

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council Meeting
Held Thursday 21 January 2016
7pm – Shevington Library**

Present: Councillor I Whiteley (*Chair*), Cllrs W McKnight, C Horridge, J Ball, C Miles, J Fletcher and J Calderbank.
Dist Cllr M Crosby and sixteen members of the public.

Officer in Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

185 Apologies for Absence

Cllr K Shaw.

186 Declaration of Interests

None.

Standing Orders were suspended.

187 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

Behaviour of Councillors

A resident observed that the behaviour of some councillors during the last Council meeting that she had attended had fallen below expected standards. While members of the public had behaved well, exchanges between some councillors had become heated and at times personal in nature.

Vicarage Lane Allotments

A representative of Shevington H&A Society advised the Council that the group had appointed a solicitor and were now in a position to discuss a lease.

188 Co-op Parking Issues

Two representatives of the Co-op informed the Council that Mr Geoffrey Lever (the Co-op's Estates Services Regional Portfolio Manager) was only able to join the meeting at 7:30pm. In the light of this, the item was deferred until later in the meeting and was taken after Item No.195.

189 Caravans in High Park

Issues raised by a resident in relation to the parking of caravans on residents' properties in High Park were discussed. The Clerk would write to the resident to express the Council's sympathy and explain that the Council did not have the power to do anything about it. This was something for the residents themselves. The Clerk would also contact the PCSO to ask her to look into the matter as part of her community liaison role.

190 District Councillors' Reports

Dist Cllr M Crosby presented the report. *See Appendix A.*
He engaged with members of the Council and the public over issues covered by the report.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

191 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council (17 December 2015)

A member requested that the resolution in Minute 183 should be amended to read:
"Cllrs I Whiteley, J Fletcher and C Horridge would form the interview panel."

This was discussed.

The member advised that searches of her recording of the meeting had failed to identify a decision where the Clerk would be a member of the panel.

The Chair observed that the reason for the inclusion was because the Clerk would automatically be present on such occasions.

Resolved: That, subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 17 December 2015, were approved as a true and correct record.

A councillor requested a recorded vote.

FOR: Cllrs Ball, Horridge, McKnight, Whiteley and Fletcher.

192 Christmas Shop Front Award

The results of the Christmas Shop Front competition had been emailed to the Clerk the day after the Council meeting in December.

They were as follows:

1st place – Elizabeth Ann Hair Salon of Shevington Moor

2nd place – Manacare of Gathurst Lane, Shevington

3rd place – Rounds Country Fayre, also of Gathurst Lane, Shevington

It was reported that, because it was important that the prizewinners should receive their awards as soon as possible, and the results needed to be published in the January edition of the newsletter, it was agreed under delegated authority that the awards should be presented in time to meet the latter deadline. In the light of this, arrangements were made and they were presented to the winners on Friday, 15 January.

Resolved: The prizewinners, as listed above, were approved retrospectively.

Each of the prizewinners had nominated a Charity to which a donation would be made from the 'Chair's Expenses' cost centre.

Resolved: The following donations were approved:

1st - £50 – Wigan & Leigh Hospice

2nd - £30 – Our Local Heroes Foundation

3rd - £20 – Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research

193 Chairperson's Report

There was no report from the Chairperson.

194 Reports from Councillors

There were no reports from Councillors.

195 Reports from Representatives

Shevington & District Community Association

The Dementia Friendly group had arranged another set of training sessions. A list of dates and locations was available from Shevington Library and other venues.

Crooke Village Residents' Association

There was no report.

Shevington Youth Club

The Junior Club continues to meet every Monday.

The Youth Club Committee meetings had been scheduled for the following week.

Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

The Trustees had met earlier in the week and had decided that they would be submitting an application to the Parish Council for a grant towards the maintenance of the Ground in the near future.

The Charity's constitution was very old and it was the Trustees intention to modernise it. The Secretary to the Trust would be working on this.

The Trustees would also be submitting an application to the National Lottery for a grant for a First World War Memorial bench to be located on the Recreation Ground.

'In Bloom' Groups

It was reported that the 'In Bloom' groups had recently heard the sad news of the death of the Northern Area Organiser of RHS in Bloom.

It was also announced that Mr Bill Draper, a stalwart of Appley Bridge in Bloom had retired from the group. Mr Draper was thanked for all the work he had put in during his time with the group.

