

**Minutes of the Shevington Parish Council
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Held 2 November 2017
7.00pm Shevington Library**

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

Co-opted Committee Members: Mrs E Longmore, Mr B Lomas and Mrs J Brown.
Five members of the public.

In Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk to the Council)

1. Apologies

Cllrs C Miles and A Bland
Mr B King and Mr D Crook

2. Declaration of Interests

Cllr W McKnight w.r.t. Item 5 (*potential future DPI*).

**3. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
(5 October 2017)**

Approval of the minutes was deferred subject to the clarification of an element of Item 5.

4. Village Issues

Wigan Council By-Election

Cllr Damian Edwardson had tendered his resignation to Wigan Council. As this was with immediate effect, a by-election would be held on 14 December. This meant that the Parish Council meeting would have to take place at an alternative venue.

Vicarage Lane Fields Development Working Party

The working party and the Clerk had met on Saturday, 28 October to tour the Fields. Several suggestions in relation to future development had been made during the tour. The working party will meet again in the New Year to discuss these further.

Co-op Car Park Traffic Issues

Concern was expressed about traffic issues being created in Gathurst Lane by cars attempting to enter the Co-op car park, particularly when it was full. The Chairman would raise the matter with the Police.

Police Presence

It was reported that the Police were planning to be very visible in the area over the coming weekend.

Large Poppies in Standish and Other Areas

A member observed that large poppies had appeared in the centre of Standish and in several other areas of the Borough. Another member reported that they were being provided by an organisation independent of Wigan Council.

Appley Bridge in Bloom

It was reported that 'Edible Appley Bridge' had been awarded Level 3 'Advancing'. The result for Appley Bridge in Bloom's entry was still awaiting confirmation, pending information to be supplied to the judges by the LA's 'In Bloom' Co-ordinator.

Expressions of Sympathy

A member thanked the Committee for the expressions of sympathy he had received from the Parish Council on his recent loss.

Enquiry from 'Newsdesk'

The local Press had been seeking information about the additional names to be included on the War Memorial and when this would happen. They had been informed that this was something for a future date.

Councillor's Role at the Remembrance Sunday Service

In reply to a question from a member, the Parish Councillor's role during the Service on Remembrance Sunday was discussed. The Clerk informed the meeting that the Minister was responsible for arranging the Service and would provide the Parish Councillor with his reading on the day.

Provision of Food Bin Bags

Concerns raised about the lack of provision of food bin bags by Shevington Library were discussed. The Chairman would bring the matter up with the District Councillors.

Vicarage Lane Fields Allotments

It was reported that sufficient funding had now been secured for the fencing. The area allocated to the allotments had been marked out and would need to be verified by the Parish Council. However, the allotments society did not wish to have the future responsibility of maintaining the hedge.

Mrs J Brown joined the meeting.

New Bin Near the Junction of Longbrook with High Park

Permission has been received from the LA's Highways Department for the new bin to be located on the public footway near the junction of Longbrook with High Park. The permission had been accompanied by very strict instructions with respect to its positioning.

Damaged Barrier Near the Southbound Entrance at J27

Highways England and Lancashire County Council were both responsible for different sections of the barrier. Highways England had written to say that their contractor, Balfour Beatty, would inspect and repair their section of the barrier, either soon, if the need was urgent, or within 6 months, if the need was not urgent. Lancashire County Council had written to say that they would be in contact again soon about what they planned to do.

Traffic Management at J27

Highways England had written that they were aware of the issues with congestion at the southbound exit at J27 at certain times of day and were working with TfGM to find

a solution. They anticipated that their feasibility study in relation to the extension of traffic controls to the whole junction would finish at the end of 2017.

Trees in Memorial Park

Another four trees had been identified by the tree surgeon as being diseased. The LA's Trees & Woodlands Officer had been informed and would be inspecting them the following week.

Drainage Work in Church Lane

Following further investigation of the drainage systems in Church Lane, it had been decided that the manhole behind the Christmas tree pit would not undergo repairs. Instead it would be the manhole in Memorial Park that would be repaired and re-connected to the drainage system in Church Lane. The contractors had said that they would repair the stretch of flags from Church Lane to the play area.

5. The Future of Shevington Community Primary School Site

A group of residents representing various agencies such as PPG, Dementia Care, the Community Association, the Parish Council and Local Councillors had met the previous week to discuss the future of the school site. Their preferred option was to create an imaginative all-age group facility for the community, with a bias towards care for the elderly and vulnerable.

It had been agreed that the first step to be taken would involve a consultation of residents. The consultation would come from the community and it was hoped that the Parish Council would be willing to fund the publication and distribution of the consultation leaflet. A copy of the proposed leaflet had been previously circulated. An updated version was circulated at the meeting. The contents of the leaflet were discussed.

Resolved: The Committee agreed to the consultation and the contents of the leaflet.

6. SLCC Training Day Report: The Advantages of Social Media

The previously circulated report on the advantages of Social Media was received and its contents were noted.

7. Social Media Guidance

The guidance document prepared by the working party designated to look into this matter was considered.

Resolved: The Guidelines on Best Practice in the Use of Social Media were adopted.

8. Shevington United Charities

The working party were continuing their research into Shevington United Charities and had made recommendations with respect to the way forward. These were discussed briefly.

Resolved: The Committee agreed the following:

1. Advice would be sought from the Charity Commission about several issues the working party had identified. The letter would be sent from the Clerk.
2. M&G Securities would be contacted to try to establish the status of the Charibonds held by Shevington United Charities.
3. Attempts to contact Mr Tony Boylan would continue.
4. Lancashire County Council's policy on Green Belt land and development in the Green Belt would be investigated

9. November Newsletter

The text for the November edition of the newsletter was discussed. Outstanding items would be forwarded to the Clerk in time for inclusion. The retraction to the text in the September newsletter relating to the safety of the route taken by children travelling from Shevington to Shevington Vale that had been disputed by the LA's Education Department was discussed at length.

Resolved: The text for the November edition of the newsletter was approved. A retraction of the disputed text would not be published, as the statement made by the Chairman in the September edition of the newsletter had been accurate.

10. Planning Homes in the Right Places – A Government Consultation

Mr B King's report was received and discussed. *See Appendix A.*

Resolved: That the comments in response to the Consultation would be conveyed to the Department for Communities and Local Government and also sent to the Lancashire Association of Local Councils.

11. Standish Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

Mr B King's report was received and discussed. *See Appendix B.*

Resolved: Standish Voice would be congratulated on producing the first draft of their Neighbourhood Plan for Standish. Comments on policies 2.1, 3.1 and 4.3 (which mainly related to account of links between the policies and adjoining areas such as Shevington not being taken) would be forwarded in response to the consultation.

12. WLBC Consultation on Future CIL Expenditure

Mr B King's report was received and discussed. *See Appendix C.*

Resolved: The Committee noted West Lancashire Borough Council's options. No comments would be made about the shortlisted schemes. The Committee also noted that an Appley Bridge Park and Ride scheme was included in the Infrastructure Delivery Schedule. A request would be made for details about how and when this scheme would be funded.

13. Planning Applications

There were no new planning applications to consider.

14. Dates of Next Meetings

Council: 30 November.

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7:45 pm.

Chairman