

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council Meeting
Held Thursday 30 November 2017
7:03pm – Shevington Methodist Church**

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

Officer in Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

728 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs W McKnight
Dist Cllrs M Crosby and P Collins

729 Declaration of Interests

None.

Standing Orders were suspended.

730 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Litter Bins

In reply to a question from a resident about the possibility of the provision of a litter bin at the Randall Avenue side of Shevington Library the Clerk reported that a request had been sent to the District Councillors, who had taken the view that the two bins already located along the parade of shops in Gathurst Lane were sufficient.

The same resident asked why a new bin had been provided at the junction of Longbrook with High Park. A member explained the reason behind this.

731 District Councillors' Reports

The District Councillors' report was received and read by the Clerk. *See Appendix A.*

**732 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council
(26 October 2017)**

Resolved: That the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 26 October 2017, were approved as a true and correct record.

733 Chairman's Report

Abandoned Property in Shevington Moor

The Chairman had received a telephone call from the resident who lived in the property adjoining the abandoned house in Shevington Moor. The resident had experienced considerable upset as a result of issues associated with the property. The Chairman had explained that the LA were trying to acquire the property via a compulsory purchase order and had asked the District Councillors to speak to her again.

Consultation Over the Future of Shevington Community Primary School Site

The Council had so far received between 20 and 25 responses to its consultation. Most were in favour of the site being used to provide facilities for the care of the elderly and other community activities.

The Chairman had also received a telephone call from the GMP's dog training unit. They were enquiring about the possibility of using the building for training Police dogs. She had passed the enquiry on to Mr James Winterbottom.

Youth Club Concert

The Youth Club anniversary concert was going ahead as planned. It looked as though it would be a good night. The tickets had nearly sold out.

734 Reports from Councillors

New Litter Bins

A member observed that the bin intended for the junction of Longbrook with High Park had been fitted and asked where the other two new bins had been fitted. The Clerk replied that they had replaced existing bins that were no longer fit for purpose.

Remembrance Sunday

Issues with the PA system on Remembrance Sunday were discussed. The Clerk reported that she and Cllr C Horridge had tested the system since the issues had become apparent and had found it to be working properly. Issues with the Order of Service on the day were also discussed. It was suggested that all those attending could in future years be provided with a written copy of the Order of Service. A member asked if it would be possible to ask the Minister who would be officiating in 2018 to introduce the organisations laying the wreaths as they did so.

Lease Extension for Forest Fold

In reply to a question from a member, the Clerk informed the meeting that, as she had still not received a reply, she had very recently written about this to another officer at the LA.

Junction of Mill Lane with Miles Lane

A member reported that large vehicles were cutting the corner and damaging Appley Bridge in Bloom's displays when they were turning from Mill Lane into Miles Lane. If there was a car parked outside the holistic therapy clinic opposite the junction, large vehicles could not swing out far enough and were forced to cut the corner. A solution was needed. The member would report this to the District Councillors.

Cllr A Bland joined the meeting.

Speeding Along Vicarage Lane

It was reported that cars being driven to the new estate were speeding along Vicarage Lane, the lower end of which had a 20 mph speed limit. Letters would be sent to the LA and the Police expressing the Council's concern about this. This was a residential area and children's lives were at risk.

Pavement on Back Lane

It was reported that the pavement just past the terraced houses on the right on the way to the junction with Miles Lane was in a dirty condition. The Chairman agreed to report this to the LA.

Damaged Fence on the Motorway Roundabout

In reply to a question from a member the Clerk reported that the slightly damaged section of fence was the responsibility of Highways England and the badly damaged section was the responsibility of Lancashire County Council. Both entities had written that their respective contractors would assess the urgency of necessary repairs and proceed accordingly.

Burglaries

Break-ins and attempted break-ins at commercial premises at four locations were reported. The perpetrator had been captured on CCTV at two of the locations.

735 Reports from Representatives

Shevington & District Community Association

The Vice Chairman of the Association had taken the meeting – it was her first time. The funds set aside for the Vicarage Lane Fields allotments were released and the future of the former Shevington Community Primary School site had been discussed. A Quiz Night had been organised for the new year.

