

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council Meeting
Held Thursday 25 May 2017
7:43 pm – Shevington Library**

Present: Councillor I Whiteley (*Chair*), Cllrs J Ball, W McKnight, C Horridge, K Shaw, J Calderbank and J Fletcher.
Five members of the public.

Officer in Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

581 Apologies for Absence

Cllr C Miles
Dist Cllr M Crosby

582 Declaration of Interests

Cllr W McKnight w.r.t. Item 605 (*DPI*)

Standing Orders were suspended.

583 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Potholes in Central Shevington

In response to a query about repairs to previously reported potholes in central Shevington a resident was informed that no information had been received from the LA about the outcome of an inspection carried out on the road surface relating to the mini roundabout at the junction of New Miles Lane with Gathurst Lane. The pothole at the entrance to the car parks belonging to Shevington Methodist Church and Shevington Youth Club had been assessed by a representative of Wigan Council's Greenspaces division, who had advised that it should be referred to Highways, because the pothole was encroaching on the footpath.

Request for Another Bin in Front of the Parade of Shops in Gathurst Lane

A resident expressed the view that a third litter bin was needed in front of the parade of shops in Gathurst Lane. A request for a third bin would be sent to the District Councillors with a recommendation that it should be installed along the stretch of footpath in front of the Chemist opposite Wigan & Leigh Hospice Shop.

Missing Kick Rails at Randalls Corner

The Appley Bridge in Bloom Co-ordinator reported that two kick rails were missing from Randalls Corner. A former member of the group had offered to fit new ones if he were provided with the materials. The Co-ordinator agreed to consult the District Councillors.

Delivery of Soil at Forest Fold

It was reported that when Wigan Council's operatives delivered soil for the Edible Appley Bridge project their equipment disturbed the copings on the wall belonging to the Parish Council. Responsibility for carrying out the repairs was discussed briefly.

Planning Application A/16/83350/HHRET

A resident reported that a request for permission to introduce a dropped kerb at the Oaklea entrance to this property was being considered by the Highways Department. In the resident's view the introduction of road access at the rear of this property would contravene the planning condition that required the amenities of the neighbouring premises to be safeguarded and suggested that the Council included this in any representations they decided to make.

584 District Councillors' Reports

Dist Cllr M Crosby had written to let the Parish Council know that the 'Beat It' Team would be in the ward the following week and had asked that any requests for work to be carried out by the team should be sent to him.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

585 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council (27 April 2017)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 27 April 2017, were approved as a true and correct record.

586 Chairman's Report

A letter would be sent to the Mayor of the Greater Manchester Combined Authorities expressing the Council's

- condemnation of the bombing at the Manchester Arena on Monday evening,
- sympathy with all the victims and their families and
- appreciation of the work carried out by the emergency services.

587 Reports from Councillors

Bin at the Junction of Longbrook with High Park

In answer to a question about progress with the request for the introduction of a bin at the entrance to the footpath at the junction of Longbrook with High Park, the Clerk replied that this was with the District Councillors.

Trees at the Boundary of the Park with No.35 Shevington Lane

A member asked whether the residents living at the property had been informed of progress in relation to the trees adjacent to their property. The Clerk replied that she had let them know that she had been asked to look into the possibilities, but, until the Council had made a decision, there would be nothing further to convey.

Dog Running Loose

A member informed the Council that a very small dog was being allowed to run loose by its owners in the Parkfield / Longbrook area. Residents had reported that the dog was in the habit of trying to bite people.

Cutting of Grass Verges in Miles Lane, Appley Bridge

A member asked whether a request that the grass cuttings from the verges in Miles Lane, Appley Bridge be collected could be sent to Wigan Council.

Gentle Reminder

A member reminded the Clerk that she was still awaiting a piece of information that the Clerk had said she would look up for her.

Flying the Flag at Half Mast

The Vice Chair reported that he had contacted Cllr Horridge very early on Tuesday morning to ask him to lower the flag in the Memorial Garden to half mast. This had been done straight away.

