

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shevington Parish Council  
Held Wednesday 25 January 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 and John Whiteley  
Four members of the public

**Officer in Attendance:** Mrs Krystyna Pilkington (Clerk)

**893 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Vicky Galligan and Jessica Diggle

**894 Declaration of Interests**

None

*Standing Orders were suspended.*

**895 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public**

**40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Wigan Hospice**

A resident reported that forty years ago a local GP, Dr Surman, established Wigan Hospice. A number of events were being planned to mark this anniversary and she would be submitting an application to the Parish Council for a grant towards their costs.

**Memorial Park Development**

A member of the public observed that it would be good to see some progress with the project, as it seemed to have stalled. The Chair explained that many of the issues were matters that were out of the Parish Council's hands.

**Volunteering in Honour of the Coronation**

A resident reported that King Charles had announced that he wished people to spend the Monday of the coronation weekend doing something on a voluntary basis for one day. The resident asked if the initiative – designated for 8 May - could be highlighted in the newsletter. It was also suggested that perhaps it could be linked to the Big Lunch in some way.

**Grass Verges in Miles Lane**

Another resident raised the issue of the destruction of the grass verges in front of a couple of properties in Miles Lane, Appley Bridge. The issues had been reported to the LA and an officer had been investigating them. The resident described recent developments in relation to the verges and asked Dist Cllr Mike Crosby to establish progress with the investigations.

**896 District Councillors' Reports**

Dist Cllr Mike Crosby reported that:

- After many months of campaigning by the district councillors, the damaged fence between Aspinall Road and Crow Orchard Road had been repaired.
- 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.
- Numerous potholes appearing in the ward had been reported to Wigan Council in recent weeks.

The Clerk reported that Dist Cllr Vicky Galligan had asked her to draw the Council's attention to a pop-up event due to take place at Shevington Methodist Church on Friday, 27 January from 10am to 12 noon. It was being held by Wigan Council with the intention of providing cost of living support.

*Standing Orders were re-instated.*

### **897 Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Council (14 December 2022)**

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Last Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 14 December 2022, were approved as a true and correct record.

### **898 Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that he had received a complaint from a resident about the large number of vehicles regularly parked along the road outside the shops in Miles Lane, Appley Bridge, and also across the road from the shops. He had advised the resident to report this to the Police.

This led to a discussion about street parking in other areas of the Parish.

### **899 Reports from Councillors**

#### **Restriction of Traffic Along Old Lane**

Having submitted an enquiry, a member reported that he had been told by Wigan Council that there was no possibility of restricting the type of traffic using Old Lane – a very busy residential road – as no fatalities had been recorded amongst its users.

### **900 Reports from Representatives**

#### **Shevington & District Community Association**

The representative reported that members of the CA would be voting on the 'Vocal Eyes' projects the following week.

#### **Crooke Village Residents' Association**

The CVRA representative reported that:

- a. There had been concern in the village because seven sheds had been broken into in one night on 31 December 2022. All available CCTV imagery had been passed

on to the Police to aid with the investigation. The CVRA were not using the incidents as a reason to progress the village's CCTV project, but they were going to progress it.

A member observed that the following week several shops in Broad O'th Lane had been broken into, although not all of the break-ins had been on the same night.

- b. Residents had been discussing the unadopted sections of road in Crooke Village and were wondering whether they could do anything to get the roads adopted. This led to a discussion about the law with regard to the ownership of unadopted roads. Members reported that roads had to be brought up to adoptable standard and, according to past experience, had to be in excellent condition to be adopted by Wigan Council.
- c. A static caravan being transported on a trailer from a local vendor's base to the M6 had recently created issues along the bends in Wigan Lower Road (Standish Lower Ground). This opened a discussion about the possibility of seeking the introduction of improved signage directing large vehicles along a different route if they wished to access the M6. It was observed that there was a directional sign at Beech Hill traffic lights re-directing traffic, but it was small and often went un-noticed.
- d. The bench that had been removed from Crooke Park for repair or replacement had still not been returned.

#### **Patient Participation Group**

The representative reported that the AGM had been held recently and he was now a member of the group.

#### **Friends of Shevington Memorial Park**

It was reported that the Chair of the FSMP had tried to arrange a meeting of members, as she wished to resign her position. When doing so she had discovered that most members did not wish to continue. The Chair's vision currently was to support the project in small ways.

#### **Shevington Fete**

A meeting of officers was taking place this evening.

There were no reports from

**Shevington Youth Club**

**Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees**

**'in Bloom' Groups**

**Vicarage Lane Fields Developments**

**Vicarage Lane Allotments**

**Forest Fold Allotments Tenants Association**

### **901 Budget & Precept 2023/24**

The budget and precept proposed by the Finance Committee for 2023/24 were received.

**Resolved:** The Council approved a budgeted expenditure of £98,959 (*including Expenditure Contingency*) and a precept of £84,615 for the financial year 2023/24, as recommended by the Finance Committee. The budgeted expenditure would be subject to adjustment throughout the year as new or renewed contracts were agreed.

### **902 Text for the Council Tax Letter**

The text included on the letter to residents about Council Tax in 2022/23 had been previously circulated. Cllr Mike Grimes agreed to prepare a draft statement to be included on the letter for 2023/24 for approval by the Policy & General Purposes Committee the following week.

### **903 Clerk's Report**

The Clerk's report, which was presented verbally, was received. *See Appendix A*

### **904 Financial Aid Applications**

None

### **905 Payments, Income & Bank Balances**

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

#### **Christmas Shop-Front Donations to Charities**

The winners of the first three prizes in the Christmas Shop-Front competition had each been invited to nominate a Charity to which the Parish Council would make a donation.

**Resolved:** The Council approved donations to the Charities listed below:

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Wigan Macular Society (£60)

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Rainbow Wishes (£40)

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Preventing Unwanted Pets (Wigan Branch) (£30)

The donations had been included in the calculation of the original allocation to the 'Chairman's Allowance' cost centre. However, increases in the number of other items and in the costs of regular items covered by this cost centre had resulted in a small overspend of £63.

**Resolved:** The Council approved a virement of £63 from the 'Contingency' cost centre to the 'Chairman's Allowance' to cover the overspend.

**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.

### **906 Planning Applications**

There were no relevant planning applications to bring to the attention of the Council.

### **907 Next Meetings**

1 February 2023 (Policy & General Purposes Committee); 22 February 2023 (Council)

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:31 pm.

**Chairman**