

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council Meeting
Held Thursday 27 April 2017
7:00 pm – Shevington Library**

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

Officer in Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

557 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs K Shaw and J Calderbank
Dist Cllr M Crosby.

558 Declaration of Interests

None.

559 Disclosure of Membership of Political Parties on the Register of Interests

Democratic Services at the LA had written to inform the Council that the Monitoring Officer had received a complaint that some members had not disclosed their membership of a political party when completing their registers of interests and had asked the Clerk to explain that membership of political parties must be disclosed in response to Q.14.

The matter was discussed. Blank copies of the register of interests had been previously circulated. The Clerk advised that updated returns were only required if there had been changes to a member's status since his/her previous return. There was a legal requirement that members' registers of interests should be displayed on both the Parish Council's and Wigan Council's websites.

The position with respect to Co-opted Committee members was raised. Whether the registers of Co-opted Committee members should be displayed on the Parish Council's website would be considered by the Policy & General Purposes Committee the following week.

Cllr C Miles joined the meeting.

Standing Orders were suspended.

560 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

There were no matters raised by members of the public.

561 District Councillors' Reports

The Clerk read the District Councillors' report, which was received.
See Appendix A.

A Co-opted Committee member asked if there was any truth to the rumour that charges were being introduced for the emptying of green bins and was advised that this would be the case in West Lancashire, but not in Wigan.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

562 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council (30 March 2017)

Amendment to Item 537 – Standards Committee:

'..... so Cllr Fletcher would not have been able to take part anyway.' to read
'.....so Cllr Fletcher would not have been able to report on it anyway.'

Resolved: That, subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 30 March 2017, were approved as a true and correct record.

563 Chairman's Report

The Chair reported on a telephone conversation she had recently had with a resident who had taken his child to Memorial Park to play on the zip wire. During their visit to the park there had been a group of young people smoking in the vicinity of the play area. The Chair had advised him to ring 101 and report the incident.

564 Reports from Councillors

Action on Anti-Social Behaviour

A member observed that action was needed to deal with anti-social behaviour in the area. The previous weekend two residents were walking out of Highfield Avenue when they were pushed into the road by a group of young people. Discussion by members led to the conclusion that, wherever possible, photographs should be taken of incidents, which should then be reported to the Police.

Theft from Charity Shops

Members of the public sometimes leave bags of donations by the doors of both Charity shops when they are closed. Residents recently reported seeing a van carrying the 'Salford Van Hire' logo carrying out an early morning collection of such donations. The residents had reported this to the Police. A short report on this would be included in the next newsletter.

New Restaurant in Church Lane

It was reported that Sherrie Hewson's daughter and her partner would be running the new restaurant in Church Lane.

Lead Item for the Newsletter

A member requested that the lead item for the newsletter should deal with anti-social behaviour. This and issues when ringing 101 were discussed. The Chair advised

that the Police were aware of the problems with the 101 reporting process and were trying to address them.

Sand-balling

A member reported that when he was driving past Memorial Park at approximately 9pm on one evening earlier in the week his car had been sand-balled. He reported the incident on 101 as soon as he got home. Someone from the 101 service answered within ten minutes and the Police were witnessed visiting the park by someone leaving St Anne's Parish Centre at 10pm.

20 mph Zones in Shevington Vale

A resident had asked a member to draw the Council's attention to the fact that Park Hey Drive and Woodnook Road were both 20 mph zones, yet this was being ignored by drivers. Additionally, the 20 mph markings on the road were beginning to be obliterated. This would be reported.

Possible Sink Hole

A member reported that he had recently noticed what could be a small sink hole appearing on the grass verge near 148/150 Miles Lane. He had reported it to Dist Cllr Collins, who said he would report it to the appropriate department at the LA. This had been a week ago, but so far nothing had been done.

Possible Giant Hogweed Growth

A member had noticed what he thought could be giant hogweed starting to grow along the footpath from Broadriding Road to Forest Fold Farm. Members were advised that at this time of year it was difficult to distinguish native from giant hogweed. Native hogweed was harmless, but the giant variety was very toxic and a notifiable weed. Cllr Horridge would investigate.

Playground at Herons Wharf

The member who had, at a previous meeting, raised a query about when Morris Homes would fulfil the planning consent condition for the development at Herons Wharf requiring the developer to install a children's play area reported that he had discovered the contact details for the developer's complaints department. As the Clerk had not yet been able to progress the enquiry, he would submit the enquiry himself.

Blue Van

The staff of one of the shops on the opposite side of the road to the Parish Council's car park in Gathurst Lane had reported that a blue van was being parked there all day every day. They had observed that the driver was being picked up by another vehicle very early in the morning and then returned later in the day. As the car park was a free of charge facility and intended only for short stay parking, this was not acceptable. However, at this moment in time there was not very much that could be done about it.

