

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors of Shevington Parish
Held Wednesday 17 March 2016
7.05pm Shevington Library**

Present: Councillor I Whiteley (Chairperson), Councillors W McKnight, J Ball, C Horridge, C Miles, K Shaw, J Calderbank, A Bland, J Fletcher
Parish Council Co-opted Committee Members:
Mrs E Longmore and Mr B King
Greater Manchester Police:
PC A Crabtree, PC S Waddington and PCSO S Whitehouse
Dist Cllr D Edwardson and 11 members of the public.

Clerk to the Parish Council: Mrs K Pilkington

Cllr I Whiteley, Chair of the Parish Council, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and explained how the meeting would be conducted.

1. Apologies

Dist Cllrs M Crosby and P Collins
Mr B Lomas

2. Minutes of the Last Annual Parish Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for 2015 had been circulated before the beginning of the meeting.

Resolved: The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 19 March 2015 were accepted 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 presented her report, which had been circulated to those present.
See Appendix A.

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

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman's report, which had been circulated to those present, was received. *See Appendix B.*

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

6. Anti-Social Behaviour in Shevington

The Chair introduced PC Alan Crabtree, PC Steve Waddington and PCSO Stacey Whitehouse, some of the team from the Greater Manchester Police force who were responsible for policing this area.

Local residents had for several months had concerns about the anti-social behaviour of gangs of young people - mostly visitors to the area – in the centre of Shevington village and the damage they had been causing. The Police engaged in discussion on the matter with those present.

The Police

- were aware of the anti-social behaviour and residents' concerns;
- had had meetings with Wigan's ASB team, but could not stop young people coming to Shevington;
- had arranged for CCTV cameras to be re-instated in Gathurst Lane and for the alley gates behind the parade of shops to be closed each night;
- had persuaded the owners of Manor Wines to ban people who sold alcohol on to under-age drinkers from the shop;
- had, together with members of the ASB team, spoken at school assemblies and put messages on social media;
- arranged for Dispersal Orders (each of which lasted a maximum of 48 hours) to be applied at appropriate times.

In addition to all of the above Wigan's ASB team were visiting the area at weekends to try to encourage the young people to go to Wigan Youth Zone.

The ASB was a Wigan-wide problem and was worse in other areas of the Borough. It tended to occur at weekends, when the Police could be called to deal with incidents in Shevington one minute and then summoned to Ashton the next. Residents were encouraged to report incidents on the 101 number, so that they could be logged – the Police would come if they could.

Residents recounted their experiences of contacting the 101 call centre:

- One resident had phoned 101 after children had kept jumping in front of her car as she drove through the centre of the village and been told by the call handler that the children were 'just playing'. She knew of several other residents who had had a similar experience.
- When another resident had reported that plants had been pulled out from planters she had been asked whether she was sure that it wasn't birds that had done it.

One draw-back of the 101 system was that it was centralised. The call handlers were not local and did not know the area. However, comments of the above nature were deterring people from ringing 101 and were unacceptable.

The issue that young people from other areas were either being driven here by their parents or were coming on public transport was discussed. PC Crabtree encouraged people witnessing this to record car registration numbers and pass them on to the Police, so that they could speak to the parents, who needed to be educated. However, he advised against the use of cameras for recording purposes, as taking photographs of children could lead to other issues for the photographers.

PC Crabtree also advised that, even though many of the young people involved were coming from elsewhere, the main instigators were local. However, Human Rights

legislation prevented the Police from stopping local children going about their normal business, e.g. going to school, college, shops, etc.

Dist Cllr Damian Edwardson reported that the district councillors were also encouraging people to ring the Police on 101 if they witnessed anything. Wigan's ASB team were producing new flyers and posters to get the message across to people. The district councillors were happy to ask local shopkeepers to display the posters.

Those present made the following observations:

- As long as it was advertised, anti-vandal paint could be used on the roofs of buildings to prevent the young people climbing onto them – the paint was relatively inexpensive.
- All of the information needed to be circulated throughout the public domain in a short burst.
- People such as care workers were frightened of going to work at night at weekends.
- People were not moving to the area because it was being viewed as an unpleasant place to live.
- The area needed more CCTV in place.

The Police informed the residents that:

- There were restrictions on where anti-vandal paint could be used. It could not be used on structures taller than 2m. If the person who climbs the structure falls off and hurts him/herself, the liability lies with the owner of the structure.
- CCTV cameras currently in place were linked to Central Watch and monitored by the LA. However, residents needed to appreciate that their presence tended to give a bad impression of the area.

The ASB had had an impact on evening bus services. Because of the behaviour of the young people and the damage done by them to some buses on the No.635 route, Comfy Bus had altered the route taken by their evening services so that they did not include the centre of Shevington, New Miles Lane and Miles Lane, Appley Bridge. They would only be prepared to restore the original route when someone was able to tell them it was safe. Diamond Bus – the other operator – had also had an issue.

