

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shevington Parish Council
Held Wednesday 22 February 2023
7:00pm – The Community Centre at Vicarage Lane Fields**

Present: Councillors William McKnight (Chairman), Christopher Horridge, Ira Whiteley, Michael Grimes, John Ball, Michael Crosby, John Whiteley and Jessica Diggle (via MS Teams)

Eight members of the public

Officer in Attendance: Mrs Krystyna Pilkington (Clerk)

Cllr John Ball announced that, after several decades as a parish councillor, he would not be standing again for re-election. He had enjoyed his time on the Council, but had decided it was time to stand down. Cllr Ball thanked everyone for their support over the years and was given an ovation.

908 Apologies for Absence

None

909 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Ira Whiteley wrt Item 912 (*personal*)

910 Taylor-Wimpey Estate Issues

The Chairman welcomed Mr Peter Schickhoff-Brown, who reported that he had heard from the LA on this matter. He considered the response he had received to be unsatisfactory and had presented his observations in a paper that had been previously circulated to the Parish Council.

Mr Schickhoff-Brown explained that Taylor-Wimpey had complied with the requirements of the s106 agreement of 2012 by setting up the Woodland Management Company and putting a number of other things in place. It was now the company that was responsible for managing the woodland. However, the company did not seem to have been activated and there was no evidence that the woodland was being managed.

It was apparent from the letter received from the LA that Wigan Council officers did not seem to have appreciated that it was now the management company they should be dealing with, not Taylor-Wimpey. There followed a discussion about the Woodland Management Plan and other matters associated with it.

Cllr Jess Diggle joined the meeting.

It was reported that Taylor-Wimpey was still the freeholder of the land. Under the agreement, the freehold should have been transferred to the Woodland Management Company. Mr Schickhoff-Brown informed the Council that the scenario held significant future problems for the residents of the estate. In reply to a question from a member,

the Parish Council were advised that all they could do was lobby Wigan Council to persuade the directors of the management company to activate it.

Cllr Jess Diggle left the meeting.

After further discussion, Mr Schickhoff-Brown was thanked for his presentation and he left the meeting.

911 Memorial Park Drainage Update

At the Policy & General Purposes Committee meeting in October 2022 a five-point plan was agreed in principle with regard to the drainage project. The plan had reached point two. A report updating the Parish Council on progress with point two had been previously circulated and was received.

Since the P&GP Committee meeting in October a great deal of research has been carried out in connection with various aspects relating to the issues and it had been established that:

1. UU were required by law to accept discharge from domestic establishments and run-off from their roofs and immediate surroundings into their systems.
2. A law which prevented UU from accepting run-off from fields, etc did not appear to exist. This led to the conclusion that it was a policy of UU.
3. When considering additional discharges of water into their systems, UU put great store by the likelihood of increased flood risk – hence the policy.

There had been administrative issues on the part of UU with regard to the original enquiry submitted. They had taken responsibility for these and had apologised verbally. In view of this they had advised that the enquiry, together with all necessary documentation, should be re-submitted.

A report and 10 supporting documents had subsequently been submitted to UU. The report included technical information that they had requested. The emailed submission had been acknowledged and at the time of the preparation of the report to the Council a response was still awaited.

Enquiries had been made with various sources to try to establish the identity of a more senior person at UU who could be contacted about the discharge issue, if this was necessary. It was reported that the Clerk had been in contact with UU earlier in the day and had been told that a manager was reviewing the submission and would be in touch as soon as possible.

A further update would be brought to the Policy & General Purposes Committee the following week.

912 The Future of the Friends of Memorial Park

The current members of the FSMP had held a meeting the previous week. During the meeting they decided to disband the FSMP due to a shortage of volunteers. So, they had let the Parish Council know that they would no longer be going ahead with the notice board purchase. In view of this the BACS payment of £250 to the FSMP had been cancelled.

In line with their constitution, the FSMP would donate the balance of all monies raised – approximately £6,783 - to the Parish Council. They had stated that they wished that all the

monies donated by the FSMP would be spent on improvements to the park and not on its general maintenance. They suggested that improvements to the play area should be treated as a priority.

The FSMP also highlighted the need for the Memorial Garden paving to be assessed and re-laid in order to keep residents (especially children and people with mobility issues) safe.

The Council noted the above information.

