

Shevington Parish Council
Clerk's Report to the Meeting of the Council – 22 February 2023

Fall in Memorial Park

Towards the end of January I received a complaint from a resident about her child having fallen on the paving at Memorial Park. The resident also reported the incident on Facebook, putting the information, the identity of the child and a photograph of the child into the public domain. I replied to the resident on the same day. In my reply I asked her to provide me with details of the location of the fall. To date I have not received a reply.

Bin at Entrance to Crooke Park

An enquiry about the bin missing from the entrance to Crooke Park has been sent to Streetscene. The bin was originally provided and fitted by the CVRA many years ago and the Parish Council pay for it to be serviced. The Parks & Streetscene Area Manager has acknowledged the email and has asked his staff to look into the matter.

Donations to Charities

Over the past few weeks we have received letters thanking the Parish Council from the following recipients of grants and donations:

- Prevent Unwanted Pets
- Wigan Macular Society
- Rainbow Wishes
- 1st Shevington Scouts
- Shevington Methodist Church

Anti-Social Behaviour at Property on the Council Estate in Shevington

A resident attended February's Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting to seek support for an elderly relative living in a property on the Council estate. The relative was becoming increasingly anxious because of anti-social activities in connection with her neighbour's property. The issues were reported to Wigan Council, the district councillors and the local Police.

Dist Cllr Paul Collins was the first to reply; he has passed the details on to Wigan Council's housing team for investigation.

The local Police have also replied. They have had a look at some of the recent reported incidents at the location. There were 3 reports in January, the most recent of those on the 15th. On all occasions officers have attended and dealt with the reported incidents and no serious offences have been identified. All of the local policing team have been made aware of the situation and it has also been shared with Wigan Council's Community Resilience Team for their information. As things stand, all Police matters have been resolved. However, they are happy to remain involved in any problem-solving discussions around this and help as best they can.

An officer from Wigan Council's Community Resilience Team subsequently contacted me and told me that he had checked the addresses concerned and had found that the last complaints received by the CRT in relation to these properties seemed to be in 2020. If I were able to provide him with the residents' names, etc he would be able to set up a case and look further into matters. I have replied that I have no other information that I can share.

Telephone Charges

BT have let us know that our charges will not be increasing at the beginning of the financial year.

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Precept & Text for Council Tax Letter

The precept request for 2023-24 and the text for the Council Tax letter have both been submitted to Wigan Council.

Obstructive Parking Near Junction of Highfield Avenue with Gathurst Lane

This has been reported to the local Police, who have replied that they are aware of the situation. This is a regular problem and is difficult to police, as they would not be able to watch the area for any length of time.

Police can report someone for causing an unnecessary obstruction of the highway, which includes footpaths. However, at a location such as this the driver returns quite soon after having parked the vehicle, apologises swiftly when challenged and moves the obstruction. This negates the offence, as they have moved their vehicle as soon as they were requested to do it.

With regard to the introduction of yellow lines: this is for Wigan Council's Highways Department to consider and for them to enforce once they have been introduced.

The Police have said that they will try their best to make themselves more visible in the area at peak times. However, this will be very limited.

Forest Fold Allotment Tenancy Agreements & Plot Rents

The tenancy agreements and associated documents as well as requests for plot rents have been sent to tenants. So far 38% of the plot rents have been received.

Fires at Forest Fold Allotments

The Parish Council has recently received a few complaints from the owners of properties neighbouring the Forest Fold Allotment site about fires on the allotments and the strong smell of burning and smoke which is pervading their homes etc.

Tenants are permitted to burn plant materials in incinerators during the Winter months as long as the activity does not impact on neighbours. On some of the occasions the fires produced large volumes of smoke and on one, while the fire was well-contained, there was an acrid smell – as though the tenant was burning plastic, which is not permitted. The matter was quietly dealt with by members of the FFTA Committee and the tenants concerned have apologised to the neighbours.

In anticipation of any future fires the FFTA Committee have emailed their membership, asking them to consider the neighbours when burning anything and comply with the allotment regulations. Meanwhile, a skip for use by the tenants has been arranged.

Paving in the Memorial Garden

In early October the Parish Council drew up a list of priorities for action based on the outcome of the Annual Inspection of Property in August. One of the priorities was to obtain quotes for relaying the paving in the Memorial Garden. Soon afterwards I contacted the company who were carrying out restoration work on the Memorial to find out whether they included this among the services they provided. They replied that this was something they usually out-sourced. They would be able to assess the work required and obtain quotes for the Council, but could not do this until after November. The Company will be carrying out an assessment

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this week and will try to obtain quotes from 2/3 contractors, whose work is considered to be of good quality, as soon as possible.

Vicarage Lane Fields Lease Rents

All lease rents for this quarter have been received. The sports club leases are due for their first review. This will be an agenda item at the Finance Committee meeting.

Councillors' Printing Claims

If any member would like to submit a claim for printing expenses in connection with papers for meetings, please forward it to me together with your bank details before 24 March 2023.

K.M.P. 17.02.23