In conclusion, Mr B King recommended that the Parish Council should consider writing to the bus company (with a copy to TfGM) to ask them when they were going to restore the route. It was observed that the evening service was subsidised by public money and the bus company owed the public an explanation as to why it had been re-routed.

The Chair thanked the Police officers for coming. PC Crabtree left his email address with the Chair for circulation to anyone who wanted to contact him about any matters of concern.

The Police officers left the meeting.

Item 8 was moved forward and the first section was taken at this point in the meeting.

7. Launch of Parish Plan Review Consultation

The Chair introduced Mr Barry King, the Chair of the Parish Plan Review working party, which had spent many months reviewing progress with the Parish Plan launched in 2006 and discussing next steps in the light of the needs of the Parish of today.

Mr King began by explaining that the Parish Plan was a corporate plan and did not really have anything to do with Town & Country Planning. A report on the review had been prepared and was circulated together with a questionnaire. The report was on the Parish Council website. The questionnaire would be circulated to every household in the Parish and put on the website. Residents were invited to respond by midnight on 7 May – either in hard copy or online. Their views would be analysed and used to inform the next steps.

Mr King spoke about each section of the review report, making the following observations:

- The area had an ageing population, which meant more pressure on the health services;
- Shevington & District in Bloom exemplified a masterpiece in community spirit – so too did Shevington Fete. The CVRA were another example.
- The Parish did not have much control over Planning issues. The Parish could prepare its own Neighbourhood Plan, but it had to be within the context of what Wigan wanted.
- Due to the new developments in Standish, the traffic was unlikely to get any better. Evening and weekend bus services could be lost. A new company was taking over rail services and was already changing the timetable without consulting users.
- Education was fairly stable, even though three of the primary schools were being managed by the same Executive Head.
- There were many amenities, but they tended to be located near Wigan. The Parish Council had struggled to find a place to hold meetings in Appley Bridge and had had to go outside the Parish to do hold one.
- The Parish Council had bought Otters Croft and Crooke woods and now had people who wanted to look after them.
- There was a need for a Police presence. The Parish once had a Police Post, but this had been closed down. The Police also used to regularly run a One-Stop Shop. This too had ceased, but they did sometimes join the district councillors at their surgery.
- The area was home to a mixture of children. Youth Club funds could not these days stretch to employing trained leaders.

The Chair thanked everyone who had been involved in the review and Mr King for leading it. She urged everyone to co-operate with the Parish Council and reply to the consultation.

8. Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

The first section of this item was taken before Item No.7.

Flooding Issue in Church Lane

The owner of some of the properties in Church Lane that were located opposite Memorial Park described the events of Christmas night 2015 through to and including Boxing Day.

Surface water in the park flows down hill and discharges into the section at the lowest point of the park. All of this water and silt tends to go down one grid, causing it to become blocked and leading to flooding in the area opposite the cottages in Church Lane. During the night mentioned above so much rain came down that the flooding filled the stretch of road in front of the cottages and filled the cobbled pathway from close to No.3 through to No.13.

Subsequent inspection of the drainage in the road had proved that the pipework was blocked. Consequently, very little build-up of water was needed to create issues. The owner of the properties at the centre of the stretch of cottages had suggested that the Parish Council consider introducing a small bund along the boundary of the park from the 20mph sign to the path leading to the Memorial Garden. This would channel the water towards the grid further down the road and provide protection to the cottages.

A Parish Councillor observed that this was a long-standing issue. There had been some work carried out on drainage over the years, but the whole park needed to be surveyed properly and the introduction of a bund would need to be considered in the context of the Conservation Area. The Parish Council would need to work with the LA and United Utilities in relation to this matter.

Another Parish Councillor observed that the idea of a bund was excellent and could be delivered at low cost.

The Chair advised that it would be discussed by the Parish Council at its meeting at the end of the month.

The Future of the Recreation Ground

A resident observed that everyone was very positive about the Vicarage Lane project. Shevington Recreation Ground was currently being used by Shevington FC. He wondered what would happen to the Recreation Ground when Shevington FC moved away. In answer to his question he was informed that Shevington FC would not be moving away, but would continue to use the Recreation Ground – the facilities in Vicarage Lane were in addition to existing facilities.

Car Thieves

Another resident reported that Shevington was currently being targeted by professional car thieves. Five cars had been stolen in recent weeks. The thieves were cruising around in a sports car bearing plates that were designed not to register on Police cameras and had carried out opportunist thefts - even in broad daylight.

There being no further business, the Chairperson thanked everyone and closed the Meeting at 8:45 pm.

Chairman