

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shevington Parish Council
Held Wednesday 28 February 2024
7:30pm – The Community Centre at Vicarage Lane Fields**

Present: Councillor William McKnight (Chairman), Councillors John Whiteley, Janet Brown and Jessica Diggle
Seven members of the public

Officer in Attendance: Mrs Krystyna Pilkington (Clerk)

160 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Mike Crosby, Helen Thompson, Mike Grimes and Mike Grimes

161 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Jessica Diggle w.r.t. Item No.169 (*personal & prejudicial*)

Standing Orders were suspended.

162 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Fortieth Anniversary of Shevington Garden Club

The Chairman of Shevington Garden Club announced that the Garden Club was started forty years ago this year and asked if they could mark the anniversary by planting a new tree in Memorial Park to replace one of those damaged during Storm Pia. The Parish Council were happy to allow this as long as the tree was one that would be considered vandal proof. The Clerk would forward the Club the girth of the tree that they would need to purchase.

Sale of Tree Logs

It had been announced during the Shevington & District Community Association meeting in January that logs from the fallen trees in Memorial Park would be put on sale to residents by the tree surgeon carrying out the treeworks. It was the tree surgeon's intention to donate the funds raised to the Friends of Shevington Memorial Park. A resident asked about the outcome of this exercise.

It was explained that, because several people had decided to illicitly acquire logs from the fallen trees, the tree surgeon decided to just give away the few logs available to passers-by and no funds were raised. The only community group to benefit from the exercise were the allotmenters at Forest Fold. The small branches had been chipped and the woodchip was delivered to the bays in the lower car park at the allotments.

163 District Councillors' Reports

There were no reports from District Councillors.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

164 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council (24 January 2024)

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 24 January 2024, were approved as a true and correct record.

165 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he had a couple of issues that he wished to raise:

- The stump of the tree that had fallen across Miles Lane was still in place. It looked unsightly and needed to be removed. The Clerk would submit an enquiry to Wigan Council about when it was likely to happen.
- A petition (originally started in 2019) to hold a referendum on the Parish Council had recently been re-advertised. Based on the comments that some of those signing it had made, it was apparent that many people did not appreciate what the Council did. The Chairman suggested that an article describing the work of the Parish Council should be published in the next newsletter, which was due out in April.

166 Reports from Councillors

Parking in the Vicinity of the Extra Care Facility

A member observed that parking along the stretch of Miles Lane in the vicinity of the new Extra Care facility was creating real issues for local residents. At times it was positively dangerous, because it often blocked the sight lines for residents driving out of their driveways into the road.

Potholes

The same member reported that potholes in the area were getting increasingly deeper.

167 Reports from Representatives

Shevington & District Community Association

It was reported that all officers had been re-elected during the AGM, which had been held the previous evening. The Friends of Stockley Park had given a talk about their plan for the park. Other topics discussed included Shevington Fete and the Art Group. It was announced that The Brick were appealing for donations of old mobile phones for recycling.

Crooke Village Residents' Association

The representative reported that:

- all CVRA officers had been re-elected during the recent AGM;
- the LA's litter bin outside the Crooke Hall Inn was missing;
- one pothole had been repaired, but another had appeared;
- it was now 15 months since the bench in Crooke Park had been taken away for repair – it had still not been replaced;
- he had been trying (without success) to arrange a site meeting to discuss the possibilities with regard to the contractor working on the Extra Care development

providing support for up to four projects proposed for Crooke Village – during a discussion about the difficulties experienced in achieving engagement the Clerk was asked to write about this to the LA's Director with overall responsibility for the project;

- a workforce from the Community Payback Scheme had widened the footpaths in Crooke Park and, as a result, an opportunity had arisen for the paths to be freshly tarmacked;
- Crooke Village Garden Club might be submitting a grant application to the Parish Council;
- an offer of trees had been received from the HS2 refund project.

Shevington Youth Club

The Youth Club had held its AGM the previous Friday – all existing Committee members and officers had been re-elected.

