



TO ALL ELECTORS OF SHEVINGTON PARISH

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2016 ~ 7 P.M.
SHEVINGTON LIBRARY**

AGENDA

- 158 Apologies for Absence** - to receive apologies from Councillors.
- 159 Declaration of Interests** - to receive any declarations of interest (prejudicial or otherwise) with regard to items on the Agenda.
Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest, (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest), they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 28 June 2012 and amended on 25 October 2012. Members are reminded that if they have any personal interests of a prejudicial nature or a disclosable pecuniary interest they must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room. Any member needing clarification must contact the Clerk.
- 160 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public** - an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions or make observations.
- 161 Co-op Parking Issues – for discussion and agreement**
During busy periods the Co-op's customers experience great difficulty finding a place to park and the main road is often blocked by cars waiting to turn or manoeuvring to seek a space. Geoffrey Lever (the Co-op's Estates Services Regional Portfolio Manager) is sure that this is detrimental to the various businesses and organisations in the centre of the village and wishes to discuss the issues and possible solutions with the Parish Council.
He will be present at the meeting.
Members are invited to consider the issues and agree the best way forward.
- 162 Caravans in High Park – for discussion and agreement** (enclosed)
The Council have been contacted by a resident of High Park, who advises that many of the residents of the street are upset by the caravans parked in front of two of the properties and the traffic related issues this is causing.
An advisory document is enclosed.
Members are invited to consider the issues and agree the best way forward.
- 163 District Councillors Reports - for information only**
To receive reports from District Councillors.

- 164 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council (17 December 2015)** - to consider, agree and approve the signature of the previously circulated Minutes by the Chairperson as a correct record of the meeting. (enclosed)
- 165 Christmas Shop Front Award** - *for information and approval*
 Due to other commitments, the judge was unable to forward the results of the Christmas Shop Front competition in time for their announcement during the meeting in December and so this item was deferred.
 They have since been emailed to the Clerk and are as follows:
 1st place – Elizabeth Ann Hair Salon, Shevington Moor
(The judge loved to see the winter woodland creatures in the window of the shop and the bright white lights looked lovely in the bay window. She awarded this first place as it appears that the owner had gone to great lengths in creating the display. This shop had also made an impression on the residents, as she had had numerous comments about how nice the shop looked.)
 2nd place – Manacare, Gathurst Lane, Shevington
(The judge really enjoyed seeing this display, as it gave off a traditional look with traditional colours and decorations; she also liked the detail in which the shop owner had created fake snow on the window.)
 3rd place – Rounds Country Fayre, Gathurst Lane, Shevington
(In this shop the judge liked to see the simple and effective decorations and it wasn't over the top.)
 Because it was not fair to keep the shop owners waiting too long and the results needed to be published in the January edition of the newsletter, following consultation with the Chair and another Councillor, it was agreed that the awards should be presented in time to meet the latter deadline. In the light of this arrangements were made for them to be presented to the winners on Friday, 16 January.
- a) Members are invited to receive and retrospectively approve the judge's selections w.r.t. the first, second and third prize winners in the competition.
 - b) The prize winners have nominated the following Charities to receive donations:
 - 1st - £50 – Wigan & Leigh Hospice
 - 2nd - £30 – Our Local Heroes Foundation
 - 3rd - £20 – Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research
- Members are invited to approve the donations to these Charities. The funds will come from the 'Chair's Expenses' cost centre.
- 166 Chairperson's Report** - *for information only.*
- 167 Reports from Councillors** - *for information only*
 To receive short reports from councillors about matters that are the legitimate business of the Council (Councillors are asked to advise the Clerk in advance of any reports – including the subject matter - they wish to make.)
- 168 Reports from Representatives** - *for information only.*
- **Shevington & District Community Association**
 - **Crooke Village Residents' Association**
 - **Shevington Youth Club**
 - **Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees**
 - **'in Bloom' Groups**
 - **Shevington Surgery Patient Participation Group**
 - **Shevington Rugby & Football Clubs**
 - **Friends of Otters Croft & Crooke Woods**
- 169 DRAFT Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting (7 January 2016)**
 - to receive - *for information only* (enclosed)
- 170 Budget & Precept 2016/17** – *for approval* (enclosed)

Documents circulated to the Finance Committee for their meeting on 7 January have been updated in line with agreements reached during that meeting and changes in current expenditure since that meeting.

