

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council Meeting
Held Thursday 26 October 2017
7pm – Shevington Library**

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

Three members of the public.

Officer in Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

704 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs K Shaw and A Bland
Dist Cllr P Crosby

705 Declaration of Interests

None.

Standing Orders were suspended.

706 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Blocked Drain in Forest Fold

In reply to a question from a resident about when repairs on the blocked drain in Forest Fold would be carried out the Clerk informed the meeting that the drain and the road were the responsibility of the owners of the three properties at the top of the road. During the discussion that ensued it was suggested that a price for the work required should be obtained and that, as the road was used by allotment tenants, the Council should cover part of the costs and the owners of the three properties should be invited to make a contribution.

Allotment Skip

A skip for the allotments was to be provided for the weekend beginning Friday, 10 November.

707 District Councillors' Reports

There was no report from the District Councillors.

**708 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council
(28 September 2017)**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 28 September 2017, were approved as a true and correct record.

709 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that:

- Cllr K Shaw's brother had died recently and she had sent him a card on behalf of the Parish Council;
- she had visited Mr B King following his recent spell in hospital;
- she had been contacted by an elderly resident who had been distressed that her black bin was over-flowing and had not been emptied for some time because she was unable to move it to the front of her property – arrangements had subsequently been made for the resident to be included on the 'Help' list;
- during a recent visit to the allotments she had spoken to Mr S Boyle, who had drawn her attention to issues that were being created by the overhanging branches of trees both on the main allotment site and on the raised bed site – matters that the Clerk would be looking into;
- she had received information that Wigan Council were encouraging voluntary organisations to 'crowd fund' as part of 'The Deal' initiative – she would be attending a meeting the following Wednesday to find out about this;
- the initial meeting of the multi-agency group set up to consider the future uses of the former Shevington Community School site would be taking place the following day;
- she had received a telephone call from a resident, who had asked her (a) why Vicarage Lane Fields had not been named Ormerod's Fields, as they had apparently once been owned by a farmer called Mr Ormerod, and (b) why only one old railway line had been exposed at Croke Village, not two.

710 Reports from Councillors

Policing of the Village

A member reported that the Police had been very visible in Shevington village recently. He observed that the time when they really needed to be visible was at weekends - high visibility could have a negative impact. Some residents had expressed the view that such high visibility could give the wrong impression of the area and some negative comments had appeared on social media.

Liability for Damage Caused by Falling Trees

In reply to a question from a member the Clerk advised that, if a tree located on a neighbouring property fell on Parish Council land, the liability for any damage caused by the tree lay with its owner.

Parking Along Miles Lane

Concern in relation to the volume of parking along Miles Lane continued. It was reported that the hairdresser's website advertised that there was ample parking along the road.

Cushions for Remembrance Sunday

A member reported that she had received the completed cushions for Remembrance Sunday. A letter of thanks would be sent to the Knitter 'n' Natter Group.

711 Reports from Representatives

Shevington & District Community Association

The Shevington Fete Committee had met and had agreed to resume organising the Fete, which in 2018 would be held at the end of June.

Crooke Village Residents' Association

At the recent AGM on 10 October Mr M Thomas and Mrs M Tebbit had been re-elected as the Chairman and Secretary respectively.

Shevington Youth Club

The Youth Club had been successful in securing a grant from the National Lottery which would cover the cost of several refurbishments. The youth club provision was currently closed, but a meeting to discuss doing something for senior children had been held with the Wigan North Service Delivery Footprint Manager and a former local youth worker. The discussion had included sources of funding for this and an application had since been submitted to The Deal's Community Investment Fund. The SDF Manager had a list of potential volunteers from across the Borough, some of whom might fit the criteria required for youth club work.

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

There had been no meeting.

'in Bloom' Groups

The RHS awards meeting was due to take place the following Wednesday.

Standards & Audit Committee

There had been no meeting.

Patient Participation Group

The AGM would be on the last Wednesday in November.

Shevington Federation Schools Transition Group

The group was being disbanded with effect from 31 October.

Shevington Rugby & Football Clubs

There was no report.

Friends of Otters Croft & Crooke Woods

There was no report.

