

**Minutes of the Shevington Parish Council
Policy Committee Meeting
Held 7 April 2016
7.00pm Shevington Library**

Present: Councillor I Whiteley (Chairperson), Councillors J Ball, C Horridge, J Fletcher and A Bland.

Co-opted Committee Members: Mr B Lomas and Mr B King (non- voting).
One member of the public.

Officer in Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllrs W McKnight, J Calderbank, K Shaw and C Miles.

2. Declaration of Interests

None.

3. Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting (4 February 2016)

The previously circulated minutes were considered.

Resolved: The Minutes of the Parish Council Policy Committee Meeting of 4 February 2016 were approved as a true and correct record.

4. Village Issues

Bus Drivers' Rest Breaks in Back Lane

A member reported that drivers of buses on the No.635 route were currently parking at or near a bus stop in Back Lane, Appley Bridge for long periods of time and, because they were not switching off their engines, creating noise pollution and disturbing local residents. One of the residents had contacted the company's manager directly to complain about it. He had assured her that he would make arrangements for the buses to park elsewhere.

Mr B King joined the meeting.

It was agreed that this issue would be discussed as part of Item No.6.

Rat Poison on the Allotments

A member reported that an allotment holder had found rat poison strewn on the allotments. Concerns were raised as to whether this had been accidentally spilled by Wigan Council's pest control team when re-filling the boxes or by another individual. The matter would be investigated.

30mph Sign in Miles Lane, Appley Bridge

It was reported that the 30mph sign located along Miles Lane, Appley Bridge had disappeared.

Gate from Parkway, Shevington Moor into Field

In reply to a question from a co-opted committee member about progress with his report about a gate having been introduced to provide an entrance from a property in Parkway into the field behind it, the Clerk stated that she had passed his report on to the District Councillors.

Unofficial Dropped Kerbs

A co-opted committee member reported that the owner of a property in the road called Shevington Moor had introduced dropped kerbs along the footpath behind his property. The footpath was in Oaklea. This would be forwarded to the District Councillors to look into.

5. Road Closure in Appley Lane

This stretch of road was closed for initial repairs earlier in the year: it was due for closure again in May. Following the General Purposes Committee meeting in March, a letter was sent to LCC to ask them to look into the arrangements for the road closure and the re-routing of traffic for this future event – possibly along the M6 motorway - with a view to ensuring that the inconvenience and disruption caused for local residents was as little as possible. A reply from Chorley & West Lancs Highways & Traffic Team (to whom the Council's letter had been passed by LCC) had been received earlier in the week advising that they had no legal power to divert traffic along the motorway, which was why it had been diverted through Shevington.

Resolved: The Clerk was instructed to speak and write to Wigan Council officers about the diversion.

6. Bus Changes

Mr B King's report was circulated, received and discussed.

There were two parts to the report – the first dealt with recent changes to buses and their routes – the second part covered the issues raised during Item No.4.

Cllr A Bland joined the meeting.

The issues with regard to the use of a bus stop in Back Lane, Appley Bridge for rest breaks for drivers of buses on the No.635 route were discussed. Mr King advised that places designated for bus drivers' rests had to be approved by local councils.

Resolved: The Clerk would write to Diamond Bus NW about the matter and the nuisance it was causing, copying the letter to Environmental Health, TfGM and the Traffic Commissioner.

The member who had drawn the Council's attention to this was asked to ask the residents concerned to log the buses and time how long they remained parked in Back Lane.

7. Arriva Rail North – Early Problems

Arriva Rail North were now running the Northern Rail franchise and, just over a month ago, the news had emerged that they were proposing to re-route the Southport to Manchester trains so that they all terminated at Victoria. This would only take effect from December 2017, but would inconvenience a large number of people – probably 50% of the regular users of the line. OPSTA were running a campaign to try to prevent these changes and, to support them in raising awareness of the situation, the Council included an article about the issue in the March newsletter, put notices on its notice boards and had written to Arriva Rail North, TfGM, Wigan Council, Rail North, Lancashire County Council and Merseytravel. Responses had been received from Arriva Rail North, TfGM and LCC. The responses from the first two had been included in the Clerk's Report to the March Council meeting and had been shared with OPSTA. A letter from the Director of Community Services at LCC, in which he had assured the Council that he appreciated people's concerns and was discussing the situation with Arriva Rail North, had arrived very recently and was circulated.

