

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors of Shevington Parish
Held Wednesday 20 March 2024
7:00pm The Community Centre at Vicarage Lane Fields**

Present: Cllr William McKnight (Chairman), Cllrs John Whiteley, Michael Grimes, Janet Brown, Helen Thompson, Christopher Horridge and Michael Crosby
Eleven members of the public

Clerk to the Parish Council: Mrs Krystyna Pilkington

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes of the Last Annual Parish Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for 2024 had been published on the Parish Council's website and had been circulated to those present.

Resolved: The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 15 March 2023 were accepted and approved as a true and correct record.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

4. Clerk's Report

The Clerk report, which had been circulated to those present and would be available to download from the website, was received. The report provided an overview of the work carried out by the Parish Council during the past year. *See Appendix A.*

Resolved: The Clerk's Report was accepted by the Annual Parish Meeting.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report was received. It would be published on the website and circulated to Council members after the meeting. *See Appendix B.*

Resolved: The Chairman's Report was accepted by the Annual Parish Meeting.

6. Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Shevington Independents' Referendum on the Parish Council

A prospective candidate for the forthcoming election of a Wigan ward councillor had recently given an interview to a reporter from the Wigan Observer. In the interview he

had announced that he intended to hold a referendum on the future of the Parish Council. A member of the public asked members of the Parish Council present what their views were on this matter.

Several of the parish councillors present recounted their past experiences of the activities of the individual in question. The Chairman expressed the view that the Parish Council needed to publicise more about what it did for its residents in order to raise awareness of its value to the local community.

Another resident asked about the process involved in dissolving a parish council. The Clerk explained that a legal process existed which had to be followed and that it took several years – not days - to complete.

7. Presentation of Community Awards

Community Service Awards were presented by the Chairman, Cllr Bill McKnight to the following:

Barrie 'Bazza' Pulford

"For spearheading fundraising activities for charitable causes (both large and small) on behalf of the Plough & Harrow pub community and organising activities to lift people's spirits during Covid."

Gerard Hurst

"In recognition of his outstanding contribution towards education within the Parish for an unbelievable 27 years. As Chair of Governors for the Shevington Federation of Primary Schools, he has provided unrelenting support through some very challenging times."

Ira Whiteley

"For her many years of service as a Parish Councillor, latterly as, first, Vice Chairman and then as Chairman. Ira has been a champion of our younger residents and was a founder member of the Friends of Shevington Memorial Park."

John Ball

"For over 30 years of service as a Parish Councillor. During this period he devoted himself to working for the greater benefit of the residents of his South Ward and the wider Parish. He served as both Vice Chairman and Chairman and was also a councillor on Wigan Council."

Mr John Ball thanked the Parish Council for his award. He informed the meeting that the award was not for him, but for the residents of the Parish, who during his time as a Parish Councillor had given him earache and used him as a mouthpiece.

Mr Ball went on to thank the members of the Parish Council for working to make Shevington a wonderful place to live and finished by saying: "be proud of what you do."

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 7:23 pm.

Chairman