

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council Meeting
Held Thursday 30 June 2016
7:00 pm – Shevington Library**

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

Dist Cllr P Collins and 17 members of the public.

Officer in Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

The Chair opened the meeting by inviting all present to stand and observe a minute's silence in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme.

342 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs J Calderbank and C Horridge.
Dist Cllrs M Crosby and D Edwardson.

343 Declaration of Interests

Cllrs J Ball, C Miles, W McKnight and I Whiteley declared an interest in Item 362 (*personal*).

Cllr C Miles declared an interest in Item 345 (*personal*).

The Chair welcomed everyone and explained that Items 344, 345 and 346 would be taken together.

Standing Orders were suspended.

344 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Dist Cllr P Collins, who was invited to open the discussion, informed the meeting that he and Dist Cllrs M Crosby and D Edwardson were working to keep all three Federation primary schools open and explained what they were doing to try to ensure that this happened:

- The district councillors would be holding an extended surgery on Saturday, 2 July. Residents were asked to email Cllr Edwardson if they wished to book a 20 minute appointment.
- Lisa Nandy MP was being kept informed of the situation.
- In the view of the district councillors the LA's pre-consultation had not been handled or managed well and they would be presenting Council officers with evidence of this once they had gathered it.

The discussion was opened up to the floor and Dist Cllr Collins took questions, clarifying issues as they arose. *See Appendix A.*

Standing Orders were re-instated.

345 Consultation to Reduce School Places in the Shevington Area

Resolved:

- A meeting with members of the LA's Education Department would be sought. Two options would be explored: a) a meeting of the LA's representatives with the Full Council at Shevington Library or b) a meeting with representatives of the Council with the LA's representatives at their offices in Wigan.
- A letter supporting the parents of children at all three Federation schools in their efforts to ensure that all of them remained open would be sent to the LA. The letter would include statistics provided by the representatives of the parents.

Standing Orders were suspended.

346 District Councillors' Reports

The District Councillors' report was received under Item 344. *See Appendix B.*

Standing Orders were re-instated.

347 Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council (26 May 2016)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 26 May 2016, were approved as a true and correct record.

348 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council (26 May 2016)

Resolved: That the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 26 May 2016, were approved as a true and correct record.

349 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that

- Another member had received an anonymous letter sent by someone describing himself as an 'angry farmer' and had passed it on to her. The letter was one of complaint about the lack of dredging of local rivers and its impact on local terrain. The letter was noted.
- Shevington & District Community Association had agreed to award a grant of £500 towards the cost of the tea towels being sold by Shevington ARLFC and Shevington FC and another grant of £5,000 towards the allotments gardens project at Vicarage Lane Fields.

350 Reports from Councillors

Drainage System in Shevington Lane

A member reported that, as she was driving along Shevington Lane during a recent downpour, she had observed water shooting out from grids and the tarmac being pushed up. The Clerk would write to Wigan Council about the frequency with which grids were cleaned.

Pot Holes in Back Lane

A member reported that the pot holes in Back Lane were getting worse.

Flooding in Shevington Moor

It was reported by a member that the road near the new homes in Old Pepper Lane had experienced flooding recently and that grass cutting on the motorway roundabout had caused blockages in that area.

Weeds on Kerb Edges and Gutters

Concern was raised by a member about the growth of weeds on kerb stones and the fact that this was not being controlled. The Clerk reported that she had received an email about the same issue from a resident who had asked whether the Parish Council would be willing to take on the responsibility for clearing these weeds. The Clerk would write to the LA to draw their attention to this matter and let the resident know why the Parish Council would not be able to clear these weeds.

JP Oils

It was observed that wagons owned by a company called JP Oils were regularly seen to be entering and leaving Paradise Farm in Shevington Lane. Enquiries would be made to find out what products were being carried.

New Houses in Park Brook Lane

A member reported that a resident had asked him why planning permission had been given to build two new houses in Park Brook Lane. The member had explained that the Parish Council had opposed the application, but it was up to the Planning Department at Wigan Council to make decisions of this nature.

351 Reports from Representatives

Shevington & District Community Association

The Association had played host to a speaker from Age UK who was interested in finding out what the Association could do about encouraging the introduction of sheltered accommodation to the area. This had been the motivation behind Mr B King's survey of the availability of such facilities within the Borough.

Crooke Village Residents' Association

The CVRA were planning to celebrate HM The Queen's 90th birthday on August Bank Holiday Monday.

Shevington Youth Club

There was nothing new to report.

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

There was nothing to report.

