

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shevington Parish Council
Held Wednesday 29 November 2023
7:00pm – The Community Centre at Vicarage Lane Fields**

Present: Councillors William McKnight (Chairman), Michael Grimes, John Whiteley and Jessica Diggle (via MS Teams)
3 members of the public

Officer in Attendance: Mrs Krystyna Pilkington (Clerk)

117 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Mike Crosby, Janet Brown, Chris Horridge, Helen Thompson and Terry Bridge

118 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Mike Grimes w.r.t. Item No.136 (*personal & prejudicial*)
The Clerk w.r.t. Item No.140 (*personal & prejudicial*)

Standing Orders were suspended.

119 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

A member of the public had written to the Parish Council about two matters of concern. These were discussed.

Broadband Infrastructure

The resident had described issues that he and his neighbours had been experiencing for several years with broadband provision in his area of the Parish. Wigan Council had made a commitment to intupgrade the infrastructure and had entered into an agreement with BT Openreach to do this. However, the service provided by Openreach had been poor. The Parish Council were of the view that it was up to the residents to approach Wigan Council about this themselves. This was a matter outside the remit of the Parish Council and the Clerk was asked to let the resident know.

Road Surfaces in the Parish

The same resident raised a number of issues about the quality of road surfaces and the condition of Rights of Way in the Parish. The Clerk was asked to raise the issues with Wigan Council, who were the Highways Authority.

120 District Councillors' Reports

None

Standing Orders were reinstated.

121 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council (27 September 2023)

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 27 September 2023, were approved as a true and correct record.

122 Chairman's Report

Naming of the New Road to the Extra Care Facility

The Parish Council had put forward a request to Wigan Council via an officer who had visited one of its meetings that the new road should be named after Dr Stuart Surman, who had both started Shevington Surgery and been instrumental in starting Wigan & Leigh Hospice. The Chairman asked that it be put on record that he and other members of the Parish Council were very disappointed that a decision had been made instead, without, in their view, adequate consultation, to name it after a former teacher at Miles Lane Community Primary School.

The Parish Council were also disappointed that there did not appear to be a higher authority to whom an appeal could be made.

123 Reports from Councillors

Judging of Christmas Shop Fronts

Cllr Helen Thompson had asked the Clerk to let the Council know that the judging of the Christmas shop fronts would take place on Tuesday, 5 December.

124 Reports from Representatives

Crooke Village Residents' Association

The representative reported that:

- The CVRA's last meeting took place on 14 November.
- Proposals with regard to support requested from M&Y in connection with four projects at Crooke Village had been sent to the Project Manager for the Extra Care development at Miles Lane. After an initial response that had been positive, he had heard nothing further.
- The Over 60's lunch would be taking place at the Crooke Hall Inn on the 16 December. This year it had been opened up to other residents. The CVRA were paying for the Over 60's – others would be paying for themselves.
- Crooke Cruising Club would also be holding their Christmas Dinner at the Crooke Hall Inn this year.
- The Christmas tree provided by the Parish Council looked fantastic.
- The CVRA were trying to arrange for a workforce provided through the Community Payback scheme to widen the footpaths in Crooke Park.

When asked, the representative from Shevington Moor reported that the Christmas tree provided there by the Parish Council was also very nice.

Shevington Youth Club

It was reported that the Lancashire Association of Girls and Boys Clubs were providing a large input each week by doing a lot of interesting activities with those attending the Youth Club.

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

The owner of Shevington Gym was interested in renting some land from the Trustees in order to open an outdoor gym. He had recently met with the Trustees to discuss this.

Patient Participation Group

The representative reported that the scheduled meeting did not go ahead because of the stormy weather. Alan Mohring had taken over as Chair on a temporary basis.

Shevington Fete

It was reported that the Fete Committee were considering raising the fees charged for stalls by a small amount.

Friends of Shevington Memorial Park

The FSMP had met recently to plan fundraising in 2024.

There were no reports from

Shevington & District Community Association

'in Bloom' Groups

Vicarage Lane Fields Developments

Vicarage Lane Allotments

Forest Fold Allotment Tenants Association

125 DRAFT Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees (1 November 2023)

The previously circulated minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committee meetings held on 1 November 2023 were received.