Crooke Village Residents' Association

Crooke Village Residents' Association were to be congratulated on the success of their entry in the RHS Best Small Village competition.

Shevington Youth Club

There was no report.

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

There was no report.

'in Bloom' Groups

Appley Bridge in Bloom were congratulated on achieving Level 5 'Outstanding' for their entry in the RHS 'It's My Neighbourhood' initiative.

Standards & Audit Committee

Only closed items had been considered during the Standards part of the meeting on 23 November. It was reported that the DCLG were currently consulting over proposed disqualification criteria for councillors and mayors. Possible disqualification criteria included sexual offences and Anti-social Behaviour Orders. The Audit part of the meeting considered a list of budgetary savings. There were proposals to increase funds for street lighting, winter maintenance vehicles and salt.

Patient Participation Group

The AGM had taken place the previous evening. The new Chairman was David Brown – a former psychiatric nurse. There had been avid discussions about the

social media page and the former Shevington Community Primary School site. The doctors had not been approached about the latter. They wished to be involved because of the impact on the Surgery.

Shevington Rugby & Football Clubs

The Clerk apologised to the meeting. She had been sent a report, but had omitted to bring it to the meeting. It would be presented to the Policy & General Purposes Committee the following week.

Friends of Otters Croft & Crooke Woods

There was no report. This would be a discussion item at the meeting with the LA's Chief Executive Officer.

736 DRAFT Minutes of the Meetings of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees (2 November 2017)

The draft minutes of the meeting of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees held on 2 November 2017 were received.

737 Replacement Tree in Memorial Park

Suggestions made by the LA's Trees & Woodland Officer for a replacement tree in Memorial Park were considered. As the suggested trees were not native species, the Clerk was asked to seek advice about and obtain prices for suitable native species such as field maple, silver birch, hazel, holly and rowan.

738 Allotment Tenants' Association

The results of the consultation about the possibility of setting up an Allotment Tenants' Association for Forest Fold Allotments were discussed. Only nine tenants had expressed an interest. Most members were of the view that the responsibility of running such an association lay with the tenants.

Resolved: The Clerk would inform the tenants when she wrote to them in the Spring that, as there had been insufficient interest, the initiative would not be taken any further.

739 Painting of Planters

The painting of the tops of the planters was discussed briefly.

Resolved: The Council approved the painting of the tops of the planters before the Summer planting. The work would be done by the Caretaker.

740 Variation to Vicarage Lane Allotments Lease Plan

A variation to the lease plan for Vicarage Lane Fields Allotments was discussed. The variation involved moving the southern boundary northwards so that the plot did not include the hedging on the boundary of the field with the public right of way.

It was reported that the allotment site had been marked out and the accuracy of the measurements had been verified by Cllr C Horridge and the Clerk.

Resolved: The variation and re-drawing of the lease plan were approved. The plan would be re-drawn by Harris Consulting at a cost of £48.

A member asked who would be responsible for the additional solicitor's and was advised that the onus for these lay with the Parish Council.

741 Meeting with Wigan Council's CEO

The previously circulated agenda was received. Cllrs I Whiteley, J Ball and C Horridge and the Clerk would attend the meeting with Wigan Council's CEO.

742 LCTP Training Programme 2018

The previously circulated information about the LCTP's Training Programme and Finance Workshop was noted.

743 NALC Diversity Project

The previously circulated information was noted.

744 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was received. *See Appendix B.*
The Clerk updated the Council about progress with the Christmas trees.

745 Financial Aid Applications

None.

746 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure Schedules for October / November 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.

747 Planning Applications

None to note.

748 Venue for Council Meeting on 14 December 2017

In view of the fact that Polling Day for the Wigan Council by-election would be on 14 December and Shevington Library would be in use as a polling station, arrangements had been made for the meeting to take place at St Bernadette's Primary School.

749 Next Meetings

7 December (Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees);
14 December (Council).

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:12 pm.

Chairman