

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council Meeting  
Held Thursday 26 May 2016  
7:18 pm – Shevington Library**

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

Two members of the public.

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

**320 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs C Miles.

Dist Cllrs P Collins, M Crosby and D Edwardson.

**321 Declaration of Interests**

None.

*Standing Orders were suspended.*

**322 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public**

There were no matters introduced by members of the public.

**323 District Councillors' Reports**

The District Councillors had sent the following message, which was read out by the Clerk:

“As most of you will be aware by now, Councillor Edwardson was re-elected in this year’s local elections. We are obviously happy that the electorate of Shevington with Lower Ground ward have decided to stick with a hard working team. We will continue to work with all community groups and residents, regardless of their political views.”

A report providing information about work carried out recently by the ‘Beat It Team’ had been circulated previously and was received. *See Appendix A.*

The next visit was due between 8 and 12 August. Any areas of attention should be reported to Dist Cllr M Crosby.

*Standing Orders were re-instated.*

**324 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council (28 April 2016)**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 28 April 2016, were approved as a true and correct record.

## **325 Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Council (5 May 2016)**

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 5 May 2016, were approved as a true and correct record.

## **326 Chairman's Report**

The Chair read out a letter from Cllr J Calderbank, announcing his resignation as a parish councillor with immediate effect and citing health issues as the reason behind his resignation.

The matter was discussed. Members expressed great sadness to hear that Cllr Calderbank felt he had to resign.

**Resolved:** The Council did not accept Cllr Calderbank's resignation. The Chair would write to him to ask him to reconsider and Cllr K Shaw would speak to him about the situation. The Council would return to the matter at the full Council meeting in June.

## **327 Reports from Councillors**

### **Rat Poison on the Allotments**

It was reported that new rat bait boxes with warning stickers had replaced the ones that had been there previously, but the notice on the notice board had not been updated. The resident who had originally raised concerns about the lack of labelling had also reported that he did not wish to have a bait box on his plot and had asked if it could be removed. The Clerk would ask Pest Control to re-site his bait box.

### **Daffodils**

A member reported that some of the daffodils growing along the grass verges in Shevington Vale had been cut down too early once again. Those that had been blind this year had been left, while those in the stretch of road from Broadriding Road to Chisacre Drive that had flowered had been cut down too early. The Clerk would report this to the LA.

### **Horse Riding on Pavements**

A member observed that evidence of horses being ridden had appeared recently and asked that the notices asking riders to respect the rules of the road be re-instated on the notice boards. A notice would also be placed in the next newsletter.

### **Japanese Knotweed**

Japanese Knotweed had been observed in the car park in Shevington. This would need to be eradicated.

### **Bench Missing from Memorial Park**

In reply to a question from a member, the Clerk reported that the replacement had been ordered and would be delivered and fitted when ready. The Clerk was asked to chase it up, as it was more than six weeks since the order had been placed.

### **Christmas Lighting on Trees in the Centre of Shevington**

A member reported that he had spoken to the district councillors about the possibility of putting lights on the trees in the centre of Shevington and in Memorial Park during

the Christmas season and even on the street lights. They had agreed to look into it and might ask the Parish Council to make a contribution.

### **Dog Fouling Campaign in Shevington Vale/Appley Bridge**

In reply to a question from a member about the possibility of a dog fouling campaign being held in Shevington Vale/Appley Bridge, the Clerk advised that she had heard nothing further since having received a request from the LA for specific streets to be nominated.

### **Junction of Kilburn Drive with Shevington Lane**

It was reported that a resident of Kilburn Drive had asked if a mirror could be introduced at its junction with Shevington Lane. There were difficulties turning right at this junction and the resident was of the view that a strategically positioned mirror could improve matters. A similar situation existed at the junction of Stockley Mews with Shevington Lane. The Clerk would contact the LA.

## **328 Reports from Representatives**

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

The next meeting was the following week.

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

There was no report.

### **Shevington Youth Club**

The last meeting had been deferred. At present the income stream was quite healthy.

### **Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees**

There had been no meeting recently.

