

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shevington Parish Council
Held Wednesday 24 January 2024
7:30pm – The Community Centre at Vicarage Lane Fields**

Present: Councillor William McKnight (Chairman), Councillors John Whiteley, Michael Grimes, Christopher Horridge, Janet Brown and Helen Thompson; Councillor Jessica Diggle (via MS Teams)
Two members of the public

Officer in Attendance: Mrs Krystyna Pilkington (Clerk)

141 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mike Crosby

142 Declaration of Interests

Cllr John Whiteley w.r.t. Item No.155 (c) (*personal*)
Cllr Jessica Diggle w.r.t. Item No.155 (c) (*personal & prejudicial*)
Cllr Chris Horridge w.r.t. Item No.155 (b) (*personal*)

At this point the Chairman wished everyone a 'Happy New Year' and apologised for not doing this earlier in the meeting.

Standing Orders were suspended.

143 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Recognition of Dr John Stuart Surman

Following the failure to have a road in the Parish named after him in the near future, a resident wished to ask the Parish Council if they would be willing to support an initiative whereby perhaps a tree could be planted in his memory. It was suggested that a good location might be near the old surgery building, where it might replace the tree that was vandalised in 2023. The subject was discussed briefly and would need to undergo further discussion as part of a future agenda item.

Groewood Drive Issue

A resident had written to the Clerk to raise concerns about the frequency with which the wagons of a local concrete company – based in Appley Bridge – had been using Groewood Drive to access Woodnook Road from Park Hey Drive. This seemed to be about two or three times a day. Following a short discussion the Clerk was asked to write to the company to try to establish why this was happening.

144 District Councillors' Reports

There were no reports from District Councillors.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

145 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council (29 November 2023)

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 29 November 2023, were approved as a true and correct record.

146 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that:

A resident of Back Lane had raised concerns about the poor lighting near her property. It was often diminished by overgrown tree branches, which obscured the heads of lamp standards. Ideally, the resident would appreciate it if a street light were to be introduced near her property. The Chairman had passed the enquiry on to Dist Cllr Mike Crosby to deal with.

On Remembrance Sunday he had laid a wreath on behalf of the residents of the Parish at the War Memorial in Shevington.

147 Reports from Councillors

There were no reports from Parish Councillors.

148 Reports from Representatives

Crooke Village Residents' Association

The representative was not able to be present at the meeting and had sent a copy of his most recent report to the CVRA. This report had been previously circulated and included a summary of recent reports made to the Parish Council about Crooke matters. Two issues were highlighted for a follow-up and were discussed by the Parish Council:

(a) As a result of agreement at the CVRA meeting on 10 October 2023, an email had been sent to Mr Peter Collins, the Project Manager for the re-development of the site of the former Shevington Community Primary School on Miles Lane, in which a request was made for free community work to be undertaken by the developer.

The following projects had been proposed:

- Rebuilding of the compost area.
- Fencing of the third edge of Crooke Green with the same railings and posts as the other two sides.
- Repairing of the pavement from 101 to 113 Crooke Road.
- Tarmacking of the unadopted roads in Crooke Village.

However, after an initial response, Mr Collins had not responded to further emails. The Clerk was asked to submit an enquiry about progress with the above projects to Mr Collins. As the Parish Council were not satisfied with the way that the developer was maintaining the public highway in the vicinity the development, Mr Collins and M&Y's site manager were to be invited to attend a future meeting of the Parish Council.

(b) The matter of the missing bench in Crooke Park/Field remained unresolved.

Cllr Jess Diggle joined the meeting.

Shevington Youth Club

The Youth Club had recently won the Mel Diack award and would receive £500 for youth activities.

Patient Participation Group

The representative reported that the AGM was due to take place in February, when, amongst other things, the group would be looking at what more the PPG could do to be actively involved in the development of the Surgery.

Shevington Fete

It was reported that stall bookings were going fast.

Friends of Shevington Memorial Park

The FSMP had met recently and had decided that they would like to hold a Family Fun Day again in Shevington Memorial Park at the end of August. Permission for this would be considered at a future Parish Council meeting.

A member asked whether there had been any progress with the Community Ownership Fund application. Another member reported that the Council's expression of interest had been submitted and accepted. As a consequence the Council had been invited to submit a bid during one of the windows in 2024. The Clerk was asked to establish the date of the deadline for submissions during the next window.