Estate Agent's Board

A member reported that an estate agent's board had recently appeared on Wigan Council's grassed area near the flats in Miles Lane. She had contacted the estate agent and asked for it to be removed. Unusually, they had been very co-operative and had agreed to do it. By the following day it had been removed.

Emergency Supply of Paper

A member advised that, should the Clerk need an emergency supply of paper again in the future, both Spar and Costcutter sold paper.

Missing Street Light

A member had reported by email that there used to be a street light along the footpath linking Gorsey Brow with Cressell Park in Shevington Moor and that this had gone missing.

565 Reports from Representatives

Shevington & District Community Association

It was incorrectly reported at the recent meeting that the Parish Council had refused to pay £240 for the watering of the flower beds in the centre of the village over a period of two months. In reality a member of Shevington in Bloom had mis-read the quote for the work, which had actually been for £960 for that period. The group member had since apologised for her mistake and had written to members of the Community Association and the District Councillor present at the meeting to correct matters. Members observed that it was necessary to publicise exactly what the Parish Council spent on 'in Bloom' projects.

Crooke Village Residents' Association

There was no report.

Shevington Youth Club

John Greenhalgh, the owner of the gym, had sold his business to Chris Ashurst and had retired. Chris Ashurst was currently learning the ropes. It was observed that John Greenhalgh's contribution to the Youth Club and the community should be put on record.

The two current youth workers would not be continuing for much longer. In view of this a decision had been taken to close the Junior Youth Club for the time being, as the future was unknown.

The impact of these changes on the future of the Youth Club was discussed.

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

There was no report.

'in Bloom' Groups

The Appley Bridge in Bloom Co-ordinator had attended a meeting of all of Wigan's 'in Bloom' groups the previous day. At the meeting it had been announced that Tracey Williams of Wigan & Leigh Homes would be the new Wigan in Bloom Co-ordinator. All of the projects would now come under the umbrella of 'The Deal'.

Appley Bridge in Bloom were planning to have a stall selling home-made goods in Booth's yard on 6 May.

In reply to a question about the bent fruit tree at Forest Fold, the representative replied that the group had looked at it and that something would be done about it.

Standards Committee

There had been no meeting recently.

Shevington Surgery Patient Participation Group

A reply had been received to a member's enquiry about the potholes in the clinic car park. The surgery had permission to use the car park but did not own it and were not responsible for its maintenance. The surgery were very limited in what they could do, as the clinic belonged to the Bridgewater Trust and maintenance of the car park was their responsibility.

The PPG were still trying to set up a Diabetic Support Group.

They were also trying to get new members and were trying to encourage the under-60s to join, as most of the PPG were over this age.

The PPG were also hoping to prepare an advert for the next newsletter.

Shevington Rugby & Football Clubs

There was no report.

Friends of Otters Croft & Crooke Woods

There was no report.

566 DRAFT Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy & General Purposes Committee (6 April 2017)

The draft minutes of the meetings of the Policy & General Purposes Committee on 6 April 2017 were received.

567 Trees Adjacent to No.35 Shevington Lane

At the meeting in March the owners of No.35 Shevington Lane discussed the issues that were being caused by the trees in Memorial Park adjacent to their property with the Council. On the instruction of the Council the Clerk had consulted the Trees & Woodlands Officer at Wigan Council. Four options in relation to the best way forward were discussed:

- 1) Making a contribution to the costs of cleaning the roof and gutters of the property (£500).
- 2) Arranging for crown raising / thinning of all the trees adjacent to the property. This would require assessment by the Trees & Woodlands Officer and his permission and, subsequently, costings to be obtained.
- 3) Felling the very large tree, which was probably planted by the owners of Shevington Hall when they owned the parkland.
- 4) Doing nothing.

Resolved: The Clerk would investigate in greater detail the possibility of crown raising / thinning of trees adjacent to the property and, subsequently, the cost of the work.

A councillor requested a recorded vote.

FOR: Cllrs Horridge, Miles, Fletcher and Whiteley

AGAINST: Cllr Ball

568 May Newsletter

The contents of the May edition of the newsletter were discussed.

Resolved: The following items were approved for inclusion in the May edition of the newsletter:

- a) Bowling Green advert
- b) Appley Bridge in Bloom Forest Fold project
- c) Vicarage Lane sports & allotment facilities
- d) Shevington Sharks 'Fun Day'
- e) December Variety Show
- f) Policing in the Parish – Anti-Social Behaviour
- g) John Greenhalgh's Retirement
- h) Shared Lives
- i) The Great Get Together

j) Standard items

The text would be circulated to the Policy & General Purposes Committee the following week for agreement.

569 Budget Out-Turn 2016/17

The budget out-turn for 2016/17 was received and discussed. Several retrospective virements were considered.

