

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council  
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting  
Held Thursday 6 April 2017  
7:00 pm Shevington Library**

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

Co-opted Committee members: Mrs E Longmore.

Mr S Keane, Acting Manager of Wigan Bus Station, and Mr J Nairn, the Project Manager, were present for Item Nos.1-3.

Three members of the public.

**Officer in Attendance:** Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

The Chair welcomed everyone and introduced the visitors: Mr S Keane and Mr J Nairn.

### **1. Apologies**

Cllrs K Shaw and C Miles  
Mr B King

### **2. Declaration of Interests**

Cllr W McKnight w.r.t. Item 6 (*DPI*) and Item 13 (*DPI*).

*Standing Orders were suspended.*

### **3. Temporary Closure of Wigan Bus Station**

Mr Keane began by telling the Committee that the present bus station was completed in 1987 and explaining the reasons for upgrading it. Some time ago successful applications had been made to central government for funding towards three bus station developments in the Greater Manchester area – Wigan had been one of them.

TfGM had been working on options for the bus station since 2014. The work on the design had been completed and the team were in the process of appointing a contractor. Hopefully, construction will begin this Summer, with a view to completion by the end of 2018.

The new facility would see the introduction of a variety of improvements:

- At present the toilets were looked after by the LA – in future TfGM would maintain them.
- There would be automatic doors.

- The route between the Learning Centre and the bus station would house a public realm area.
- There would be a brand new carriageway and signals.

TfGM had considered a number of options for the construction time-table and the process. A decision was made to close the whole site for the duration because it meant that the work would take less time, which meant that there would be less disruption.

The Committee discussed the implications of the project with Mr Keane and Mr Nairn, who assured them that access to the businesses that were located around the bus station - and depended on footfall via the facility - would be maintained.

The bus station handled approximately 1,000 departures per day. The locations of many of the temporary bus stops to be used during the closure were still being negotiated. Operators were working on re-routing and re-scheduling services in such a way as to create the least possible inconvenience to the public.

The 640/641 and the 635 were the routes that served the Parish. The 640/641 terminus would be outside 'Unite the Union' in Hallgate, while that for the 635 would be in Parsons Walk. The Parish Council would be updated once systems were in place.

The fencing had been accidentally omitted from the artist's impression of the new bus station, but this had now been rectified in the final design.

There would be a temporary Travel Shop in Hallgate, pending the completion of the construction of a new one.

Once the locations of the temporary bus stops had been agreed there would be press releases, which would include information packs and maps containing relevant information.

The Chair thanked Mr Keane and Mr Nairn for coming and for their input.

*Standing Orders were re-instated and Mr Keane and Mr Nairn left the meeting.*

#### **4. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting (2 March 2017)**

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 2 February were approved as a true and correct record.

*Item 9 was brought forward and taken at this point in the meeting.*

#### **5. Village Issues**

##### **Appley Bridge in Bloom Forest Fold Project**

It was reported that the orchard had been planted. There had been concerns that there could be issues with the grass cutting, but the first cut had recently been taken

by the contractor and there did not seem to have been any problems. A plan of the locations of the raised beds was in the process of being prepared.

#### **Potholes in the Surgery Car Park**

A member observed that she had intended to once again raise this issue with the representative to the PPG at this meeting but, due to the absence of the representative, she was unable to do this.

#### **Clearing of Litter**

The Caretaker had gone down to Memorial Park at no notice on Tuesday and cleared the litter that had been created by the events of the previous day. The Chair expressed her gratitude to him for doing this.

#### **Forest Fold Site Maintenance**

A member observed that the grass at Forest Fold had not been collected after being cut recently and it looked very unsightly. He was advised that 'cut & collect' was not included in the contract – the contractor was employed to cut only - and the aftermath of the first cut always looked worse than it did after later cuts because of the very vigorous Spring growth. However, the contract would soon be due for renewal and the specification could be reviewed before that.

#### **Apology**

A member apologised unreservedly to another member for comments made during the Council meeting in March. Although the comments were made in jest, they were inappropriate for a Council meeting. The other member accepted the apology.

#### **Car Parking Along Miles Lane**

A member reported that there was very little car parking along Miles Lane now that the school holidays were in progress, except on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in the vicinity of the hairdressers.

#### **Application for Liquor Licence**

The application for a Liquor Licence for a business in Church Lane had been granted. There were a few conditions attached, mainly in connection with CCTV cameras.

*Cllr W McKnight left the meeting.*

## **6. Memorial Park Drainage Project**

Mr I Clemow of NPS has been instructed to prepare a scheme on which applications for grant funding for work needed in Memorial Park should be based and had met with the Clerk to discuss the issues and his requirements with respect to the information that he would need. The Committee would return to this matter once Mr Clemow was in a position to report back.

Meanwhile, since the Annual Parish Meeting some members had been canvassing support from residents for the project and had gathered at least 50 signatures. This process would continue.

## **7. Rail Services Update**

The latest update from OPSTA on rail services in the area was circulated with the Clerk's Report to the March Council meeting. The report was received and its contents were noted.