'In Bloom' Groups

The Appley Bridge in Bloom Co-ordinator reported that

- the group had been successful in securing sponsorship from IKO for a couple of projects; the Reparation Team were helping the group with the raised beds in Woodnook Road;
- with the help of a grant from Wigan Rotary Club, via their Dragon's Den initiative, the group might join Wigan's Incredible Edible Network;
- the NorthWest in Bloom judges would be coming on 27 July.

The Shevington in Bloom Co-ordinator had sent an update in which she reported the following:

- the group had made good progress, despite the rain, to plant all their flower beds and planters, which would have to be well maintained for Judging on Tuesday, 26 July for Wigan's North West in Bloom entry and on Monday, 8 August for their Britain in Bloom entry;
- 'clean up' days would be held the day before each Judging and appeals for volunteers would be made shortly beforehand;
- a wicker structure of a man sitting weaving baskets (provided by Wigan Council) was to be installed in the area between the pit tubs and field plough;
- Wigan Council had re-painted the road markings in the village centre ready for Judging and, due to the efforts of several people, the post box at the post office had also been newly painted.

Their Co-ordinator also observed that Shevington in Bloom had spent a great deal of time re-planting the nine flower beds at the Parish Council car park with recycled plants that had to be looked after and grown on for some time beforehand. It had been very distressing for the group when these beds had been vandalised, but what was more distressing was that some drivers were parking their cars over the newly reinstated beds and again ruining the plants.

Standards Committee

In reply to a question from the representative to Wigan Council's Standards Committee, the Clerk advised that she would be contacted by Democratic Services once her appointment had been approved by Wigan Council.

Shevington Surgery Patient Participation Group

It was reported that the Surgery Manager had sent a reply to the Parish Plan Review consultation. The Diabetes Awareness campaign was being advertised. There was also a campaign to encourage people to complete their Bowel Cancer tests. Responses in this area were good, but that was not the case everywhere.

Shevington Rugby & Football Clubs

There was no report.

Cllr C Miles withdrew from the meeting.

Friends of Otters Croft & Crooke Woods

The representative reported that wildlife in the woodland was thriving. He had received offers of help in response to his appeal from five or six volunteers. Several residents of the Oakwood Meadows estate had over the past few weeks reported seeing someone entering Taylor Wimpey's protected woodland carrying bags. It had turned out to be a member of the ecology company carrying out a newt count.

Some time ago the Council had asked for and been promised another escorted visit to the T-W woodland, but no date had ever been arranged. Both the Clerk and Cllr Shaw would separately raise an enquiry with T-W in relation to this.

352 DRAFT Minutes of the Meetings of the General Purposes & Finance Committees (2 June 2016)

The DRAFT Minutes of the meetings of the General Purposes and Finance committees of 2 June 2016 were received.

353 Policy & General Purposes Committee – Constitution & Terms of Reference

Resolved: The Constitution & Terms of Reference for the new Policy & General Purposes Committee, as recommended by the General Purposes Committee, were approved.

354 Shevington Fete

Cllrs J Ball, W McKnight and C Horridge agreed to join the rota of members covering the Parish Council's stall, which this year would also carry information about the Friends of Otters Croft & Crooke Woods.

355 Annual Parish Walk

Alan Mohring and Brian Small, who lead the weekly health walks, had very kindly agreed to organise and lead the Annual Parish Walk. Shevington Methodist Church has been booked as the venue for refreshments at the end of the Walk and Cllr C Miles was working on getting a team together to serve them. The walkers would set off from the Methodist Church at 10am on Monday, 29 August.

356 Training for Parish Councillors to be Provided by the LA

No information had been received about possible dates for the training session.

357 'Report It' App

The Clerk reported that she had tried out Wigan Council's 'Report It' app several times and had received a response quite promptly from a relevant officer. No members had used the app.

358 SLCC/ALCC

Until recently the Society of Local Council Clerks (the clerks' professional association)

- provided advisory support for clerks in the many aspects of their work,
- provided continuing professional development,
- carried out parliamentary lobbying and
- had a trade union role.

After many years of consultation and a membership vote earlier this year an EGM was held earlier in June at which those attending agreed that the trade union arm should become a separate entity and the newly formed Association of Local Council Clerks (ALCC) was formed. The SLCC would continue with its other functions.

359 NALC/LALC/LCTP

- a) LCTP:
Details of the New Councillors & Clerks course to be held in July were received. There was no interest from members.

- b) NALC:
Information about grants available for local council projects and a briefing prepared by NALC's CEO, Jonathan Owen covering recent developments and future government initiatives which might have an impact on local councils was received and noted.
- c) LALC:
The June edition of LALC's newsletter and information about LALC's 72nd AGM, to which the Council were entitled to send one delegate and at which the Council were entitled to put forward a resolution, were received and noted.