'In Bloom' Groups

The representative reported that:

- Appley Bridge in Bloom preferred to be independent from the councils and carried out their own fundraising;
- they had recently experienced problems with squirrels digging up Spring bulbs and were looking into solutions.

During a short discussion about funding it was reported that the LA were providing grants of up to £5,000 per community group for projects. The 'in Bloom' representative advised that new groups experienced greater success in securing funding from the LA than established ones.

Forest Fold Allotments Tenants Association

The representative reported that they had spoken to the Clerk about booking the Spring skip and would confirm the dates (23 -24 March) once the rota had been finalised. In reply to a question about the location of bait boxes the Clerk advised that, unless they had been moved by tenants, the locations remained the same. The Committee had some issues that they wished to raise with the Parish Council and asked if they could arrange a meeting of the Allotments Working Group for this purpose. The Parish Council agreed to a meeting.

There were no reports from

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

Patient Participation Group

Vicarage Lane Allotments

Vicarage Lane Fields Developments

Shevington Fete

Friends of Shevington Memorial Park

168 DRAFT Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee (7 February 2024) and Finance Committee (24 January 2024)

The previously circulated minutes of the Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7 February 2024 and the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 24 January 2024 were received.

169 Shevington Fete Stall

Resolved: The Policy & General Purposes Committee's recommendation that the Parish Council should book an indoor stall at Shevington Fete for a fee of £20 was approved.

170 Bowling Green Upgrades

Some years ago the wooden slats which had the function of retaining the bowling green soil in place were removed by a past greenkeeper. In the last year or two the soil along the perimeter of the green had started to collapse because of the lack of supporting boards.

The small team of volunteers who have been co-ordinating the painting of the bowling pavilion and carrying out minor maintenance work at the bowling green had received a grant from Shevington & District Community Association towards the costs of replacing the supporting boards. They had used the grant to purchase tanalised wooden planks which they wished to install around the green before the start of the season. They would be installed in such a way that the turf would be draped over the top of the green, so that the greenkeeper's machinery was not damaged. They were of the opinion that the astroturf lining the gutters would still be usable once it had been cleaned up.

A risk assessment and method statement had been provided and the team qualified for insurance cover as volunteers under the Parish Council's policy, as there was no charge for the labour.

Resolved: The Council approved the work and gave the group of volunteers permission to carry it out.

171 Annual Parish Walk

Cllr John Whiteley reported that Mr & Mrs Gerard Hurst were delighted to be invited to plan the route for the Walk once again and had accepted. They had suggested that proceeds from the collection and sponsorship money should go to 'Guide Dogs for the Blind'.

Resolved: The Council approved 'Guide Dogs for the Blind' as the 2024 Annual Parish Walk Charity.

172 Buckingham Palace Garden Party

It was reported that King Charles III would give two Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace in 2024 to celebrate the Coronation. Lancashire & Merseyside ALC had been allocated two places (i.e. two pairs of tickets) on Tuesday, 21 May 2024. Early in February a letter had been received from the Lancashire Association of Local Councils inviting the Council to nominate the Chairman for entry into a ballot for one of the pairs of tickets. The deadline for the return of the completed nomination form had been 23 February. The Chairman had agreed to be nominated, so the completed form was duly emailed to LALC.

Resolved: The Council approved the above nomination retrospectively.

173 Clerk's Report

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

174 Financial Aid Applications

None

175 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure schedule for February was received. *See Appendix B*

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.

176 Assets Register 2023-24

Resolved: The Assets Register for 2023-24 was approved.

177 Planning Applications

None

178 Next Meetings

6 March (Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees);
20 March (Annual Parish Meeting)

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.

179 Memorial Park Grounds Maintenance Contract

Resolved: The Council awarded the contract to Envirocare MS Ltd at a cost of £4,971.

180 Bowling Green Contract

Resolved: The Council awarded the contract to Johnston's PitchCare at a cost of £5,280.

181 Community Service Awards

The Parish Council considered the four nominations submitted.

Resolved: The Council approved awards to all four nominees.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7:48 pm.

Chairman