## **8. Drainage Issues in the Vicinity of Shevington Scout Hut**

Several weeks ago the Clerk had been contacted by the owner of the property in Miles Lane that adjoined the entrance to Forest Fold on the Shevington side of its junction with Miles Lane. It seemed that surface water from the Scout Hut car park has been entering his garage and causing damage. As the land in question was owned by Shevington Scouts, the Clerk forwarded the enquiry to one of the Scout Leaders, who set up lines of enquiry. He had copied the Clerk into his correspondence with the resident, other Scout Leaders and with Wigan Council.

There are a couple of issues that were contributing to the resident's problems:

- (a) On occasions of heavy rain water flowed downhill from the bowling green car park and crossed the road into the Scout Hut car park.
- (b) There appeared to be no proper drainage in the road and the only drain in the vicinity, which was located at the boundary of the road and the Scout Hut car park seemed to be both blocked and damaged.

The Parish Council leased the land at Forest Fold from Wigan Council, but the road was not included in the lease. The LA's Highways Department had advised that the road was unadopted and, therefore, its maintenance was the responsibility of the owners of the properties at the top of the road, in the deeds of which shared ownership of the road was included.

The issues were discussed. It was suggested that perhaps Wigan Council could be approached about replacing the fresh rawl planings they had accidentally removed when they had removed waste they had temporarily deposited in the car park whilst carrying out works behind Broadriding Road. Some members were of the view that the rawl planings might slow the flow of water through the car park.

The Clerk would be meeting with a representative of Shevington Scouts and the owner of the affected domestic property to discuss the matter further.

*The item below was taken before Item 5.*

*Standing Orders were suspended.*

## **9. Policing of the Village**

A resident described her experiences in the Memorial Park play area in dealing with and reporting the intimidating behaviour of a group of unruly young people earlier in the week.

The resident was visiting the play area with her two year old grandchild at tea time on Monday. Also present in the play area was a group of teenagers, with bicycles, who were behaving badly. They were abusing the play equipment and other users and lighting fires – the Fire Brigade had to be called to deal with the latter. The resident had reported the incident to the Police on 101 and had also called 999, but no one came. She had since heard that the Police had attended later that evening.

The resident had challenged the gang, two of whom had then followed her home to ascertain where she lived. The group were in the play area again the previous day.

Strategies used by the Police in Orrell to deter potential offenders were discussed. The fact that there was no visible Police presence in the Parish – the area did not even have a PCSO – meant that there was no deterrent in the area.

The Clerk would write a very strong letter to the Police about the issues residents were currently experiencing. (The resident gave permission for her name to be quoted in relation to her experiences.) The District Councillors were also to be approached. What was needed was mediation with the young people.

Communications from Dist Cllr Paul Collins and Chief Constable Rob Potts about policing the local community were received. The communications principally covered dealing with suspicions of involvement in terrorism and with anti-social behaviour. Their contents were noted.

*Standing Orders were re-instated.*

## **10. Protocol for Referring Matters to Other Agencies**

There were many issues that residents and members could deal with themselves either directly or by taking them to the District Councillors. Instead, they were often presented to the Council and its committees and delegated to the Clerk to deal with. The Chair asked members to, in future, use their discretion and consider whether a matter needed to be brought before the Council or one of its committees.

*Item 12 was brought forward and taken at this point.*

## **11. Vicarage Lane Fields Matters**

### **Drainage**

Some of the documents relating to the Flood Risk Assessment and plans for the drainage of the sports fields submitted by Mr Steve Bates to the Planning Department had been previously circulated and were considered. The Planning Department had accepted and approved them. This had enabled Mr Bates to apply for the discharge of Condition 5 of the Planning Consent.

Members noted this information.

### **Car Park**

The plans for the construction for the car park at Vicarage Lane Fields were reviewed and discussed at length.

**Resolved:** The plans for the construction of the car park and the gate were approved.

The submission of these to the Planning Department would contribute towards an application for the discharge of Condition 3 of the Planning Consent.

### **Discharge of Condition 6**

In order to apply for the discharge of Condition 6 of the Planning Consent the Parish Council would have to prepare a scheme of additional landscape planting (to be implemented within a specified timescale) which would have to be submitted to the Planning Department for their approval. This was discussed.

**Resolved:** The Clerk was instructed to approach Harris Consulting about the possibility of preparing a suitable landscaping scheme, which would include the introduction of footpaths and fencing at the Northern end of the site.

*The Item below was taken before Item 11.*

## **12. Bowling Club Request**

Shevington Village Bowling Club had asked for permission to install a solar powered light on the exterior of the storage pavilion at the bowling green. This was to provide lighting along the route from the bowling club pavilion to the toilets and the exit to the site on darker evenings. The bowling club would fund the light and its installation. The request was discussed.

**Resolved:** The Committee approved the installation of suitable solar powered lighting on the storage pavilion, subject to the appliance including a motion sensor and a switch.

## **13. Planning Applications**

- **A/17/83860/LA: to erect a single storey detached temporary classroom building at Shevington Vale Community Primary School, Appley Bridge**  
The application was noted.

## **14. Dates of Next Meetings**

27 April (Council); 4 May (Policy & General Purposes Committee).

As the next Committee meeting clashed with polling day for local elections, it was agreed that an alternative venue (either St Anne's Parish Centre or St Bernadette's School Hall) should be arranged.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:34 pm.

**Chairman**