

**Minutes of the Shevington Parish Council
Policy Committee Meeting
Held 5 May 2016
7.00pm St Anne's Parish Centre**

Present: Councillor I Whiteley (Chairperson), Councillors J Ball, C Horridge and C Miles.

Co-opted Committee Members: Mrs E Longmore, Mr B Lomas and Mr B King (non-voting).

No members of the public.

Officer in Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs W McKnight, K Shaw and J Fletcher.

2. Declaration of Interests

None.

3. Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting (7 April 2016)

The previously circulated minutes were considered.

Resolved: The Minutes of the Parish Council Policy Committee Meeting of 7 April 2016 were approved as a true and correct record.

4. Village Issues

Litter Bins

A member for West Ward reported that more litter bins were needed in Appley Bridge. There was no bin in the area in front of Woodnook Shops. The Clerk would forward a request to Wigan Council and to the District Councillors.

Bin at Bus Stop Outside Paradise Farm

About four years ago Wigan Council had fitted a bin beside the bus stop outside Paradise Farm in Shevington Lane. Last year the bin was moved to a location further along the road despite the fact that the bus stop was used by pupils from Shevington High School and needed somewhere to dispose of their litter. The Clerk would look into the possibility of the bin being re-instated.

Wigan Bus Station

The Council had received a letter from TfGM informing them that planning permission for the new bus station had been approved. A member reported that she had heard that the bus station would be closed for eighteen months so that the work could be carried out, but arrangements had been made to ensure that no buses would be withdrawn.

Station Adoption

Arriva Rail North, the new franchisee, had dismissed all Scale 1 station adopters with effect from 30 April. In future the work done by the Scale 1 adopters would be carried out by Corillion, the contractors who were responsible for sweeping and cleaning the stations. The Clerk was asked to write to Arriva to find out what expectations they had for community involvement.

Railway Carriages

Mr B King reminded the Committee that he had learnt that the new trains that Arriva Rail North were going to introduce were longer than the existing trains and, therefore, probably would not be able to use Appley Bridge station or many of the other stations along the Manchester to Southport line. In view of this, they would probably just be used on the premium routes. It was likely that, at best, the Southport to Manchester route would be the beneficiary of refurbished trains.

Mr B Lomas joined the meeting.

Rear Gates in Shevington Moor

In reply to a question from a Co-opted Committee member, the Clerk informed the Committee that to date she had not heard anything about her enquiry with regard to the introduction of unofficial back gates to properties in Shevington Moor.

5. Grant Funding for Memorial Park and the Woodland

A previously circulated report from Mr B Lomas covering possible funding streams and making recommendations for managing the process was received and discussed. The suggestion that a Working Party, to include Mr B King, Mr B Lomas, Cllr W McKnight, Mr K Topping (assuming they were agreeable), John Harris and a member of the public, should be set up was considered: the role of the Parish Council was to generate the vision and delegate the work of delivering the project to the Working Party.

Resolved: Ideas would be submitted to Mr B Lomas (with copies sent to the Clerk) as soon as possible and a Working Party would be set up at an appropriate time.

An Extra-Ordinary meeting of the Policy Committee would be arranged for a date in September to discuss the project.

6. Bus Service Changes

Mr B King's report, which covered Route 3A, Route 635 and the Ring & Ride service, was received and discussed.

Service 3A

It had recently been announced that the service covering Route 3A would be extended to include Wrightington Hospital. The Clerk would write to Lancashire County Council to establish when the extension would come into effect and the route that it would take through Appley Bridge.

No.635

Several residents of Back Lane had attended last week's Council meeting to raise a number of concerns surrounding the handling of complaints by other residents about

the activities of buses serving the No.635 route. During the meeting it had become apparent that many residents wished the bus stop near Glen Drive to remain in service and felt that they should have been consulted by the Parish Council before a decision was made to write to the service provider about issues raised by other residents. The Operations Manager of Diamond Bus had been present at the meeting and had allayed their fears by explaining their medium term plans for the route.

Ring & Ride

The rules for registering for the Ring & Ride service had changed, resulting in many people, who would have previously been eligible, in being excluded. Fares had been revised and increased. TfGM had not consulted over any of the changes. The Clerk would write to TfGM to raise concerns about the lack of consultation. Information about the new Ring & Ride rules would be included in the newsletter, on the Parish Council website and on the notice boards.

7. May Newsletter

The contents of the May newsletter, as agreed by the Committee in April, and the proof copy, as circulated at this meeting, were reviewed. The following changes were made:

- The update on developments in relation to ABCAGE would be removed;
- Articles on 'Changes to Ring & Ride Rules' and an Appley Bridge in Bloom fundraising event were to be included;
- The vacancy for a Parish Caretaker would be repeated.

Resolved: Subject to the above changes, the May newsletter was approved for publication.

8. Judgement of Court of Appeal on Relevant Policies for the Supply of Housing

Mr B King updated members on the report considered by the Policy Committee on 7 April. As a result of a Court of Appeal decision any authority without a five year supply of deliverable housing land would have to consider whether Green Belt and other policies were constraining the supply of housing land.

Cheshire East Council were now seeking a Supreme Court ruling on the Court of Appeal's decision. This would be a joint action with Suffolk Coastal District Council. If the two LAs were granted leave to appeal against the Court of Appeal's interpretation of paragraph 49 of the National Planning Policy Framework, this case was likely to be heard by the Supreme Court later this summer.

Resolved: The Committee noted the update.

9. Consultation on Starter Homes

Responses to the consultation were considered. Mr B King reported that

- it had been difficult to decide on responses, as the form of the Housing & Planning Bill had not yet been finalised and

- the list of amendments to the Bill agreed by the House of Lords had just been published.

Resolved: The responses were approved for submission to the DCLG. An observation about the difficulties encountered in making responses and the reason behind this would be added to the comments.

10. Financial Aid Applications

None.

Mr B Lomas left the meeting.

11. Planning Applications

- **LCC 08/13/0140: The installation and operation of a 5MW bio-liquid to power generation facility. Railway Pad, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge**

The Parish Council had forwarded several questions to representatives of ABCAGE, who had agreed to put them to LCC at a meeting with their planning officers. To date replies to those questions had not been received.

Resolved: If no response had been received by the end of the next week, the Clerk would put the questions directly to LCC in a letter from the Parish Council.

12. Dates of Next Meetings

26 May (Annual Meeting of the Council, followed by the Ordinary Meeting of the Council); 2 June (General Purposes & Finance Committees)

There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the Meeting at 8:25 pm.

Chairperson