

Appendix A

Clerk's Report Shevington Annual Parish Meeting Held 27th May 2026 18:30 at Vicarage Lane Playing Fields

The purpose of this report is to present a review of developments in the Parish and the work of Shevington Parish Council over the past year.

Projects

The Council has continued to focus on a number of longer-term projects and practical improvements across the parish.

A key priority has remained the long-standing drainage issues at **Memorial Park**. Members will know this has been an ongoing matter for a number of years. I am pleased to report that the necessary borrowing is now in place and the works are currently scheduled for **June**, weather permitting. The Council has also secured support from **Wigan Council through the Council Tax Support Grant** to assist with the cost of the project. It is hoped that, once completed, these works will finally begin to address the persistent drainage problems that have affected the park for so long.

The Council has also continued to manage and monitor matters relating to **Vicarage Lane**, the allotments, the bowling green, and the wider range of parish assets and land interests. As I have settled further into the role, one of the ongoing challenges has been to bring structure and clarity to inherited arrangements and records, while continuing to keep day-to-day services moving.

The Environment

The Council has continued to support environmental improvements and planting schemes throughout the parish.

This has included continued support for **Shevington in Bloom**, including additional floral displays where possible, and ongoing work around planters and planted areas. However, members should be aware that the current planter maintenance arrangements have become increasingly difficult to manage. Since the contractor sold their original site and has increasingly prioritised larger contracts elsewhere, particularly with Wigan Council, responsiveness and continuity have been more challenging than they should be. The Council has therefore focused on maintaining the current season where possible, while recognising that alternative and more reliable arrangements may need to be considered for future years.

As ever, the Council remains committed to supporting efforts to maintain a clean, attractive and cared-for parish environment.

Support for Local Organisations and Community Activity

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The Council has continued to support a number of local organisations and community activities over the past year.

This has included approval of **£1,500 in support of Shevington Fete**, recognising its importance as a well-supported community event which brings residents and local groups together.

The Council also agreed a contribution towards the **local Year 7 boys' trip to the National Rugby League Final at Wembley**, supporting a memorable opportunity for local young people and recognising the importance of encouraging participation and achievement in sport.

Support has also continued for **Shevington in Bloom** and other local groups and initiatives that make a visible contribution to parish life.

The Council remains keen to continue supporting community organisations, events and projects where it can do so lawfully and within its means.

Communication

A significant area of focus this year has been communication and the Council's public-facing arrangements.

Work is now progressing on a **new parish council website**, which will finally replace the long-running and confusing position of the Council having effectively had two websites in circulation for a number of years. It has taken longer than it should have done to resolve, but the intention is to bring the Council's online presence onto a clearer and more professional footing.

The Council is also reinstating the **parish newsletter**, with the next edition planned from **June**. This will help improve communication with residents and provide a clearer channel for updates on Council activity, community news and local events.

Governance and Administration

This has been a year of continued bedding in for me as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

As with many councils, a large part of the role is not simply the visible meeting cycle, but the ongoing work of reviewing inherited systems, resolving long-standing issues, improving records, and trying to build more reliable administrative arrangements for the future. At times this has meant picking up unfinished or unclear matters from previous years while also keeping current business moving.

Alongside the day-to-day work of the role, I have also been working towards **CiLCA**, or at least attempting to keep that moving alongside everything else, in order to continue developing professionally and strengthen the Council's governance and administration over time.

Events and Local Initiatives

The Council has continued to support local civic and seasonal initiatives.

The **Christmas Shop Window Competition** was held again, continuing a well-liked local tradition and helping to support festive activity in the parish. This is one of a number of examples where the Council seeks to add something positive to community life, even through relatively small initiatives.

The Council also continues to support **Remembrance** arrangements, local groups, and wider community activity throughout the year.

Conclusion

Over the past year the Parish Council has continued to balance day-to-day operational matters with a number of longer-term priorities.

The most significant progress has been in moving the **Memorial Park drainage scheme** from a long-running issue towards delivery, while continuing to support local groups, environmental improvements, parish communications and community events. At the same time, work continues behind the scenes to improve systems, clarify responsibilities, and put the Council's administration on a firmer footing for the future.

There is still more to do, but progress is being made.

Michael Potts
Clerk & RFO to Shevington Parish Council