

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council Meeting  
Held Thursday 24 November 2016  
7:00 pm – Shevington Library**

**Present:** Councillor I Whiteley (*Chair*), Cllrs J Ball, C Miles, W McKnight, K Shaw, J Calderbank, A Bland and J Fletcher.

Four members of the public.

Mr R Sanderson (Business Partner – Wigan Council) was present for Items 456 to 458.

**Officer in Attendance:** Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

### **456 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr C Horridge.

Dist Cllrs M Crosby, P Collins and D Edwardson.

### **457 Declaration of Interests**

Cllr W McKnight w.r.t. Item 464 – first section (*personal*).

### **458 Libraries Public Consultation**

The Chair introduced Mr Rob Sanderson, Wigan Council's Business Partner, who gave a presentation on the rationale behind the LA's consultation over the future of library services within the Borough.

Mr Sanderson informed the Council that the Library Service had been asked to find savings £1.4m (more than 50% of current expenditure) by the beginning of the 17/18 financial year. He explained that the Service supports 'The Deal for the Future' and gave examples of some of the ways in which it did this. In November 2014 it had been taken back under the umbrella of Wigan's Leisure Services, having previously been part of WLCT.

There were four key areas to the proposal: integrating with Customer Services and Library offer, using buildings more effectively, developing the volunteer service and protecting the local delivery service to the housebound.

Suggestions were needed which would result in both savings and income generation. The consultation was now live on the website and was in two parts – one looked at the provision for Wigan and the other looked at the provision for Leigh. There were also proposals to re-locate the library and the Life Centre at Atherton.

There were no proposals to close any libraries. The Service were seeking to protect libraries provision and were interested in encouraging community groups to make use of them for events. "Have Your Say" meetings were being held boroughwide and there was a lot of information on the LA's website, including the report to Cabinet. The consultation was due to finish on 5 February.

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Mr Sanderson engaged in discussion with the members.

*Cllr K Shaw joined the meeting.*

It was agreed that responses to the consultation would be considered by the Policy & General Purposes Committee at its meeting the following week. Information about the consultation would be included in the January newsletter and the possibility of having a Parish Council office at the library would also be considered at a future meeting.

*Standing Orders were suspended.*

## **459 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public**

### **Pot Holes in Methodist Church Car Park**

A resident reported that there was a massive pot hole at the entrance to Shevington Methodist Church car park in Highfield Avenue and was getting larger. A second one was appearing next to it. The situation was being exacerbated by issues in the Youth Club car park. The problems were discussed. Letters would be sent to both Shevington Methodist Church and Shevington Youth Club.

### **Leaf Clearance from Footpaths**

A resident of Gathurst Lane had contacted the Clerk to raise concerns about the fact that the LA were not clearing leaves from the footpaths, particularly those near the canal bridge. As a result it was very slippery and dangerous underfoot. The Clerk would raise the matter with the LA.

### **Tree at the Northern Boundary of Memorial Park**

The owner of the house in Shevington Lane which was next door to Memorial Park had reported that she had recently received a verbal report from a surveyor to the effect that the tall tree just over the fence was creating issues for her house, particularly the roof. A letter would be sent to the resident to ask her to write to the Council and to submit a surveyor's report with her letter.

## **460 District Councillors' Reports**

The District Councillors' report was received. *See Appendix A.*

The Chair reported that she would be attending one of the meetings for Shevington High School's stakeholders to find out more about the proposals for establishing a Multi-Academy Trust which would own the school.

*Standing Orders were re-instated.*

## **461 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council (27 October 2016)**

Amendment to Item 433 (Anti-Social Behaviour in Shevington): '.....as there appeared to be PCSOs allocated to the area.' to read '.....as there appeared to be no PCSOs allocated to the area.'

**Resolved:** That, subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 27 October 2016, were approved as a true and correct record.

## **462 Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Council (3 November 2016)**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 3 November 2016, were approved as a true and correct record.

## **463 Chairman's Report**

The Chair reported that Mr B King was currently in hospital. He was improving and was expected to be out very soon. It was agreed that he should be sent a 'Get Well' card.

### **Tree Planting in Shevington Moor**

Shevington & District Community Association had planted their third WW1 Memorial Tree at Whiteacre Park recently. The focus of the ceremony was on the Battle of the Somme. About 90 residents attended. Refreshments were provided afterwards at the Silver Tally.

### **Remembrance Sunday**

About 1,000 people attended, 250 of whom belonged to uniformed groups. The display poppies knitted by the Knitter 'n' Natter Group were much admired. A proposal for a future project would be put before the Policy & General Purposes Committee the following week.