Mr B King reported that he had learnt that the new trains that Arrive Rail North were going to introduce were longer than the existing trains and, therefore, probably would not be able to use Appley Bridge station. In view of this, they would probably just be used on the premium routes. It was likely that, at best, the Southport to Manchester line would be the beneficiary of refurbished trains.

Resolved: A letter asking for monthly updates on the situation should be sent to all the organisations involved and also to Sefton MBC.

8. Signage for Otters Croft & Croke Woods

During the March Council meeting it was reported that there were issues with people misusing the woodland, e.g. poaching and riding motorbikes through it. In the light of this the Committee discussed the possibility of introducing signage that would deter users of the woodland from abusing it.

Resolved: The Clerk would talk to the representative of the Friends of Otters Croft and Croke Woods about suggestions for suitable signage and seek quotations.

The possibility of protecting the woodland habitat through the use of fencing was raised. A co-opted committee member advised that funding for both fencing, signage and perhaps a walkway was available from the HLF.

9. May Newsletter

The contents of the May newsletter were discussed.

Resolved: The following items were agreed for inclusion:

- a) Dedication of Bench IMO the Late Dorothy Nightingale
- b) Spring in Croke Village
- c) Bowling Green advert
- d) Grant Funding Available from the Parish Council
- e) Meet & Greet the Visitors from Angers
- f) Shevington Fete

- g) Ring '101'
- h) Friends of Otters Croft & Crooke Woods – volunteers needed
- i) Shevington Heritage Trails
- j) ABCAGE Update

10. FOI Publication Scheme

The Council's FOI Publication Scheme was reviewed.

Resolved: The FOI Publication Scheme was approved, subject to the following:

- a) The Parish Plan Review should be placed in a separate category;
- b) Hard copies of documents listed should be available in Shevington Library.

11. Cleaning of Notice Boards

Resolved: Following advice received in connection with the H&S legislation surrounding the use of ladders, it was agreed that quotes for the cleaning of the Council's notice boards should be obtained from suitable contractors.

12. Financial Aid Applications

None.

13. Court of Appeal Decision on Local Development Constraints Where the Principal Authority Has a Shortfall in Housing Supply

Mr B King's report was received. *See Appendix A.*

Cllr A Bland withdrew from the meeting.

Mr B Lomas left the meeting.

Cllr J Fletcher withdrew from and returned to the meeting.

Cllr A Bland returned to the meeting.

14. Greater Manchester Spatial Framework Consultation

Mr B King's report was received. *See Appendix B.*

Part of the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework consultation at the turn of the year had involved asking for suggestions for development sites in the area. Mr King reported that three sites had been identified locally. These were discussed.

Resolved: Mr B King's recommendation that Greater Manchester Combined Authority should be informed that

- all three areas were in Green Belt and unsuitable for the uses proposed, as they would encourage the merging of settlements in this area;
- the proposals did not conform with the draft version of Wigan's Allocations and Development Management Local Plan.

15. Consultation on Technical Changes Related to the Planning & Housing Bill

Mr B King's report and his recommendations for responses to the consultation were received and discussed.

Resolved: The responses to the consultation were approved.

16. Planning Applications

None.

17. NALC Campaigns in 2015/16: "Give Local Councils the Right to Appeal Planning Decisions" – Petition

NALC had sent an invitation to all councillors to sign a petition to central government asking them to introduce a limited third party right of appeal by giving local (parish and town) councils a right to appeal planning decisions to the Planning Inspectorate. Interested parties had to sign the petition by 19 April 2016.

One of the functions of the National Association of Local Councils was to lobby central government on behalf of all local councils. Information about NALC's campaigns over the past year was also circulated.

18. Venue for Next Policy Committee Meeting

It was reported that, because Shevington Library would be in use as a Polling Station on 5 May, a different venue would have to be identified for the meeting.

Resolved: The possibility of using the meeting room at St Anne's Parish Centre would be explored.

19. Dates of Next Meetings

28 April (Council); 5 May (Policy Committee)

There being no further business, the Chairperson closed the Meeting at 8:50 pm.

Chairperson