Shevington Surgery Patient Participation Group

The Patient Participation Group had a new Chair – Joanne Slater.

Shevington Rugby & Football Clubs

There was no report.

Friends of Otters Croft & Crooke Woods

There was no report.

As Mr Geoffrey Lever had joined the meeting, Item No.188 was taken at this point.

Standing Orders were suspended.

Mr Lever was invited to address the Council.

He asserted that the car parking problems experienced in the centre of Shevington village were not just an issue for the Co-op, but also for all of the businesses in this

area, especially at peak times. The Co-op wished to run a good store that served the community, but did not create traffic issues. The Company had identified the open space on the opposite corner to the store in New Miles Lane as a possible location for additional car parking space. A discussion about the ownership of the land in question and the owners' views in relation to the usage of the land. There was a shortage of parking spaces in Shevington and the Co-op were prepared to try to establish the ownership of the land by carrying out Land Registry searches.

In general the Parish Council were supportive of the idea, but advised that the views of the District Council needed to be ascertained.

Mr Lever advised that the Co-op might be prepared to contribute towards the costs of building the car parking facility. The Company also had resources which they could use to fund other community projects. The store manager was able to assist with such matters.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

196 DRAFT Minutes of the Finance Committee Meetings (7 January 2016)

The DRAFT Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 7 January were received.

197 Budget & Precept 2016/17

The Finance Committee had prepared a budget for recommendation to the Parish Council. This had been previously circulated. Wigan Council had advised that they expected to be able to pass on a Council Tax Support Grant from Central Government of £8,813 – a reduction of 21% on the grant in 2015/16.

Resolved: The Council approved a budgeted expenditure for 2016/17 of £78,061 (including an expenditure contingency of £5,000) and a precept of £67,000. Estimated reserves (both ear-marked and general) as at 1 April 2016 were expected to be £61,063 (including the Council Tax Support Grant).

A councillor requested a recorded vote.

FOR: Cllrs Whiteley, Ball, Mcknight, Horridge, Miles and Calderbank
AGAINST: Cllr Fletcher

198 New External Audit Regime

A document carrying information about decisions made by the Board of Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Limited (*the Sector Led Body*) in relation to anticipated fee structures for the new External Audit Regime was received and briefly discussed.

Resolved: The recommendation made by the Finance Committee that the Council should opt into the Sector Led Body scheme was approved.

No further action was required in relation to this matter.

199 January Newsletter

The proof copy of the January newsletter was received and discussed.

Resolved: The newsletter was approved for publication, subject to the following additions/amendments:

- The item on small grants would be printed in bold.
- The latest news on the Parish Council's Vicarage Lane Fields and P-Fuels planning applications would be included.

200 Metal Detecting Request

A resident of the Parish had asked for permission to carry out metal detecting activities on land in Shevington that belonged to or was managed by the Parish Council. He wished to assure the Council that any ground disturbances would be of a minimum and that any soil plugs would be replaced. Any rubbish unearthed during his searches would be removed.

The request was discussed. Concerns were expressed by some members about the potential of disturbing or destroying archaeological finds and what would happen to them.

Resolved: The resident's request to detect for metal on Parish Council owned or managed property was approved. The resident would be asked to provide the Council with information about the nature of any finds.

201 Bench IMO Dorothy Nightingale

The group making arrangements with respect to a memorial bench to the Late Dorothy Nightingale had asked for permission to locate it within Memorial Park and were seeking the Parish Council's permission to do this. The request was discussed.

Resolved: The request to install a bench in memory of the Late Dorothy Nightingale in Memorial Park was approved.

The Clerk would meet with the representative of the group making the arrangements to agree a location.

202 Logs in the Copse in Memorial Park

The logs in the copse at the centre of Memorial Park had been reported at a previous meeting to have been the focus of anti-social behaviour, as had the play area. Since then 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. The future of the logs was discussed.

Resolved: The logs would remain in the copse and on site for the time being.

203 Flooding Issues in Shevington

On the morning of Saturday, 26 December the Parish was almost cut off from the outside world by localised flooding on the boundaries. 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.

The flooding issues were discussed at length, with a particular focus on the events in Church Lane, where flooding in Memorial Park spilled over into the road. Because of the degree of saturation of the ground and because the drainage system in the road was blocked and not working properly, the terrace of properties across the road from Memorial Park were put at risk.

