

**Minutes of Shevington Parish Council
General Purposes Committee Meeting
Held Thursday 3 March 2016
7:00 pm Shevington Library**

Present: Councillor I Whiteley (Chair), Councillors W McKnight, C Horridge, J Ball, C Miles, K Shaw, J Fletcher and J Calderbank.

Co-opted Committee members: Mrs E Longmore, Mr B Lomas and Mr B King (non-voting).

Two members of the public.

Officer in Attendance: Mrs K Pilkington (Clerk)

1. Apologies

None.

2. Declaration of Interests

None.

**3. Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting
(3 December 2015)**

Resolved: The Minutes of the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 3 December 2015 were approved as a true and correct record.

4. Village Issues

Abandoned Car

Wigan Council had made arrangements for the car abandoned in the bowling green car park to be removed the following day. The owner had been traced, but was not in a position to remove it.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The Chair had been in touch with Joanne Brewder of the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit at Wigan Council and had invited her to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on 17 March to talk to all those present about the anti-social behaviour issues in the area. Members observed that it would be helpful if a representative of the Police also attended.

Car Theft

A frosty morning the previous week had provided an opportunity for a car to be stolen from the driveway of a home on the Millbrook estate. The owner of the car had left the engine running while de-frosting the windscreen and had gone into the house, leaving the car unattended and accessible to a thief, who very quickly had driven away in the car.

Closure of Appley Lane

Lancashire County Council were closing this road from 29 February to 22 March and for a further three weeks in May. Their website did not indicate a diversion. Although in practice the M6 was the best diversion, it was likely that traffic would use roads in Shevington. It was likely that Back Lane, Miles Lane and Gathurst Lane would be the most affected. There would be an impact on bus services – e.g. service No.635 could not follow its normal route to Wrightington Hospital. Buses would have to use Back Lane and Hall Lane instead of their normal route of Mill Lane and Appley Lane North. It had also been established that the road from Newburgh to Skelmersdale would be closed at the same time, exacerbating the issues. The subject would be on the agenda of a future meeting and the Clerk would write to Lancashire County Council about the closures.

5. Map of Parish in the Newsletter & on the Website

Mr B King had investigated the quality of free mapping available on the internet from a variety of sources and circulated several examples, the quality of most of which ranged from poor to fair. The Parish Online system, which delivered good quality mapping and tools enabling customized maps to be prepared, involved buying an annual licence for a fee, the value of which was linked to the size of the Parish population. However, if the Parish joined the PSMA system it would have access to Wigan's mapping (this would not include the Landranger and Explorer series but was digital) and would be able to purchase these maps at a cost of £5/£6 per map. There was no charge for joining PSMA.

Resolved: The Parish would join PSMA. A decision to include a map of the Parish's wards in the newsletter and on the website was deferred.

6. LCC Subsidised Bus Services

Mr B King's report was received. The issues and Mr King's recommendations were discussed. *See Appendix A.*

Resolved: Letters would be sent to

- Lancashire County Council to inform them that the Parish Council regretted the further erosion of cross boundary services.
- TfGM to thank them for taking up the total funding of supported services on route 635.
- TfGM to ask them to keep the Parish Council informed of evening and Sunday routing developments on route 635.

The diversion of evening services away from the centre of Shevington was causing inconvenience to passengers in a large part of the Parish. A number of residents had contacted one of the elected members to express concern that no information about the diversion had been provided to passengers.

There was constant concern about the actions of young people who were, amongst other things, throwing missiles at vehicles and being disruptive when using the buses. The Parish and other agencies like TfGM had to work together to resolve the issues that had led to the diversion of services.

Resolved: Letters would be sent to

- The Police Commissioner and the Chief Constable to ask them to ensure that the anti-social behaviour in the centre of Shevington was addressed and to insist that a representative of the Police should attend the Annual Parish Meeting to talk to residents about what the Police were doing.
- TfGM to inform them that the Parish Council regretted the diversion of evening services between Wigan and Wrightington Hospital away from the centre of Shevington and to ask them to be selective about the days on which the service was being diverted.

Notices would be placed on the notice boards informing residents about the diversions.

7. Loss of Rail Service to Manchester Airport & Piccadilly

Mr B King's report on the proposals by Arriva Rail North to axe the service from Southport to Piccadilly and Manchester Airport was received. *See Appendix B.*

Strategies to be employed by the Council in opposing these proposals were discussed. Posters which had been received by the Clerk from OPSTA would be displayed on the Council's notice boards.

Resolved: Arriva Rail North were to be informed that the Parish Council were opposed to the proposed removal of services to Manchester Piccadilly and the Airport in December 2017, particularly as the new franchise requirement emphasised community engagement. Further it did not sit comfortably in relation to the recent statements from the company on community involvement.

These changes

- Did not reflect the current pattern of movement.
(see OPSTA survey Autumn 2015)
- Made access to the Airport more difficult, particularly for passengers with luggage.
- Involved interchange at Bolton, which would often be onto trains that were already crowded.
- Made travel more difficult for passengers travelling to Piccadilly for interchange with longer distance services.
- Impacted on passengers working in the University Quarter.

These comments would be copied to TfGM, Wigan Council, Rail North, Lancashire County Council and Merseytravel.

8. Condition of Footpath from Woodnook Road to Newgate Avenue, Appley Bridge

Mr B King reported that the work needed to improve this footpath, which had been in poor condition, seemed to have been carried out.

9. The Parish Plan Review Questionnaire

The draft version of the Parish Plan Review questionnaire was discussed. The consultation would be launched at the Annual Parish Meeting on 17 March, when it

would be introduced by Mr B King, who was the Chair of the Parish Plan Review Committee. A few copies of the 2006 Parish Plan and the Review Document would be available at the meeting for reference as well as copies of the questionnaire.

Resolved: The following were agreed:

- A more recent group photograph would be used on the front page.
- The curly font would be changed to a bold, plain font.
- An appropriate sentence would be used to expand on each section.
- Mr King and the Clerk would liaise over the changes to produce the final version of the questionnaire.

10. March Newsletter

The proof copy of the March edition of the newsletter was discussed. It was agreed that the article about contacting the Police should be emboldened and that a link should be made between the re-routing of evening bus services and the anti-social behaviour in the centre of Shevington. The phrase “The Police are doing their best....” would be taken out.

Resolved: Subject to the above amendments, the March newsletter was approved for publication.

11. Plaque IMO Robert Inward Randall

Suggestions for commemorating Robert Inward Randall, a very active former Clerk to the Parish Council, at Randall’s Corner, where he had owned property, some of which he had donated to the community, were discussed.

Resolved: The history of Randall’s Corner and the feasibility of fitting a memorial plaque at that location would be looked into.

12. Planning Applications

None.

13. Date of Next Meeting

17 March (Annual Parish Meeting); 31 March (Council).

There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 8:30 pm.

Chairperson