20mph Speed Limit in Woodnook Road

In response to a question about issues raised with regard to the 20mph speed limit and related signage in Woodnook Road, Shevington Vale, the Clerk advised that these had been reported to the LA.

Grass Cutting

It was observed that Lancashire County Council had not yet started cutting the grass they were responsible for in the area, whereas Wigan Council had already cut their grass twice.

588 Reports from Representatives

Shevington & District Community Association

The meeting was due to take place the following week.

Crooke Village Residents' Association

Concern was expressed that once again there was no report from the CVRA. The need for a representative to attend Council meetings was discussed. It was suggested that perhaps the South Ward councillors should attend CVRA meetings from time to time.

Shevington Youth Club

The new owner of the gym had sold it on to another new owner. The latest owner was Terry Bridge, who had a great deal of experience in running gyms and wanted to expand activities. As he wanted to have a proper lease drawn up, there would have to be a Committee meeting to discuss the matter.

The two youth workers had given the Committee notice that they would stop working at the end of July. In view of this there would possibly be no Youth Club sessions running over the Summer holidays.

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

The next meeting had been scheduled for July.

Standards Committee

There had been no meeting recently.

'in Bloom' Groups

The Appley Bridge in Bloom Co-ordinator reported that most the group's planting would be done in the coming week. An updated plan for the layout of the 'Incredible Edible Appley Bridge' project had been given to the Clerk. The allotment holders had responded very well to an appeal for donations for plants for the raised beds.

Patient Participation Group

There was no report.

Shevington Federation Schools Transition Group

The group had not met recently.

Shevington Rugby & Football Clubs

There was no report.

Friends of Otters Croft & Crooke Woods

There was no report.

Despite the fact that earlier attempts had proved unsuccessful, both the Clerk and Cllr K Shaw would try once more to arrange another visit to Taylor Wimpey's protected woodland.

589 DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy & General Purposes Committee (4 May 2017)

The draft minutes of the meetings of the Policy & General Purposes Committee on 4 May 2017 were received.

590 Unadopted Road Behind the Parade of Shops in Gathurst Lane

A paper containing information about the costings for the repair work necessary in connection with the surface of this unadopted road was received and discussed. The costings for four different repair options had been apportioned between the owners of the properties they related to. It was agreed that the Cllr J Ball, possibly Cllr C Miles and the Clerk would try to meet with the owners of the properties to discuss the need for and the funding of the repair work towards the end of June.

591 Custody of Strip of Land at the Entrance to Forest Fold

The Parish Council had for many years maintained the strip of land stretching from the entrance to Forest Fold to the boundary of the raised bed allotment area with the fencing at the rear of the first house in the block between Forest Fold and Broadriding Road, but the land was not included in the Council's lease. Following a short discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Wigan Council to investigate the possibility of becoming the legal custodian of the strip of land, which is now in use as the Appley Bridge Incredible Edible Orchard.

592 Allotment Issues

A paper from the Forest Fold Allotments Working Party was received and discussed. It was reported that the Clerk had sent a letter to all tenants to inform them of the changes made by the Council with regard to the regulations and charges for raised bed allotments. Tenants had also been provided with the contact details of the new liaison officer between the tenants and the Council and had been asked to provide him with their telephone numbers or email addresses.

The Clerk had also asked allotment tenants to indicate their views on the setting up of a Tenants' Association. Replies were still being collected and collated.

Number Plaques

The Parish Council had approved the introduction of number plaques for the allotments at an earlier meeting and a member of the Working Party had obtained costings for durable plastic and aluminium squares designed to be attached to the door of a shed or a solid stake.

Resolved: 43 plastic and aluminium number squares would be purchased from Bewleys at a cost of £3.50 each – a total cost of £150.50.

Locking the Gate

Two options for the provision of a locking system were considered:

Option 1: a standard padlock with 40 keys at a cost of £100.

Option 2: a good combination lock at a cost of £50 with the code number being distributed to tenants.

Both options involved a chain being welded to the post and the gate to prevent theft.

Resolved: Option 2 was approved.

Cllr W McKnight withdrew from the meeting.

The Council were informed that a booklet containing advice for Allotment Holders was still a work in progress and would be circulated for approval once completed.

