

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council  
Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting  
Held Wednesday, 6 December 2023  
7pm - The Community Centre at Vicarage Lane Fields**

**Present:** Councillor Jessica Diggle (Vice Chairman), Councillors John Whiteley, Michael Grimes and Helen Thompson; Councillor Christopher Horridge (via MS Teams)

Co-opted Committee Members: Mr David Crook and Mr Brian Lomas

No members of the public

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

## **1. Apologies**

Cllrs Janet Brown, Mike Crosby and Bill McKnight  
Mrs Ira Whiteley, Mrs Eileen Longmore and Mr Charlie Neve

## **2. Declaration of Interests**

None

## **3. Village Issues**

### **Hedge at Whiteacre Park**

A Co-opted Committee member reported that the hedge at Whiteacre Park had only been pruned on one side. In addition to this the hedge of a neighbouring property was also overgrown. The Clerk was asked to draw this to the enforcement officer's attention.

### **Trees at the End of Central Drive**

Another member reported that the trees of a property at the end of Central Drive, Shevington were also in need of being cut back, as they were overhanging the footpath. The residents had been advised to report them to the Enforcement Team at Wigan Council.

### **Potholes**

Members discussed the large number of potholes in need of attention at various locations throughout the Parish.

### **Christmas Decorations**

Members reported that they had received good reports about the Christmas trees and the other decorations this year. One member reported that one of the motifs opposite the car park in Gathurst Lane had been switched on all day.

### **Gulleys in Broad O'th Lane**

The gulleys between AB Hardware and the bus stop in Broad O'th Lane were holding a great deal of water, which was spilling over to create large puddles on the pavement. A member who had looked into this reported that they seemed to have been blocked by operatives carrying out tarmacking or concreting.

### **Miles Lane Building Site Overspill Refuse**

A roadsweeper was being used at night to remove the overspill refuse from surrounding road surfaces. It was observed that this was insufficient and that a roadsweeper was needed during the day. This would be brought to the attention of the Project Manager.

## **4. Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting (1 November 2023)**

**Resolved:** The Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 1 November 2023 were approved as a true and correct record.

## **5. Review of Outstanding Work Identified During Annual Inspection**

The Committee reviewed progress with maintenance work identified during the Annual Inspection of Property. Most items had been addressed or were in the process of being addressed. For budgetary reasons some items would only be addressed in the next financial year.

A member reported that there was moss on the paving slabs near the northern entrance to Memorial Park and asked if the Caretaker could be asked to remove it.

In reply to a question a member responded that the Expression of Interest in the Community Ownership Fund would soon be ready for submission. There were just one or two elements of it to complete. Should the Council be invited to apply, it was anticipated that an application could be submitted in about six months' time.

## **6. Xmas Tree Fencing**

A report in relation to the possibilities with regard to security fencing for the Christmas trees was received and discussed.

**Resolved:** It was agreed that costings for refurbishing the existing Heras fencing (if feasible) should be obtained.

## **7. Christmas Shop-Front Competition Results**

Cllr Helen Thompson reported on the judging of the Christmas shop fronts and made her recommendations for first, second and third prizes.

**Resolved:** The Committee approved the following:

First Prize – Appley Blossom

Second Prize – Barnet Fayre

Third Prize – Jordan's Fish & Chips

No shop fronts had been selected for the 'highly commended' category this year.

## **8. January Newsletter**

The newsletter was due to be published and begin circulation on 3 January 2024. The text received so far had been previously circulated. The Clerk reported that she had recently received an article about a parking enforcement session in Shevington village centre carried out by an enforcement officer, PCSOs and members of Wigan Council's Neighbourhood team.

During the discussion it was suggested that an item about where to get bus passes endorsed for travel on trams and trains in Greater Manchester should also be included.

**Resolved:** The text for the January edition of the newsletter was approved.

## **9. Transport Strategy Consultation**

Wigan Council were currently consulting on the new draft Wigan Transport Strategy. The deadline for responses was on Monday, 18 December 2023. The aim was to provide robust and credible evidence on transport for the review of the new Wigan Local Plan. Feedback would be used to inform a final version of the Strategy, which the Planning Department at Wigan intended to put forward for formal adoption during 2024.

During the discussion it was observed that much of the focus of the consultation was on walking and cycling in the Borough.

**Resolved:** The consultation on Transport Strategy was noted.

## **10. Planning Applications**

None.

## **11. Dates of Next Meetings**

24 January (Finance Committee followed by Council)

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 7:40 pm.

**Chairman**