



TO ALL ELECTORS OF SHEVINGTON PARISH

PARISH COUNCIL POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY 7 APRIL 2016 ~ 7.00 P.M.
SHEVINGTON LIBRARY

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies** – *to receive and accept apologies for absence.*
- 2. 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.
- 3. Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting (4 February 2016)** – *to consider, agree and approve the signature of the previously circulated Minutes by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting.* (enclosed)
- 4. Village Issues** – *to receive reports from Committee members and Council officers - for information only.*
- 5. Road Closure in Appley Lane** – *for agreement*
This stretch of road was closed for initial repairs earlier this year: it is 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 with a view to ensuring that as little as possible inconvenience and disruption is caused for local residents. No reply has been received from LCC as yet. Mr B King will provide a short verbal report.
- 6. Bus Changes** - *update*
It was reported at last week's Council meeting that the temporarily re-routed evening services of the No.635 bus had been restored a couple of weeks ago. Following the General Purposes Committee meeting in March, a letter was sent to LCC expressing regret about their decision

to withdraw their subsidisy for bus services that serve some of the western areas of the Parish. No reply has been received from LCC. Mr B King will provide a short verbal update on the position with respect to these services.

7. Arriva Rail North – Early Problems – for information

Arriva Rail North are now running the Northern Rail franchise. Just over a month ago the news emerged that they were proposing to re-route the Southport to Manchester trains so that they all terminated at Victoria. This will only take effect from December 2017, but will inconvenience a large number of people – probably 50% of the regular users of the line. OPSTA are running a campaign to try to prevent these changes. 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 wrote to Arriva Rail North, TfGM, Wigan Council, Rail North, Lancashire County Council and Merseytravel. Responses have so far only been received from Arriva Rail North and TfGM. They were included in the Clerk's Report to the March Council meeting and have been shared with OPSTA.

Mr B King will provide a short verbal report on the situation.

8. Signage for Otters Croft and Crooke Woods – for discussion and agreement

During the March Council meeting it was reported that there were issues with people misusing the woodland, i.e. poaching and riding motorbikes through it. In 2014 the Council erected notices pointing out that the area is one where flora and fauna are privileged to live together in a natural ecological habitat, which includes ancient trees, water tracts and steep slopes. The message on the notices asks people to respect this environment. The signage also says that the Parish Council do not accept responsibility for any injuries, death, loss or damage whatsoever sustained by any person or their property while on this site.

In the light of the developments reported at the Council meeting, members are invited to consider whether any other signage is also necessary.

(Co-opted Committee members may vote on this item.)

9. May Newsletter – for agreement

The next newsletter is due for circulation in May. The following items have either been received or suggested for inclusion:

- a) Dedication of Bench IMO the Late Dorothy Nightingale
- b) Spring in Crooke 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

Members are invited to approve the above for inclusion in the newsletter.

(Co-opted Committee members may vote on this item.)

10. FOI Publication Scheme – for review and approval (enclosed)

Enclosed is the Council's Publication Scheme, which was last reviewed and approved in 2009. It is a personalised copy of the model scheme designed for parish councils by the ICO. If the Committee wish to alter it in any way or create their own scheme, it will have to be sent to the ICO for their approval before it can be adopted by the Council.

Enclosed also is a list of information currently available to the public under the publication scheme and the format in which it is available. This was last reviewed in 2012. Some of the information listed as being available on the website may not be there yet, but is due to be put there in the near future.

Members are invited to review the documents and approve any changes.

11. Cleaning of Notice Boards – for information

At the March Council meeting members considered two options that had been suggested in relation to the cleaning of the Council's notice boards. Members decided to wait until a caretaker had been appointed in order to have the boards cleaned. Members had been advised that, if the Caretaker were to carry out the work, a set of step ladders would have to be purchased. We have since been advised that it would in fact require a great deal more: e.g. extensive risk assessments, preparation of method statements, training in the use of ladders, etc, etc. Window cleaners are used to working with ladders and, for safety reasons, in teams of at least two. The use of a small low level scaffolding unit would probably provide additional safety. It is possible to hire these, but the operative still has to climb onto it. We always ask our contractors to provide risk assessments, method statements and evidence of

insurance. Employing a contract window cleaning company to use the correct equipment to clean our notice boards would be a simpler and safer option for all concerned than asking the Caretaker to do it. It would probably be more cost effective as well.

12. Financial Aid Applications – to receive

13. Court of Appeal Decision on Local Development Constraints Where the Principal Authority Has a Shortfall in Housing Supply – for information only (enclosed)

Members are invited to receive Mr B King's report.

14. Greater Manchester Spatial Framework Consultation - for information and agreement (enclosed)

Members are invited to receive Mr B King's report and consider and agree the recommendation.

15. Consultation on Technical Changes Related to the Planning & Housing Bill - for agreement (enclosed)

Members are invited to receive Mr B King's report and to discuss and agree responses to the consultation.

16. Planning Applications – for consideration and for comment

17. NALC Campaigns in 2015/16: “Give Local Councils the Right to Appeal Planning Decisions” – Petition – for information and action (enclosed)

The planning system is unfair. It is one of the few decision-making processes that gives no right of appeal to affected third parties. The government should 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. NALC are inviting as many people as possible sign this petition: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/110489> by 19 April 2016.

NALC have written: “If we reach 10,000 signatures, the government will have to respond to this. And if 100,000 is reached then this will be considered for debate in parliament.” The number of signatures currently stands at 10,722, so the government will at least have to respond.

If you would like to sign the petition, please do it online via the link above.

One of the functions of NALC is to lobby central government on behalf of all local councils. An article about NALC's campaigns over the past year is enclosed.

18. Venue for Next Policy Committee Meeting – for agreement

Shevington Library will be in use as a polling station on 5 May – the date of the next Policy Committee meeting – and so it will be necessary to hold the meeting at another venue. The meeting room at St Anne's Parish Centre is one possibility, but it's availability has yet to be established. If it is not available, then another venue will need to be identified.

Members are invited to approve the change in venue.

19. Date of Next Meeting: 28 April (Council); 5 May (Policy Committee)

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K Pilkington

Clerk to the Parish Council