712 DRAFT Minutes of the Meetings of the Policy & General Purposes Committee (5 October 2017)

The draft minutes of the meeting of the Policy & General Purposes Committee held on 5 October 2017 were received.

713 Terms of Reference for the Vicarage Lane Fields Development Working Party

Resolved: The Terms of Reference for the Vicarage Lane Fields Development Working Party were approved.

714 Drainage Works in Church Lane

Work on the drainage system in Church Lane – intended to alleviate flooding issues in the estates to the south of Church Lane and in the grounds belonging to St Anne’s Church – had begun on Monday, 16 October. Soon after a welfare unit, enclosed by fencing, was found to have been installed in Memorial Park. Investigations had established that the structures had been provided for the workforce by their employer, who had been instructed to locate it there by Wigan Council officers. The officers were not aware that the park was Parish Council property and had since apologised for not seeking the Council’s permission first.

It was reported that the work would include some remediation of drainage within the curtilage of the park and the introduction of a soakaway at the bottom of the trim trail. This would be at no cost to the Parish Council and everything would be re-instated. In addition, as part of ‘The Deal for Businesses’, the contractors had agreed to carry out repairs to those sections of the flagged footpaths that needed them. This also would be at no cost to the Council.

715 Meeting with Wigan Council’s CEO

The dates proposed for a meeting with Wigan Council’s CEO and suggested areas for discussion were considered.

Resolved: The Council agreed that they would like to meet with Wigan Council’s CEO on 12 December at 11am and that they would like to discuss the following:

- (a) the future of the former Shevington Community Primary School site;
- (b) car parking in the area;
- (c) inter-council communications;
- (d) the Parish Council’s woodland;
- (e) planning applications and associated matters;
- (f) sheltered housing.

716 November Newsletter

Proposed items for inclusion in the newsletter were discussed.

Resolved: The following items were agreed for inclusion in the November edition of the newsletter:

- a) Parish Council Accounts 2016/17
- b) Remembrance Sunday
- c) Planting of Fourth WW1 Oak Tree at Crooke Village
- d) Retraction of statement at the end of the front-page article about Shevington Community Primary School in the September edition
- e) Christmas Shop Front Competition
- f) Long-Lasting Light Bulbs
- g) Parking Along Miles Lane
- h) Vicarage Lane Fields Updates
- i) Appley Bridge Memorial
- j) Appley Bridge Community Walk in the Meadows
- k) Improvements to Appley Bridge Station
- l) ‘In Bloom’ Results
- m) Policing Developments
- n) Fete 2018
- o) Christmas Musical Evening at Shevington Methodist Church

p) Standard items

717 Draft Liverpool City Region Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment

The contents of Mr B King's report were noted. *See Appendix A.*

718 Effectiveness of Internal Audit 2016/17

The effectiveness of the internal audit for 2016/17 was reviewed.

719 Internal Audit Plan & Terms of Reference

The Internal Audit Plan and Terms of Reference were reviewed. No changes were made.

Resolved: The Internal Audit Plan and Terms of Reference were approved.

720 Appointment of Internal Auditor 2017/18

Resolved: Mr Ian Cropper was appointed as the Council's internal auditor for 2017/18. His fee of £110 was approved.

721 GM Police Report

The report from PS Nick Forshaw on future plans for policing the area was received. *See Appendix B.*

722 Clerk's Report

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

723 Financial Aid Applications

None.

724 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure Schedules for September / October were received. *See Appendix D.*

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

725 Planning Applications

- **A/17/84131/CU: 20 Broad O'th Lane, Shevington – change of use from residential to nail and beauty salon**
The application was still pending consideration.
- **A/17/84622/FULL: Land to the rear of 19 Parkbrook Lane, Shevington – erection of one detached dwelling including associated access and landscaping**
The application was noted.

726 Dates of Meetings 2018

Resolved: The dates of meetings for 2018 were approved. The Council agreed that the deadline for sending agenda items to the Clerk would become the Tuesday of the week preceding the relevant meeting.

727 Next Meetings

2 November (Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees);
30 November (Council).

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:03 pm.

Chairman