the wooden edging of the green that was removed more than ten years ago by a previous green keeper. The function of the wooden edging is to prevent the sides of the green collapsing. This has begun to happen over the past year and the SVBC would like to prevent any further damage. As the boards were removed by the previous greenkeeper to prevent damage to his mower, the club members have taken advice from the current greenkeeper about how to ensure that the re-introduction of the boarding does not result in damage to his equipment.

New Signage for the Play Area Gates

The new signage for the play area gates at Memorial Park has been fitted.

Pothole in Forest Fold

The pothole in the roadway at Forest Fold has deteriorated further. The roadway is not within the Parish Council's lease and we do not have permission to carry out repairs to it. Wigan Council have until recently refused to accept responsibility for its ownership. However, a couple of weeks ago I sent Network Management copies of the Land Registry documentation relating to the road to prove to them that they are the freeholders. They have replied – at long last – that the road meets the criteria for them to undertake a repair. They have advised that this will be done in 28 days' time.

As replies from Network Management tend to be somewhat vague and indirect, I am hoping that it is this pothole that they are referring to in their email and not the one at the junction of Forest Fold with Miles Lane that I also reported. The latter is on adopted highway and is the responsibility of Highways.

Railings in Church Lane at Entrance to Memorial Park

The damaged railings in question were identified during the Annual Inspection of Property. They were reported, as requested by councillors. I have received a reply from Network Management advising us that the railings are not considered to have been damaged.

Water at Forest Fold Site

The water at the Forest Fold site was turned off last week and the system was drained before the cold weather set in.

New Christmas Tree in Stockley Park

The Friends of Stockley park would like to thank the Parish Council for the grant that was awarded to them. With part of this they have now been able to purchase their living Christmas tree that has now been planted in the park. Below are some photos from the planting.

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K.M.P. 29.11.23