

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting
Held Thursday 4 May 2017
7:00 pm St Bernadette's School Hall**

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

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

No members of the public.

Officer in Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllr K Shaw and Mr B King.

2. Declaration of Interests

None.

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

Resolved: The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 6 April 2017 were approved as a true and correct record.

4. Village Issues

Mowing in Memorial Park

The grass in the main body of Memorial Park had been cut earlier in the day. A member observed that the quality of the cut had been a disgrace. The Clerk advised that, because of circumstances beyond the control of the contractor, this had been the first occasion on which the workforce had been able to access areas other than the Memorial Garden and the first cut had proved more difficult to undertake. The Clerk was asked to speak to the contractor.

Break-in at the Hairdressers

It was reported that one of the hairdressers in Broad O'th Lane had been broken into on Monday night.

Mrs E Longmore joined the meeting.

Committee Member

A co-opted Committee member provided an update on Mr King's health. A card would be sent to him to wish him well.

Station Adoption

The Clerk explained the current position with respect to station adoption in reply to questions from a Co-opted Committee member, who observed that the Council might wish to consider whether money being spent on stations that were outside the Parish might be better spent on other projects that were within the Parish. A councillor explained the background and history behind the reasons for maintaining the position of station adopter.

Provision of a Bin on the Canal Towpath

It was reported that there were no bins along the canal towpath between Herons Wharf and Croke Village. The difficulties surrounding the provision and, more importantly, servicing of bins along the canal towpath were discussed.

Ownership of the Strip of Land at the Entrance to Forest Fold

A member requested that, if possible, the ownership of the strip of land at the entrance to Forest Fold should be established before the May Council meeting.

Wall at Forest Fold

The condition of the wall at Forest Fold was discussed. The Clerk reported that much of the damage was the result of vehicles driving into the wall. Some sections of the wall had been hit numerous times and it was suggested that perhaps an insurance claim for the repair work should be submitted. One quotation for the work had already been obtained. It would be necessary, under financial regulations and rules related to insurance claims, to obtain at least one further quote.

Allotments Working Party

It was reported that the changes to the tenancy agreement approved by the Council in February had been made and that information about the possibility of setting up a Tenants' Association had been included in the letter circulated to tenants. The Allotments Working Party had met the previous evening and had discussed the re-instatement of the gate.

Stall at Shevington Sharks 'Fun Day'

The possibility of booking a stall at Shevington Sharks 'Fun Day' as part of the consultation over the improvements to Memorial Park was raised and briefly discussed. This would be an item on the agenda of the Council meeting in May.

Resident's Enquiry

The Chair reported that she had received a telephone call from a resident who had been trying to contact the Clerk to raise an enquiry. During the conversation it had emerged that the enquiry was not related to matters that were the business of the Parish Council.

Pothole in Shevington Methodist Church Car Park

Peter Hollinrake of Wigan Council had inspected the pothole in the Methodist Church car park and, it was reported, had decided that, because the pothole was encroaching into the footpath, it was a Wigan Council project.

Vicarage Lane Fields

The representative of the football and rugby clubs had reported that he was still trying to meet the criteria necessary to fulfil Sport England requirements in order to enable them to give their permission for work on the project to start. A pre-start meeting had been scheduled for the following week and he hoped that criteria would have been met by then.

Co-op Community Partnership

Shevington Sharks had been successful in their bid for the selection of the Vicarage Lane project as one of the three choices for Co-op Community funding. There were three grants available and residents who were members of the Co-op were eligible to vote on how the grants should be allocated.

Bus Services Bill

Mr B King had sent a report informing the Committee that the Bus Services Bill had received Royal Assent on 27 April. An amendment to the Bill prohibited local authorities from having any involvement in setting up a local bus company. It was not clear how this would affect the small number of existing local authority companies (like Warrington and Blackpool) or whether it related just to the setting up of new companies.

5. Neighbourhood Planning Bill

Mr B King's report was received. He had reported that the Bill received Royal Assent on 27 April.

One major change in the Bill included the removal of any planning permission (which had been granted via a Development Order) for development which consisted of a change in the use of any building or land in England from a use within Class A4 (drinking establishments) to a use of a kind specified in the order.

Further to this, it removed any planning permission that was granted by a Development Order for a building operation consisting of the demolition of a building in England that "is used, or was last used, for a purpose within Class A4 or for a purpose including use within that class".

There would be subsequent changes to planning regulations which currently allowed certain changes of use from drinking establishments to other uses without the need for planning permission.

6. Memorial Bench Location

Two suggested locations for the bench in memory of Eddy Evans were considered.

Resolved: The Committee gave permission for the memorial bench to be installed on a base in the Memorial Garden between the maple tree and one of the new beech trees at the Church Lane end of the Garden.

7. May Newsletter

The text for the May newsletter was discussed. One or two amendments were made.

Resolved: The text for the May newsletter was approved, subject to the amendments agreed.

8. Displaying Co-opted Committee Members' Registers of Interests on the Website

The need to display Co-opted Committee Members' registers of interests on the website was discussed. There was no legal requirement for this to happen. The Clerk was asked to establish definitively whether Co-opted Committee members were required by law to complete registers of interests.

Resolved: The registers of interests of Co-opted Committee members would not be displayed on the Parish Council's website.

Two members asked if they could have a copy of the letter from Democratic Services requesting that members' registers of interests to be updated.

9. Planning Applications

- **Grant of Liquor Licence for Premises in Church Lane**

It had been reported during the April meeting that the liquor licence had been granted with restrictions. A member who asked a question about the nature of the restrictions was advised that they were in connection with CCTV apparatus.

- **A/16/83350/HHRET: 73 Shevington Moor – to retain single storey domestic outbuilding in rear garden and erect 2m high timber gates with access from Oaklea**

Retrospective consent was granted for the outbuilding earlier in the year. It was brought to the Council's attention that the premises were intended for domestic use, but there were indications that business activities could be taking place. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the matter would be looked into.

10. Dates of Next Meetings

25 May (Annual Meeting of the Council, followed by the Ordinary Meeting of the Council);

1 June (Policy & General Purposes Committee, followed by Finance Committee)

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:58pm.

Chairman