Resolved: The Council agreed to accept the donation of approximately £6,783, which would be ring-fenced for improvements to the park. It would be allocated to the Memorial Park Development reserve.

Standing Orders Were Suspended.

913 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public

None.

914 District Councillors' Reports

Dist Cllr Mike Crosby reported that:

- The damaged fence between Aspinall Road and Crow Orchard Road had been repaired.
- Another damaged fence in the Parish was due to be repaired in the near future.
- Maintenance of drainage and repairs to potholes on the roundabout at J27 – scheduled to be carried out by Lancashire County Council – had still not been undertaken.

Dist Cllr Crosby noted a report from a member of the public that a response about progress with the investigations into the damaged grass verges at Whitehall had still not been received from Wigan Council.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

915 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council (25 January 2023)

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 25 January 2023, were approved as a true and correct record.

916 Decisions Taken at Full Council Meetings Held Virtually

Because of the cold weather at the time the Council meeting on 14 December 2022 had been held virtually.

Resolved: The Council ratified the following decisions made at the meeting on Wednesday, 14 December 2022:

Minute 881

Approval of the minutes of the Council meeting on 30 November 2022.

Minute 886

Approval of the results of the Christmas Shop Front awards and arrangements for the presentations.

Minute 887

Approval of items for inclusion in the January newsletter.

Minute 890

Approval of accounts to date and payments made in December 2022.

917 Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that he had asked the Clerk to approach a manufacturer of play equipment and obtain a ballpark figure for the installation of a new and larger play area in Memorial Park. The Clerk had met with the sales representative from the manufacturer earlier in the week and would report back to the Policy & General Purposes Committee the following week.

918 Reports from Councillors

Use of Shevington Library for Meetings

A member reported that, when contacted by someone from Shevington Library to find out whether the Parish Council still wished to use the library for meetings, she had confirmed that this was no longer the case.

919 Reports from Representatives

Crooke Village Residents' Association

The CVRA representative reported that:

- a. There was no news about the litter bin that had disappeared and the damaged bench had still not been replaced or returned.
- b. In recent weeks water entering the Mill brook from the John Pit area seemed to be carrying with it what looked like a red iron deposit.
- c. The new gardening group would soon be growing a variety of plants.

Shevington Youth Club

The gas and electricity bills for the Youth Club had together come to a total of £1,150 in January.

'in Bloom' Groups

The representative reported that, due to the mild weather, signs of new growth were appearing. The representative asked if the 'in Bloom' groups could continue to use the greenhouse at Forest Fold now that they were no longer entering the RHS competitions. The Chairman confirmed that they could.

Patient Participation Group

The representative reported that the next meeting would be in March.

Vicarage Lane Fields Developments

A members asked if the provision of litter bins for the site could be added to the agenda of a future meeting.

Shevington Fete

It was reported that everything was going to plan.

There were no reports from
Shevington & District Community Association
Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees
Vicarage Lane Allotments
Forest Fold Allotments Tenants Association

920 Draft Minutes of the Finance Committee (25 January 2023) and Policy & General Purposes Committee (1 February 2023)

The draft Minutes of the Finance Committee on 25 January 2023 and the Policy & General Purposes Committee (1 February 2023) were received.

921 Buckingham Palace Garden Party

The Council had been invited to nominate the Chairman and his wife to attend the Buckingham Palace Garden Party to be held on 9 May 2023. The deadline for submission of the nomination was 10 February 2023. Cllr McKnight agreed to be nominated, so the completed form was sent to the Lancashire Association before the deadline. Its receipt had been confirmed.

Resolved: The nomination was approved retrospectively.

922 Text Update for Wigan Council Webpage

The text about the Parish Council on Wigan Council's website was out of date. At the request of the Policy & General Purposes Committee the Clerk had prepared updated text for consideration. This had been previously circulated and was discussed.

Resolved: The updated text for Wigan Council's website was approved. It was agreed that it would also be put on the Parish Council's websites.

923 March Newsletter

Ideas for articles for inclusion in the March edition of the newsletter were discussed.

Resolved: The following were agreed for inclusion in the March edition of the newsletter:

- 2023 Precept
- 2023 Elections – to include the need to provide photo ID
- What Does Your Parish Council Do for You?
- Memorial Park Development – Where We Are
- Elnup Wood Improvements
- Forest Fold Bowling Green
- Shevington Fete
- SinB Appeal for Volunteers
- The Coronation – Big Lunch & Volunteer Day on 8 May

924 Annual Parish Meeting

This year's Annual Parish Meeting was due to be held on Wednesday, 15 March at 7pm. The Community Building at Vicarage Lane Fields had been booked for this, as it was very easy to ventilate and it was desirable from the Council's point of view that Covid guidelines were followed. The agenda was discussed briefly.