A letter informing the Council that the login information to the member section of the NALC website would be provided to the Clerk to use on behalf of the Council had also been received. The Clerk confirmed that this had been received. Some members put forward the view that the login information should be shared with elected members and that this was a decision of the Council, not LALC.

Resolved: The login information to the member section of the NALC website would be sent to all elected members.

A member requested a recorded vote.

FOR: Cllrs I Whiteley, J Ball, C Miles, K Shaw, J Fletcher and A Bland
AGAINST: Cllr W McKnight

360 SVBC Fun Day

Shevington Village Bowling Club were proposing to hold a Family Fun Day at the bowling green on 31 July, starting at 11am. It would be open to the public, who would have the opportunity to learn to bowl and be invited to enter a bowling competition. Members were invited to support this event.

361 July Newsletter

The proof copy of the newsletter was discussed. Unify Credit Union and the Girl Guides and Brownies were in need of volunteers. Shevington Luncheon Club was in need of help with its administration. Appeals would be included in the newsletter.

Resolved: Subject to the above additions, the July newsletter was approved for printing.

362 Landowner Permission

Shevington Gardening Club wished to apply to the Tesco 'Bags of Help' / Groundwork initiative for a grant towards the Vicarage Lane Allotment Gardens project. As they did not at present have a lease, they were seeking permission from the Parish Council, as the landowner, to do this.

Resolved: Permission to apply for funding from the Tesco 'Bags of Help' / Groundwork initiative was granted.

363 Plants for Appley Bridge in Bloom

Resolved: Expenditure of £122.70 by Appley Bridge in Bloom on plants for the Spring and Summer planting of the flower beds in Appley Bridge was approved retrospectively.

364 Clerk's Report

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

365 Financial Aid Applications

None.

366 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure Schedules for May/June 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.

Resolved: To cover the value of the payments to Wellers Hedleys £2,500 were transferred from the 'Planning, Legal etc Fees' reserve to the cost centre of the same name and £116 were vired from the 'Contingency' cost centre to the 'Planning, Legal etc Fees' cost centre.

367 Planning Applications

- **A/16/82597/FULL: Erection of 1 detached and 3 terraced dwellings together with landscaping and access on land to be severed from 89 Gathurst Lane, Shevington**

This application was similar to the one previously submitted as A/13/78442. Despite the Parish Council's representation in 2013, Wigan Council approved the application on 17 October 2013. Subsequently, a further application on the same site for two dwellings was approved on 27 February 2015.

Mr B King's report was discussed.

Resolved: A representation would be made to Wigan Council. The comments made on the previous application (A/13/78442) would be repeated, i.e.:

- The erection of 4 houses was over development.
 - A single infill dwelling would be acceptable.
 - The three townhouses were out of character with development within this part of Shevington.
 - The three townhouses would be erected on garden land contrary to section 48 of the National Planning and Policy Framework.
- **A/16/82640/FULL: Erection of 5 dwellings, associated parking and the provision of car parking for the Royal Oak public house, together with formation of new vehicle access on Wigan Lower Road, on land adjacent to The Royal Oak Hotel, SLG**
The application was noted.

368 Next Meetings: 4 August (General Purposes & Finance Committees);
25 August (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.

Dist Cllr P Collins and the members of the public left the meeting.

369 Vicarage Lane Fields Leases – Shevington ARLFC & Shevington FC

Resolved: The preparation of lease plans to a scale of 1:1250 in A3 at a cost of £190 was approved retrospectively. The Chair would call an Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council at an appropriate time to approve the final versions of the leases.

370 Caretaker Post

The closing date for submission of applications for the post of Caretaker was 31 July. To date three applications had been received. The way forward was discussed.

Resolved: The Council agreed that, in the event of a new Caretaker being appointed, the Bowling Green Gatekeeper and the contract Cleaner would continue in their temporary appointments until the end of the season.

371 Letter from Allotment Tenant

An issue raised by and associated with a tenant was discussed.

Resolved: The Council would bear with the tenant and would not initiate eviction procedures.

372 2016-17 National Pay Award

The Clerk withdrew from the meeting.

The Council discussed the details, adoption and implementation of the 2016-17 National Pay Award for local council employees.

Resolved: The 2016-17 National Pay Award was approved with immediate effect, would apply to the Clerk's and Caretaker's posts and would, as per the award, be back-dated to 1 April 2016.

The Clerk re-joined the meeting and was advised of the Council's decision.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9:15 pm.

Chairman