Cllr W McKnight re-joined the meeting.

Cllr McKnight informed the Council that he had succeeded in making arrangements for the welding of the chain to be carried out the following week on an FOC basis.

593 Trees in Memorial Park

The LA's Trees & Woodlands had recently carried out a visual assessment of the trees in Memorial Park and had subsequently recommended a maintenance programme covering five years. This was discussed.

Resolved: An application seeking approval for the maintenance programme would be submitted. Costings for the work would be sought on receipt of approval.

594 Memorial Park Drainage

There was nothing to report at present.

595 Shevington in Bloom Plants

Shevington in Bloom had submitted

- (a) costings for an order for non-stop begonia and sempervivum for the flower beds at the junction of Shevington Lane with Church Lane and in the Memorial Garden:
 - 60 packs of non-stop begonia @ £1.60 = £96
 - 45 packs of red and 50 packs of white sempervivum @ £1.25 = £118.75
- (b) budgetary estimates for replacement plants for the sensory garden and for around the poppy tree:
 - £20 for the sensory garden and £30 for around the poppy tree.

Resolved: The above costings were approved.

596 Shevington Sharks 'Fun Day'

Resolved: The Parish Council would book a stall at the 'Fun Day' Shevington Sharks were running on the Recreation Ground on Saturday, 3 June at a cost of £20.

Cllr I Whiteley would be the person in charge of the stall which would be used for the purpose of engaging with the public and consulting residents over the Memorial Park drainage project.

597 Vicarage Lane Allotments

The Parish Council's solicitor had written to let the Parish Council know that, following his latest exchanges with the NAS's Solicitor, he hoped they would soon be in a position to agree the draft lease. He would be in touch again once he had received confirmation of this.

598 Insurance

In 2016 the Council had agreed to another three year arrangement with Zurich Municipal, who had recently sent the new Policy Schedule. On 1 June 2017, the date when the new cover was due to begin, the Insurance Premium Tax would increase to 12%. Under the three year agreement the insurance premium would remain the same, but, because of this increase in IPT, the amount the Council would actually be paying would increase from £1,372.50 to £1,413.45. This was the second year of the arrangement.

Resolved: The Council approved the payment of an annual insurance premium of £1,413.45 (*inc Insurance Premium Tax*) to Zurich Municipal.

599 LCTP Effective Meetings Workshop

Information received about the LCTP's 'Effective Meetings' workshop was noted.

600 Clerk's Report

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

A couple of issues were raised:

- (a) The street light missing from the passage way between Gorsey Brow and Cressell Park: the Clerk was asked to appeal against the decision that it should not be re-instated.

Cllr J Fletcher withdrew from the meeting.

- (b) The blocked drain in Forest Fold: as the blockage appeared to have been caused by stones from the bowling green car park and had been exacerbated by the soil delivered for the new raised beds, the Clerk was asked to obtain costings for the work of clearing and repairing the drain.

Cllr J Fletcher re-joined the meeting.

601 Financial Aid Applications

None.

602 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure Schedules for April / May were received. *See Appendix B.*

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

603 Planning Applications

- **A/16/83350/HHRET: 73 Shevington Moor – to retain single storey domestic outbuilding in rear garden and erect 2m high timber gates with access from Oaklea**

Retrospective consent was granted for the outbuilding earlier in 2017. It has been brought to the Council's attention that the outbuilding was intended for domestic use, but there were indications that it was being used for business activities. In addition, earlier during the meeting a resident had raised concerns about another condition of the consent that would potentially not be met. This was discussed.

Resolved: The Clerk would write a strong letter to the Planning Department to ask them to reinforce the conditions.

604 Next Meetings

1 June (Policy & GP and Finance Committee); 29 June (Council)

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.

The members of the public left the meeting.

605 Forest Fold Site Maintenance

Quotations for the Forest Fold Maintenance Contract were considered.

Resolved: The Forest Fold Maintenance Contract (*to include 'cut & collect' throughout*) was awarded to Envirocare MS Ltd. The service price approved for the year was £1,880.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:58 pm.

Chairman