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

Shevington in Bloom had recently completed the re-planting of the vandalised flower beds at Shevington car park and had sent 'before' and 'after' photographs. These were shown to the members.

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

There was no report.

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

Shevington FC had now reached the end of its season. A new girls' team was due to start next season. The Chair and Cllr Shaw were thanked for their help with the 'Meet & Greet' for the visitors from Angers.

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

It was reported that motorbike riders were still creating issues in the woods.

## **329 DRAFT Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting (5 May 2016)**

The DRAFT Minutes of the Policy Committee meeting of 5 May 2016 were received.

## **330 Internal Audit 2015/16**

The Internal Audit for 2015/16 was received. There were no issues.

The auditor had observed that the term 'Chairman' was one that was accepted in law as a gender neutral reference to the person who chaired a meeting and that there was no need to use the term 'Chairperson' instead. In the end which term was used was a matter of choice for the Council.

**Resolved:** The Internal Audit report for 2015/16 was accepted and approved.

### **331 Insurance Renewal**

The Council's insurance was due for renewal on 1 June 2016. Proposals from insurers and a table of comparatives had been circulated previously. They were discussed.

**Resolved:** The Council agreed to accept Zurich Municipal's proposal for a period of three years at an annual premium of £1,372.50 (*inc Insurance Premium Tax*).

### **332 NALC / LALC**

#### **a) The Queen's Speech**

A briefing highlighting the key elements of the Queen's Speech that would impact on local councils had been received from NALC. They were:

- The Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill, which would give more power in this area to local councils;
- The Bus Services Bill, which in England will result in further powers being devolved to directly elected mayors, including powers governing local bus services;
- The Local Growth and Jobs Bill, which will allow local authorities to retain business rates, giving them more freedom to invest in local communities."

Some members observed that the Neighbourhood Planning and Infrastructure Bill was very much focused on London.

#### **b) NALC Consultation on Devolution of Services**

NALC were consulting members on the devolution of services from principal authorities to local councils. As the closing date was 26 May, members had been invited to respond individually via the NALC website.

#### **c) National Pay Award**

LALC had forwarded a letter from NALC informing councils that The National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) had reached agreement on the following:

- New pay scales for 2016-2017 to be implemented immediately and backdated to 1 April 2016 and
- New pay scales for 2017-2018 to be implemented from 1 April 2017.

This would form an agenda item at the next Council meeting, when further information would be provided.

#### **d) Letter to LALC**

The Clerk informed the Council that no reply had been received to their enquiry about access to the member login sections of the LALC and NALC websites.

The Clerk was asked to write again and express the Parish Council's disappointment with the lack of a response.

### **333 Training for Parish Councillors - Agenda**

A list of suggested areas to be covered during training provided by Wigan Council officers had been circulated earlier and was discussed. All of the areas were of interest to some of the members. However, members could not commit themselves until a date had been arranged. As some of the members who were interested worked, the training would need to be delivered in the evening.

**Resolved:** The Clerk would forward the above information to the Democratic Services Manager.

### **334 Clerk's Report**

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

### **335 Financial Aid Applications**

None.

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

The Income / Expenditure Schedules for April / May 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.

### **337 Planning Applications**

None.

**338 Next Meetings:** 2 June (General Purposes & Finance Committees);  
30 June (Council).

### **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 left the meeting.*

### **339 Vicarage Lane Fields Leases – Shevington ARLFC & Shevington FC**

Members discussed the draft leases and the issues surrounding them. Representatives of Shevington FC and Shevington ARLFC joined the meeting to engage in discussion with the Council. A mutual agreement was reached that, subject to there being no major changes to the current documents on the table, the process would be finalised at the Council meeting in June.

*The representatives of Shevington FC and Shevington ARLFC left the meeting.*

### **340 Caretaking Post**

The Clerk informed the Council that there had been three requests for application forms for the post.

### **341 Bowling Green Gatekeeper**

**Resolved:** The Council approved the retrospective appointment of Mrs Sylvia Lawler as the Bowling Green Gatekeeper with effect from 16 May 2016 on SCP 8.

Mr S Lawler would cover in a volunteer capacity in Mrs Lawler's absence.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9:30 pm.

**Chairman**