Resolved: The standard agenda used in previous years would be followed.

925 Clerk's Report

The Clerk's report was received. *See Appendix A*

926 Financial Aid Applications

The Council received and considered three applications for grant funding.

(a) Wigan & Leigh Hospice 40th Anniversary

Resolved: A s137 grant of £250 towards the cost of celebrations relating to the 40th Anniversary of the opening of Wigan & Leigh Hospice was approved.

The Late Dr John Surman, who was one of the founders of Shevington Surgery and lived in the village, was the GP responsible for setting the wheels in motion for the founding of the hospice and was very much involved in its development.

(b) Fete Committee

Resolved: A s137 grant of £750 towards the costs of running the Fete in 2023 was approved. The Council also approved a virement of £595 from the 'Contingency' cost centre to the 'Financial Aid' cost centre to cover the potential overspend in the latter resulting from this award.

(c) Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees

Resolved: The Council approved a s19 grant of £2,955 towards the maintenance costs of Shevington Recreation Ground.

927 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure schedule for February was received. *See Appendix B*

Resolved: That the accounts be approved, the cheques signed and internet transfers be made in payment, due notice being given to the bank statements exhibited.

928 Planning Applications

A/23/95103/CON: Former Shevington Community Primary School Miles Lane Shevington - Condition Discharge application to discharge conditions 5, 6, 8, 13, 15 and 16 in respect of application A/22/94090/MAJLA

The above application was noted.

929 Next Meetings

1 March (P&GP and Finance Committees); 29 March (Council)

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Resolved: That, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded, and they were instructed to withdraw.

The members of the public left the meeting.

930 Community Service Awards

The Council considered nominations for the Community Service Awards 2023.

Resolved: The Council agreed that the following would be presented with an award for their services to the Community:

- Elaine Roper – member of Appley Bridge Community Association and Chair of Appley Bridge Allotments Society
- Louise Leyland & the Staff of Shevington Village Kitchen for their voluntary work in the community and
- The Shevington in Bloom Team of volunteer gardeners.

931 Memorial Park Play Area SLA

The SLA from Wigan Council for the maintenance of the Memorial Park play area in 2023-24 had been previously circulated. This was considered.

Resolved: The Council approved the above SLA for 2023-24. To increase the amount allocated for the SLA in the 2023-24 budget from £798 to £829.33, the Council approved a virement of £31 from the 2023-24 General Reserve to the 'Memorial Park Play Area maintenance' cost centre.

932 Litter Collection Contract

A quotation for the litter bin emptying contract for 2023-24 was considered.

Resolved: The contract for emptying the Parish Council's bins – to the value of £5,656.35 – was awarded to Wigan Council's Streetscene team. A virement of £21 from the 2023-24 General Reserve to the 'Litter Collection contract' cost centre for the same year was approved to cover a small potential overspend.

933 Memorial Park Grounds Maintenance Contract

Quotations for the grounds maintenance of Memorial Park were considered.

Resolved: The contract – to the total value of £4,779.84 – was awarded to Envirocare MS Ltd. To cover the value of the SLA the Council approved a virement of £138 from

the 2023-24 General Reserve to the 'Memorial Park Maintenance' cost centre for the same financial year.

934 Treeworks in Memorial Park

The Council considered quotations from two tree surgeons. The work involved
(a) the felling of three dead or dying sycamore trees plus stump grinding and
(b) crown reduction and lifting of a small group of trees.
All trees were situated along the northwestern boundary of the park.

Resolved: The contract – to the value of £1,040 - was awarded to SMN Trees. To cover the overspend created, a virement of £260 from the 'Contingency' cost centre to the 'Tree survey/works' was approved.

935 Bowling Green Contract

A quotation for the maintenance of the bowling green was considered.

Resolved: The contract – to the value of £4,800 - was awarded to Johnstone's Pitchcare. To cover the anticipated overspend to the end of the financial year the Council approved a virement of £400 from the 'Contingency' cost centre to the 'Bowling Green maintenance' cost centre.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:57 pm.

Chairman