There were no reports from

Shevington & District Community Association

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

'in Bloom' Groups

Vicarage Lane Fields Developments

Vicarage Lane Allotments

Forest Fold Allotment Tenants Association

149 DRAFT Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee (6 December 2023)

The previously circulated minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 6 December 2023 were received.

150 March Newsletter

The contents of the March edition of the newsletter, which was due to be published on 28 February 2024, were discussed.

Resolved: Articles about the following were approved for inclusion:

- Christmas Shop-Front Awards
- Where Can I Get My Bus Pass Endorsed for Train and Tram Travel in Greater Manchester?
- Joint Allotments' Spring Show
- Christmas Carol Service 2023
- Diabetes Support Group
- Precept 2024-25

Two members, who lived in different areas of the Parish, reported that they had not received the newsletters published in both November and January or other enclosures through Local Life when it was distributed. The Clerk was asked to raise an enquiry through Local Life.

151 Budget & Precept 2024-25

The budget and precept proposed by the Finance Committee for 2024-25 were received.

Resolved: The Council approved a budgeted expenditure of £116,607 (*including Expenditure Contingency*) and a precept of £88,926 for the financial year 2024-25, as recommended by the Finance Committee. The budgeted expenditure would be subject to adjustment throughout the year as new information was received.

152 Text for Council Tax Letter

The text included in the Council Tax letter for 2023-24 had been previously circulated for information. It was agreed that Cllr Mike Grimes would prepare the text for 2024-25.

153 Business Savings Accounts

The current rate of interest being received via the bank's Business Reserve account was discussed by the Finance Committee in December 2023. As a result the Clerk was asked to look into the rates of interest being paid via the business savings accounts available to the Parish Council at other banks.

The Clerk delivered a verbal report of her findings, which indicated that the Natwest currently provided business savings account with the highest interest rate for entities that did not wish to tie funds down for a lengthy fixed term. In view of this the Clerk was asked to explore the possibility of opening an additional Natwest account.

154 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's Report was received. *See Appendix A*

155 Financial Aid Applications

Four grant applications were considered. The Council were advised that no funds remained in this year's 'Financial Aid' cost centre, so virements from reserves would need to be approved, if they were minded to award any grants from this cost centre.

(a) Shevington Village Bowling Club

Resolved: The Council awarded a s137 grant of £250 to Shevington Village Bowling Club for materials to be used by pupils of Millbrook School, who would be painting the bowling club pavilion and creating artworks at Forest Fold bowling green before the start of the 2024 season. The Council also approved a virement

of £250 from the 'Contingency' cost centre to the 'Financial Aid' cost centre to fund the award.

(b) Allotments Societies' Joint Spring Show

Resolved: The Council awarded a s137 grant of £250 to Shevington Community Allotments Group to enable this new group to initiate and develop their Spring Show, which was a new venture. The Council also approved a virement of £250 from the 'Contingency' cost centre to the "Financial Aid" cost centre to fund the award.

Cllr Jess Diggle left the meeting.

(c) Shevington Fete

Resolved: The Council awarded a s137 grant of £1,620 to Shevington Fete, as a contribution to the event's running costs, from the 2024-25 budget.

(d) Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

Resolved: The Council awarded a s19 grant of £2,955 to the Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees towards the costs of grounds maintenance of Shevington Recreation Ground.

156 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure schedules for December and January were received.
See Appendices B and C

Resolved: That the accounts be approved, the cheques signed and internet transfers be made in payment, due notice being given to the bank statements exhibited.

157 Planning Applications

**A/23/96391/PDQ: Wood Farm Back Lane Appley Bridge Wigan WN6 9LE
Prior notification for change of use from agricultural building to 5 dwellings
(Class C3), together with alterations to elevations including insertion of windows
and Doors**

A member reported that the amended application that had been submitted and consulted upon had also been refused.

158 Next Meetings

7 February (Policy & General Purposes Committee); 28 February (Council)

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Resolved: That, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

The members of the public left the meeting.

159 Treeworks in Memorial Park

The Parish Council considered proposals from three contractors.

Resolved: The Council awarded the contract to Working Woodlands at a cost of £900.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:19 pm.

Chairman