Members are invited to approve the budget and precept for 2016/17 as recommended by the Finance Committee.

171 New External Audit Regime – for approval (enclosed)

Information about the new External Audit regime was provided to the Finance Committee for their meeting on 7 January. At that meeting there was some concern that no information had been provided about the possible costs of the External Audit in future years if the Parish Council decided to opt into the Sector Led Body scheme. The Board of **Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Limited** (*the Sector Led Body*) met shortly before Christmas and made some decisions on fee structures.

A document which carries this information is enclosed.

Members are invited to approve the recommendation made by the Finance Committee that the Council should opt into the Sector Led Body scheme.

172 January Newsletter – for approval (enclosed)

Members are invited to approve the newsletter for publication.

173 Metal Detecting Request – for consideration and approval

A resident of the Parish has written to ask for permission to carry out metal detecting activities on land in Shevington that belongs to the Parish Council. He wishes to assure the Council that any ground disturbances will be minimum and that any soil plugs will be replaced. He also intends to remove any rubbish during his searches.

Members are invited to consider the request and approve it.

174 Bench IMO Dorothy Nightingale – for consideration and agreement

At the Council meeting in November members gave permission for a tree to be planted in Memorial Park in memory of the Late Dorothy Nightingale. The tree is to be located across the road from St Anne's Parish Centre. The group making arrangements with respect to the memorial to Dorothy intended to locate a memorial bench outside the Parish Centre, but, in view of the anti-social behaviour in the centre of the village which is currently giving concern, they are seeking to identify an alternative location for the bench. One possibility that has been suggested is a location within Memorial Park and the group are seeking permission from the Parish Council to do this.

Members are invited to consider the request and approve it.

175 Logs in the Copse in Memorial Park – for discussion and agreement

The logs in the copse at the centre of Memorial Park were reported at a previous meeting to have been the focus of anti-social behaviour. When the anti-social behaviour first began, a group of young people congregated there and left a great deal of rubbish behind. A week or so later they repeated this on the other side of the play area, near the memorial to a former councillor. Since this time the Park has been the subject of increased patrols by the Police and the young people in question appear to have been focussing more on other areas of the village centre.

A member has suggested that the Council consider removing the logs in order to reduce the attraction of the copse as an area for young people to congregate in.

Members are invited to consider the proposal and agree the best way forward.

176 Flooding Issues in Shevington – for discussion and agreement (enclosed)

On the morning of Saturday, 26 December the Parish was almost cut off from the outside world by localised flooding. After many days of heavy rainfall and a particularly bad dose overnight from 25 to 26 December, the only way out of the Parish by main road seemed to be via Shevington Lane.

Listed below are some of the places where flooding was reported to have occurred:

- At the bottom of the z-bends;
- At the entrance to / exit from Crooke Village into Standish Lower Ground;
- At the junction of Station Approach with Gathurst Lane at Gathurst;
- At the junction of Back Lane with Miles Lane, Appley Bridge;
- In Back Lane near Golden Days;
- Under the railway bridge near Herons Wharf / Appley Bridge Station.

In some cases flooding occurred because already full water courses burst their banks and, due to the height of the water table, water could no longer be absorbed quickly into the ground in an area blessed with clay soil. In other cases it occurred because drainage systems were blocked and needed to be cleared. Because of the time of year only one Highways team were on duty and were overwhelmed Wigan-wide by the number of call-outs. Matters improved once the stand-by team had been called in, but they only started work at about 11am. There were also flooding issues in Church Lane, where water actually entered into some of the cottages. An owner of two of the properties has forwarded a report with photographs and some suggestions as to how the events in Church Lane could be averted in the future.