Resolved: The following virements were approved retrospectively:

- £1,500 from the General Reserve to the 'Planning, etc' cost centre.
- £150 from the 'Clerk's Salary' cost centre to the 'Employer's Superannuation' cost centre.
- £52 from the 'Bowling Green Contract' cost centre to the 'Forest Fold Site Contracts' cost centre.
- £140 from the 'Memorial Park Contract' cost centre to the 'Recreation Ground Maintenance' cost centre

Resolved: The budget out-turn for 2016/17 was approved.

570 Post-Rollover Budget 2017/18

Several invoices for work either carried out or ordered as part of the FY2016 budget were still awaited.

Resolved: The following rollovers were approved:

- £750 from the FY2016 'Financial Aid' cost centre to the FY2017 cost centre to cover the grants awarded to Shevington Methodist Church and Save Our Federation Schools.
- £215 from the FY2016 'Christmas Decorations' cost centre to the FY2017 cost centre as a contribution towards the cost of the bespoke Christmas tree star.
- £554 from the FY2016 'Memorial Park Maintenance' cost centre to the FY2017 cost centre to cover the cost of work carried out in March not yet invoiced.
- £669 from the FY2016 'Play Area Maintenance' cost centre to the FY2017 cost centre to cover the cost of some elements of the FY2017 SLA.
- £2,450 from the FY2016 'Plants and Planters' cost centre to the FY2017 cost centre of the same name to cover the cost of outstanding payments still to be invoiced.
- £975 from the FY2016 'WW1 Commemoration' cost centre to the FY2017 cost centre to pay for the display case for WW1 memorabilia.
- £300 from the FY2016 'Street Furniture' cost centre to the FY2017 cost centre to cover the cost of refurbishment and fitting of the three re-cycled bins.

The total to carried forward to FY2017 = £5,913.

Resolved: The Post-Rollover Budget for 2017/18 was approved.

571 Income / Expenditure Account 2016/17

The Income / Expenditure Account for 2016/17 was received and considered.

Resolved: The Income / Expenditure Account 2016/17 was approved.

572 Annual Governance Statement 2016/17

The Annual Governance Statement for 2016/17 was considered and completed.

Resolved: The Annual Governance Statement 2016/17 was approved.

573 Accounting Statements 2016/17

The Accounting Statements for 2016/17 were received.

Resolved: The Accounting Statements 2016/17 were approved.

574 Clerk's Report

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

In addition, the Clerk reported that:

- One of the wooden benches in front of the play area in Memorial Park had been vandalised and would need to be replaced, as repair would probably be quite difficult and expensive.
- Mr B King had forwarded a circular he had received from Northern in which they had explained how they would be dealing with the strike scheduled for the following day.

The plan of the Appley Bridge in Bloom Forest Fold project referred to in the Clerk's report was discussed.

575 Financial Aid Application

Cllr C Miles withdrew from the meeting.

- **Shevington Methodist Church**
It was reported that the Youth Club Secretary had met with Peter Hollinrake of Wigan Council and representatives of Shevington Methodist Church to discuss the repairs to the car park. The specification for the original quote received by the Church had been too vague and a quote for a fresh specification was to be prepared.
- **Save Our Federation Schools Group**
The s137 grant had been granted subject to the application's being signed. The Clerk reported that, as the application had now been signed, a cheque had been prepared and was awaiting the Council's approval.

Cllr C Miles re-joined the meeting.

576 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure Schedules for March / April 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.

577 Planning Applications

- **A/17/83888/HH: to erect a workshop on land severed from 47B Shevington Lane**
This application was noted.
- **A/17/83681/CU: change of use from Care Home to mixed use offices (B1) and training centre (D1), 65 Wigan Lower Road, Standish Lower Ground**
This application, which was for a property just outside the Parish boundary, was noted.

Resolved: Highways would be asked if signage warning drivers of increased traffic in the area could be introduced.

578 Next Meetings

4 May (Policy & GP Committee); 25 May (Council)

579 Venue for May Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting

Because the library would be in use as a Polling Station on 4 May, the Policy & General Purposes Committee would meet in St Bernadette's School Hall.

It was agreed that Item 580 did not need to be discussed in camera.

580 Forest Fold Site Maintenance Contract Specification

The specification for the grounds maintenance contract for the Forest Fold site was discussed.

Resolved: The specification for the Forest Fold Site Contract was approved, subject to the inclusion of separate quotes to be obtained for 'cut & collect' for (a) July only, (b) March to July (inclusive) and the whole year.

A member observed that the small strip of land at the entrance to Forest Fold was not included in the Parish Council lease, but the Council had maintained it for many years and suggested that an enquiry should be made about the possibility of becoming official custodians of that section. This would be a future agenda item.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:55 pm.

Chairman