Mr Sinclair, the owner of two of the properties, had prepared a report which contained some suggestions as to how the events of 26 December could be averted in the future.

Resolved: The Clerk would write to Mr Sinclair to thank him for his report and let him know that his ideas would be considered for inclusion in a drainage plan. The Clerk would also write to Wigan Council to enquire about their drain clearing pattern for the area and to ask them to clear the drains more frequently.

204 Road Behind the Parade of Shops in Gathurst Lane

Cllr J Calderbank withdrew from the meeting.

The investigations in relation to the condition of the road behind the parade of shops were discussed. It became apparent that the actual cost of carrying out the repairs had never been established. These costings would need to be obtained before any further progress could be made in ascertaining the willingness of the owners of the properties in the parade of shops to make a contribution towards the cost of the repairs.

Cllr J Calderbank re-joined the meeting.

205 Car Parking Along Miles Lane, Shevington

To deter car parking and ensure that residents were able to access their driveways H-bars had 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 action had 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. The congestion was exacerbated during school drop-off and pick-up times. Members discussed the issues and possible solutions.

Resolved: The Clerk would write to Wigan Council to ask them to consider the introduction of 'No Waiting' signage and other waiting restrictions along the area of Miles Lane affected.

206 Clerk's Report

The Clerk read out a letter she had recently received from Transport for Greater Manchester, thanking the Parish Council for their supportive comments in relation to the consultation over the plans for a new bus station at Wigan. The Project Manager assured the Council that their comments would be taken into consideration as part of the consultation exercise.

207 Financial Aid Applications

Resolved: The Council approved a donation of £400 towards the upkeep of St Anne's Churchyard.

208 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure Schedules for December 2015 and January 2016 were received. *See Appendix B.*

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

Resolved: A virement of £260 from the 'Planning, Legal, etc Fees Reserve' to the active cost centre of the same name to cover the cost of solicitor's fees for work on leases so far was approved.

209 Planning Applications

- **A/15/81430/CU/ MAJOR – Open Land North of Vicarage Lane, Shevington**
The Council's planning application had been considered by the Planning Committee at Wigan Council on 19 January. The Chair and the Clerk had attended the meeting. The Planning Committee approved the application with conditions by a unanimous vote. The letter of approval would be displayed on the website.
- **LCC/2015/0088: Low temperature pyrolysis plant construction, Railway Pad, Appley Lane North, Appley Bridge**
Mr B King had sent a report on the application. The report was received. *See Appendix C.*
LCC's Development Control Officer had recommended that the application should be refused. It was due to be heard by LCC's Development Control Committee on 20 January, but P-Fuel withdrew the application. It was understood that ABCAGE would now be trying to arrange a meeting with LCC to discuss the application that was approved in 2013.
The Clerk would write to ABCAGE on behalf of the Parish Council to congratulate them on their success.

210 Next Meetings: 4 February (Policy Committee); 25 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.

Dist Cllr M Crosby and members of the public left the meeting.

211 Missing Bench in Memorial Park

The Council discussed proposals for a replacement for the missing bench.

Resolved: The Council agreed the following:

- a) the 'York' from Woodcraft UK at a cost of £498 was the preferred choice;
- b) the 'Classic 1' from Classic Benches of Lathom at a cost of £321 was the second choice;
- c) the purchase of and fitting of a plaque, delivery and fitting of the bench as appropriate;
- d) the bench would not be painted;
- e) as the bench had been presumed stolen and a crime number had been obtained, the possibility of making an insurance claim would be explored;
- f) if the insurance claim were approved, but the insurers would only pay for the 'Classic 1', the Council would pay the balance in order to purchase and fit the 'York';
- g) if the insurers did not approve the claim, the 'York' would be purchased and fitted.

212 Vicarage Lane Fields Leases

Sundry arrangements surrounding the leases were discussed.

Resolved: The plan drawer's quotation of £160 to make amendments to the plan to accompany the leases was approved.

Resolved: The solicitor's revised estimate of £2,500 for completing the work on the leases was approved.

Resolved: An Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Council to discuss the leases would be held at 8pm on Thursday, 4 February.

213 Toilet Block Refurbishment

Quotes for the refurbishment of the Ladies Toilet and painting of the exterior were considered.

Resolved: The contract was awarded to Kenyon Homes at a total value of £1,098.

There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the Meeting at 9:19 pm.

Chairman