

Appendix B

Shevington Parish Council Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting 19 May 2021

The Clerk 's report covers all the details of Parish Council activities throughout this year. You will find there details of the developments of important village projects such as :

- Vicarage Lane sports club development and the progress they have made,
- The allotment developments both at Vicarage Lane and at the Forest Fold site,
- The Memorial Park Drainage project.

Imagine our disappointment that our Heritage Lottery bid was cancelled even though it had been accepted for further scrutiny! All bids received in March of 2020 were cancelled because of Covid. The HLF money was to be directed to agricultural and economic projects. The report explains our decision therefore to consult with residents about taking out a loan. This is a long delayed project.

We need to save our waterlogged park, it's decaying children's play area and it's broken pathways. Its lovely trees are dying due to constant waterlogging.

The response from residents was positive. We have now applied for the loan. If we are successful, we hope work will go ahead later this summer.

The report also describes how we, as councillors, involve ourselves in the community and the work the Parish Council does to maintain the property which belongs to all of us as residents.

Now I need to say 'Thank You' to a number of people.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to say a big 'Thank You' to all those of you who have given time and energy to help neighbours and friends during this time of pandemic. Many of you have helped with shopping or with simple practical acts of kindness. Others - working as groups - have made sure vital supplies were available for the more vulnerable. Others have helped combat loneliness.

Our Parish can be proud of the generous community spirit shown at this difficult time.

Thank you also to those who helped brighten our lives and stave off the gloom the 'In Bloom' groups for the continued bright flower displays.... the Christmas window displays in village shops..... these have all helped keep up our spirits.... thank you all!

A very big 'Thank You' must go to our Clerk and to our Parish Council staff. Krystyna our Clerk! What can I say ... she is perhaps rather scary but she is also extremely efficient! Really, Krystyna, we appreciate not only the work you do so thoroughly throughout the year, we also want to thank you for the way you have dealt with and implemented government Covid regulations.

Also, you have ensured that we Councillors could access and use the necessary technology so that Parish Council business could continue virtually. So thank you for all the work you do.

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Thanks also to Tony, our caretaker, for his work throughout the year in all weathers and to Sylvia for her valuable work with the Bowling Green and other duties. I want also to thank Tony's wife Joan and Sylvia's husband Sean who so often help out when help is needed.

I want to highlight one particularly difficult task carried out every year which we perhaps take for granted. As you know, in November poppies are placed on lamp posts across the Parish. It is an arduous task. It involves many repeated acts of bravery balancing on ladders while holding twine and clips in order to attach the poppies. It takes a long time to put them up and a long time to take them down again. A very special thanks must go to Tony and his wife, Joan, and to Sylvia and her husband, Sean, for their dedication to this task!

There are so many people who give their support to the Parish and help deal with village issues. Our local Wigan Councillors, Marlaine Whitham, Janet Brown and Paul Collins! Marlaine has just stepped down as a district Councillor.. thank you Marlaine for your support over the past 3 years. Our very own Parish Councillor, Mike Crosby, was elected this year to take her place. Congratulations Mike.

Thanks to all of you for your support.

We will next be presenting the Parish Council Awards. So, thank you to those who will be receiving them! So many of them this year mention help given during this year of pandemic. We thank you all for your generosity of spirit.

I really hope I have left no one out of these 'thank yous' !

It has been a difficult year, but the Council has worked hard to make important things happen. Hopefully, we can regain some normality soon.

Again, thank you all for coming.

Ira Whiteley
Chairman – Shevington Parish Council