Members are invited to discuss the issues and agree the best way forward.

177 Road Behind the Parade of Shops in Gathurst Lane

– for discussion and agreement

The poor condition of the road behind the parade of shops in Gathurst Lane was raised under ‘Reports from Councillors’ at the Council meeting on 29 October. A member reported that the ownership of the access road was shared by Wigan & Leigh Homes and the owners of the properties in Gathurst Lane. W&L Homes were prepared to repair their half of the road, but the same did not apply to the owners of the properties on the other side of the road. It seems that the majority landowner of the shops had transferred his obligations to his tenants and they were either reluctant or financially not able to contribute to the work that was needed. Because of the conditions at the back of the shops, delivery vehicles were experiencing access issues and were driving onto the footway and creating problems at the front of the shops. Various strategies were considered and agreed at that meeting, including contacting the Press and writing to the landowners. However, the identity of the majority landowner and his contact details needed to be established first.

A member looked into the issues relating to the area behind the parade of shops in Gathurst Lane and discovered that LA operatives carrying out work in Inward Drive had been instructed to use the left-overs to fill in a pot hole along the road at the back of the shops. In doing so they had blocked a grid, causing flooding to occur. This was reported to the General Purposes Committee on 5 November. The same member reported to the General Purposes Committee on 3 December that Wigan Council’s workforce had carried out another repair to the road surface behind the parade of shops in Gathurst Lane and had made matters worse.

Correspondence sent to the LA on the matter is still awaiting a reply.

The issues surrounding the condition of the road were reported to the Press, who conducted interviews and published an article. The article did not include photographs, which were taken on an aptly wet and miserable day.

Letters have not yet been sent to the owners, as the contents of such letters need to be agreed.

Members are invited to discuss the matter and agree the best way forward.

178 Car Parking Along Miles Lane, Shevington – for discussion and agreement

To deter car parking and ensure that residents are able to access their driveways H-bars have been put across driveway entrances along the stretch of Miles Lane between the motorway bridge and a point some way beyond Shevington Community School. This has not really alleviated the congestion caused by the

parking of cars by the users of the hairdressers, the clinic and the surgery during the day. This congestion is exacerbated during school drop-off and pick-up times. Members are invited to discuss the issues and agree the best way forward.

179 Clerk's Report - for information only.

At present there is nothing to report, other than information that relates to items that are already on the agenda. If anything else arises between now and the meeting, it will be reported verbally. Members are invited to receive the Clerk's report, if any.

180 Financial Aid Applications - to receive for consideration / approval

- **St Anne's Churchyard**

Members are invited to approve a donation of £400 towards the upkeep of St Anne's Churchyard. This amount has been included in the 'Community' budget.

181 Payments, Income & Bank Balances – for approval (enclosed)

An updated schedule will be presented on the day to cover any additional invoices received.

182 Planning Applications – to consider for comment / receive updates

- **A/15/81430/CU – Open Land North of Vicarage Lane, Shevington**

A verbal report will be provided on the decision of the Planning Committee at its meeting scheduled for 19 January.

- **LCC/2015/0088: Low temperature pyrolysis plant construction, Railway Pad, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge (enclosed)**

LCC's Development Control Committee were due to determine this application by

P-Fuel on 20 January. The Planning Officer's recommendation was that the application should be refused and we have recently heard that P-Fuel have withdrawn the application. This has yet to be confirmed by LCC.

Mr B King has sent a report on the application – it is enclosed.

It is understood that ABCAGE will now be trying to arrange a meeting with LCC to discuss the application that was approved in 2013.

In the meantime members are invited to consider sending ABCAGE a message of congratulations on their success.

183 Next Meetings: 4 February (Policy Committee); 25 February (Council)

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

184 Missing Bench in Memorial Park – for agreement (enclosed)

185 Vicarage Lane Fields Leases - for agreement (enclosed)

186 Toilet Block Refurbishment - for approval (enclosed)

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K Pilkington

(Clerk)