## **464 Reports from Councillors**

### **Traffic Around Shevington High School**

It was reported that the area around Shevington High School seemed to be experiencing very high volumes of traffic, particularly at dropping-off and picking-up times. It was thought that the new building had aggravated the situation. A letter raising concerns would be sent to the LA. The impact needed to be monitored.

### **Green Caddy Bags**

Each household was entitled to a ration of three rolls of caddy bags per year. Each roll should consist of 52 bags, but a member had recently counted only 30 bags on a roll. An enquiry would be raised with the LA.

### **Green Bin Collections Over Christmas**

Clarification would be sought with respect to the situation in relation to the green bin collections over the Christmas period, as the information on the LA's website and the hard copy information contradicted each other.

### **Bin for Longbrook**

In response to a question from a councillor about the possibility of the provision of a litter bin in Longbrook the Clerk advised that there had been no news.

### **New Shed at the Co-op**

A letter would be sent to the Co-op to advise them that the delivery vehicles they were using were too long and jutted out into the road. The new shed had exacerbated the problem.

## **465 Reports from Representatives**

### **Shevington & District Community Association**

The Lancashire Night social event was being held the following evening and the reading of the Charter would take place in the Memorial Garden at 2pm on Sunday.

### **Crooke Village Residents' Association**

There was no report.

### **Shevington Youth Club**

A number of repairs were needed:

- the roof had been damaged by the rain;
- the wind had damaged the gym doors;
- one of the windows had been smashed as a result of an episode of anti-social behaviour.

### **Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees**

There had been no meeting recently, but the Secretary had responded to the message about the overhanging trees in Highfield.

### **'In Bloom' Groups**

Members of the 'In Bloom' groups had recently attended the 'Thank You' event organized by the LA.

Appley Bridge in Bloom had submitted an application to 'The Deal' for a grant for their 'Incredible Edible' project.

Shevington in Bloom had been awarded the John O'Neill Cup by Wigan Council.

### **Standards Committee**

The meeting arranged for the following week had been postponed until after Christmas, when there would be an HR presentation.

### **Shevington Surgery Patient Participation Group**

The AGM would be taking place next Wednesday at 6:30pm in the Library. Everyone was welcome.

### **Shevington Rugby & Football Clubs**

There was no report.

### **Friends of Otters Croft & Crooke Woods**

There was no report.

### **466 DRAFT Minutes of the Meetings of the Policy & General Purposes Committee (3 November 2016)**

The DRAFT Minutes of the meetings of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees of 3 November 2016 were received.

### **467 Consultation on the Statutory Notice of Closure: Shevington Community Primary School**

Correspondence exchanged between the Parish Council and the LA and other agencies in connection with the proposed closure of the school had been previously circulated to members and was received. The Clerk was commended and thanked for writing and dispatching most of them.

It was reported that the Director of Children's Services had not yet walked the route between Shevington Community Primary School and Shevington Vale Community Primary School. 13 December had been suggested as a possible date for this.

*Cllr J Calderbank withdrew from the meeting.*

The Statutory Notice of Closure had been published and representations had been invited from interested parties. The issues were discussed.

*Cllr J Calderbank re-joined the meeting.*

Members were of the opinion that regular updates on this were needed from the District Councillors.

**Resolved:** A formal letter of representation would be sent on behalf of the Parish Council.

Members were encouraged to write individually.

### **468 Clerk's Report**

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

### **469 Financial Aid Applications**

None.

### **470 Payments, Income & Bank Balances**

The Income / Expenditure Schedules for October/November were received.

*See Appendix C.*

**Resolved:** That the Accounts be approved and the cheques signed in payment, due notice being given to the bank statements exhibited.

#### **471 Planning Applications**

None.

#### **472 Dates of Meetings 2017**

**Resolved:** The dates of meetings for 2017 were approved.

#### **473 Next Meetings**

1 December (Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees);  
15 December (Council).

**Resolved:** The Council meeting scheduled for 15 December was cancelled due to the fact that it was close to Christmas and there was no matter to be discussed that could not be left until January 2017.

#### **CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**

**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.

*Members of the public left the meeting.*

#### **474 Vicarage Lane Fields Leases**

- a) **Resolved:** The payment of Orica's solicitor's fees with respect to the issuing of certificates in relation to the overage covenants signed by the sports clubs would be discussed with the representatives of the sports clubs.
- b) The draft Allotments site lease was currently being considered by Shevington H&A Society and their solicitor.
- c) The Clerk had been informed that changes at Wellers Hedleys meant that they would no longer be specialising in local council law and that there would not be anyone to take up the work on the allotments lease.

**Resolved:** The Council appointed Ian Davison to complete the work on the allotments lease.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9:21pm.

**Chairman**