

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Held Thursday 2 February 2017
7:00 pm Shevington Library**

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

Co-opted Committee members: Mr B King and Mrs E Longmore.

No members of the public.

Officer in Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs J Calderbank and C Miles
Mr B Lomas

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllr W McKnight w.r.t. Item No.5 (*DPI*)

**3. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
(1 December 2016)**

Resolved: The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 1 December 2016 were approved as a true and correct record.

4. Village Issues

Unadopted Road Behind the Parade of Shops in Gathurst Lane

A member enquired about progress with this issue. The Clerk had contacted Dist Cllr Collins, who had said that he would look into the matter again. It was recalled that Cllr Collins had reported to another meeting in Shevington that Wigan & Leigh Homes were only responsible for two of the properties along the relevant stretch of Inward Drive. Members were of the view that it was time this matter was moved forward. The Chair reported that she had recently been in touch with a contact at Wigan & Leigh Homes and undertook to speak to the appropriate person.

Cllr K Shaw joined the meeting.

Shevington Methodist Church & Youth Club Car Parks

The Clerk had written to both of the above bodies. It was imperative that the potholes at the joint entrance should be repaired at the earliest opportunity.

Litter Bin at Houghton Lane

A member reported that the litter bin at Houghton Lane had still not been emptied the previous Sunday. The Clerk reported that it had been emptied when she had checked it on Tuesday.

Comments on Social Media

A member reported that he had recently been the subject of libellous comments on social media: specifically Twitter, Facebook and a blog. The member made a statement in which he categorically assured the Committee that there was no truth in the allegations made by their author and asserted that, in his view, the actions of that author had been shameful. Other members present agreed with that assertion.

Friends of Shevington Memorial Park

The Treasurer had received a letter from the bank suggesting the closure of the account, as it had not been used for some time. As the group had completed the work it had been set up to do, it had been decided that the account should be closed. The members of the group had been consulted and had agreed that the £80 remaining in the account should be donated to the Parish Council to be used for play equipment maintenance.

New Litter Bins

It was reported that Dist Cllr Collins had ordered three new bins for locations in West Ward.

Bin for Footpath Near Junction of Longbrook with High Park

In reply to an enquiry from a member, the Clerk reported that she had not yet heard whether there was a possibility of a bin being installed at this location.

Car Park at Woodnook Road Shops

A co-opted Committee member reported that there were issues with the surface of the car park outside the shops in Woodnook Road in Shevington Vale. Sections of the surface were in very poor condition and Appley Bridge in Bloom's 'It's My Neighbourhood' entry had been marked down because of this. One of the issues was that the ownership of the car park was shared between several entities. Some of the owners were reluctant to repair their sections. A concerted effort was needed to persuade them that they should. It was suggested that the next newsletter should carry an article about whose responsibility it was to repair unadopted roads.

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

It was reported that the GMCA was taking over the responsibility for expenditure in various areas – including Health. A meeting was being held at the 'Baby Elephant' restaurant at the end of the month to disseminate information about this. Policy decisions had been made which were not widely known.

5. Memorial Park Drainage

Cllr W McKnight withdrew from the meeting.

As the representative of NPS North West had not been able to attend this meeting to provide further information, this item was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee on 2 March 2017, when he had said he would be available.

Cllr W McKnight re-joined the meeting.

6. Shevington Fete / Community Day

The Committee noted the information that Shevington Gardening Club Show would be the focus of a special Community Day on the first Saturday of August, replacing the larger fete which had run for the past six years. There would not be any activities, stalls or marquees on the Recreation Ground this year due to a shortage of volunteers. The Community Day would run from 12pm till 4pm, in the Youth Club (Gardening Club Show), Dance Studio (Community Information) and St Anne's Parish Rooms (Craft Fair).

7. Update on School Closure

So far no information had appeared on Wigan Council's website about any decisions made at the previous week's Cabinet meeting. The Chair had tried to find out, but had not been successful. The Save Our Federation Schools group were meeting that evening and had questions they wished to ask about the transition. The Chair gave examples of the questions and agreed to circulate them to members after this meeting.

The situation was discussed by the Committee. It was agreed that the group should be commended for their work over the past months.

8. 'Northern' Update

Mr B King's report was received and discussed. *See Appendix A.*
The contents of the report were noted. It was observed that OPSTA seemed to be doing a good job.

9. Neighbourhood Planning Bill - Update

Mr B King presented his report, which was received. *See Appendix B.*
The Bill was currently going through the House of Lords and had had its second reading in mid-January. The majority of the Bill covered matters other than Neighbourhood Planning.

Mr King's report was noted.

10. Greater Manchester Spatial Framework - Update

The Council's response to the consultation on the Draft Framework had been submitted. Mr B King had also submitted a personal response, which he had circulated to members. This was discussed. The final version of the Framework was only due to be approved in 2019.

Mr King was commended for all his hard work.

11. Beacons for the End of WW1

The possibility of taking part in the centenary celebrations for the end of WW1 by making arrangements for a beacon in the Parish was discussed. A letter from Bruno Peek, the Pageantmaster, inviting parish councils to be involved had been previously circulated and contained relevant information.

Resolved: The Committee agreed the following:

- the Council would sign up for the information pack;
- the cost of a beacon would be researched;
- more details would be obtained and
- Wigan Council's intentions would be established.

The Council were willing to take part in principle.

12. Precept Information for Council Tax Letter

The suggested information for the Council Tax letter had been previously circulated and was discussed. One or two minor amendments were made.

Resolved: The text of the precept information for the Council Tax letter was approved, subject to the minor amendments made being included.

13. Planning Applications

None.

14. Dates of Next Meetings

23 February (Council); 2 March (Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees).

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:40 pm.

Chairman