

Shevington Parish Council
Clerk's Report to the Council Meeting of 30 March 2017

March Newsletter

This is enclosed. Distribution begins today.

The Standards Committee Co-optees

The Manager of Democratic Services at the LA has written the following:

1. There is no longer a statutory requirement to have co-opted members appointed to the Standards Committee. However, the Council has chosen to retain 2 co-opted Members on Standards to represent the Parish Councils. They are paid a standard Co-optees Allowance of £547 plus £45 per half day or £90 per day when sitting on a Standards Sub-Committee.

2. As noted the Localism Act 2011 has changed the nature and work of the Standards Committee. The logic for the standard Co-optees Allowance is not as strong as it once was as there are fewer actual meetings of the Standards Committee and the main focus of the 2 Parish Council Co-optees is when they sit on a Standards Sub-Committee in hearing complaints against other Parish Councillors - an area of work that can be variable.

3. Consequently the Panel recommends that the standard Co-optees Allowance of £547 per year currently paid to the 2 Parish Council Co-optees on the Standards Committee is discontinued from 1 April 2017.

4. The Panel further recommends that the 2 Parish Council Co-optees continue to receive a variable Co-optees' Allowance for when they sit on a Standards Committee Sub-Committee to determine complaints but reset it at the Wigan mean daily salary for all full time employees resident in Wigan at £114 per day or £57 per half day with effect from 1 April 2017 subject to any indexation applied from 1 April 2017 for the next 4 years.

I also need to make you aware that the Panel recommended the merging of the Audit and Standards Committee and I will be looking and the makeup of the joint Committee shortly."

Update from OPSTA

Alan Fantom has written:

"This is primarily an update on the campaign to retain our direct service between Southport and Piccadilly/ Airport but first a note on

Preston-Ormskirk Services

Northern has confirmed they will upgrade the Monday-Saturday service to a regular, hourly timetable from May '18.

There is no prospect of a Sunday service (we keep on working for this) but Northern has committed to running a short day service again on the day of the Ormskirk Motorfest in August. If any of you is organising an event in your parish over a Sunday that would benefit from a Sunday service please let me know because we have a precedent.

Southport-Manchester services - what you need to know

A direct service to Piccadilly is feasible but has not been agreed yet for stations west of Wigan- our objective can be met fully with some modest funding and fleet additions.

What can be delivered with Northern's current resources - For May 18 subject to formal sign off there is a plan to deliver a full Monday-Saturday Piccadilly service for Wigan, Hindley &

Westhoughton but this will only stretch to a couple of peak services west of Wigan. See Full Update.

Northern should be able to deliver a Sunday service too but yet to commit to this.

Rolling Stock - proposal to deploy Class 319 Flex units effectively gives us 4 car electric trains superior to and will perform better than refurbished diesel units.

No airport service - A direct service to the Airport is an issue beyond us in the short/ medium term. After that any train path that may become available would have to be fought very hard for.

Should you require any further explanation or have comment on any of the points in this briefing please reply."

Mr B King will be reporting on this in greater depth at the Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting next week.

The latest OPSTA newsletter is attached.

Spring Fair

Shevington Community Primary School are holding a Spring Fair on Friday, 31 March from 3:30pm in the school hall. It is an event to raise funds to give it the send-off it deserves before it closes its doors in October. Everyone is invited.

K.M.P. 30.03.17