126 Christmas Tree Fencing

The Clerk provided a verbal update on progress with research into the provision of more attractive fencing. This was discussed briefly.

127 January Newsletter

The contents of the January edition of the newsletter, which was due to be published on 3 January 2024, were discussed.

Resolved: Articles about the following were approved for inclusion:

- Remembrance Sunday
- Annual Community Awards
- Christmas Shop-Front Award Results
- Shevington Annual Show Winners
- Vicarage Lane Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning
- A Living Christmas Tree for Stockley Park
- Defibrillator Training

128 Dates of Meetings

(a) December Council Meeting

Resolved: The Council approved the Policy & General Purposes Committee's recommendation that the Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday, 13 December should be cancelled.

(b) Dates of Meetings 2024

Resolved: The dates of meetings for 2024, as proposed by the Policy & General Purposes Committee, were approved.

129 Standing Orders

The Standing Orders were reviewed. A new Code of Conduct was adopted on 17 May 2023. This date of adoption had been changed in the 'Declaration of Interests' agenda item that appears on agendas of all meetings and needs to be changed in Standing Orders numbered 33 and 57.

Resolved: The amended Standing Orders were approved.

130 Financial Risk Assessment

The Financial Risk Assessment for 2023-24 was reviewed. No changes were made.

Resolved: The Council approved the Financial Risk Assessment for 2023-24.

131 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's Report was received. *See Appendix A*

132 Financial Aid Applications

None.

133 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure schedules for October and November were received.
See Appendices B and C

Resolved: That the accounts be approved, the cheques signed and internet transfers be made in payment, due notice being given to the bank statements exhibited.

The deadline for responses is 6 December. Members are invited to read the supporting documentation, discuss the issues and agree a corporate response, if they are minded to do so.

134 Places for Everyone – Proposed Modifications Consultation

Following a short discussion, the consultation was noted.

135 Planning for the Future of Wigan Borough to 2040 – the Wigan Borough Local Plan – Consultation

Following a short discussion, the consultation was noted.

136 Planning Applications

A/23/96391/PDQ: Wood Farm Back Lane Appley Bridge Wigan WN6 9LE Prior notification for change of use from agricultural building to 5 dwellings (Class C3), together with alterations to elevations including insertion of windows and Doors

The Parish Council had received a consultation letter about amendments to a previous application for this site that had recently been refused. This was discussed. The Council were advised that, although the deadline for representations had passed, a reply from the Parish Council would still be accepted as long as the application had not yet been determined. It was agreed that another letter of objection should be sent to the Planning Department.

137 Next Meetings

7 December (P&GP and Finance Committees)

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Resolved: That, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

The members of the public withdrew from the meeting.

138 Councillor's Attendance at Meetings

Due to circumstances beyond her control Cllr Janet Brown has been absent from meetings for 6 months. The matter was discussed.

Resolved: The Council approved an extension, on compassionate grounds, to Cllr Janet Brown's tenure of office until 29 May 2024.

139 Problem Allotments

A contents of a report on the condition of several allotments at Forest Fold were discussed and the way forward in the case of each of the allotments was agreed. The Clerk was asked to write to each tenant and advise them of the Council's decision.

140 NJC Staff Pay Award 2023-24

The Clerk withdrew from the meeting.

NALC had informed parish councils that the National Joint Council had agreed the new rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2023. These were inflation (not merit) related increases. The new scales for 2023-24 had been previously circulated. The pay award was discussed.

Resolved: The NJC Staff pay award for 2023-24 was approved. It would be back-dated to 1 April 2023. To cover the resulting overspends in cost centres the following virements from the 'Contingency' cost centre were approved:

- (a) £904 to the 'Caretaking Salaries' cost centre;
- (b) £887 to the 'Clerk's Salary' cost centre;
- (c) £175 to the 'Employer's Superannuation' cost centre;
- (d) £55 to the 'Employer's NIC' cost centre.

The Clerk re-joined the meeting and was advised of the decision.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:53 pm.

Chairman