

Shevington Parish Council

Clerk & RFO to the Council (Temp) – Mr M Potts
Tel: 07397805227
clerk@shevingtonpc.gov.uk



Minutes

Extraordinary Meeting of the Full Council

Held on 30th April 2025 at 19:00

At Shevington ARLFC, Vicarage Ln, Shevington, Wigan WN6 8HP

Meeting Opened at 19:02

Part One

Chairman: *William McKnight*.

Officers Present: Acting Clerk – M Potts

Cllrs Present: Cllrs Thompson, Horridge, Crosby, 0

356. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from **Cllrs Jess Diggle**, Terry Bridge, and Mike Grimes.

357. Declarations of Interest - Code of Conduct – Declaration of Interests

Members were reminded of their responsibility to declare any personal or prejudicial interest that they may have had in any item of business on the agenda no later than when the item was reached – **None**.

Localism Act 2011 – Dispensations

Members were reminded of their responsibility to make a request for a dispensation to speak on any matter for which they have declared an interest. – **None are listed**

358. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th March 2025 were approved as a correct record.

359. Chairman and Councillors Reports / District Councillors Reports.

Cllr Crosby raised the issue of funding and maintenance of footpaths in parks; Crooke is expected to start resurfacing works in the next two weeks by Wigan BC.

Chairman highlighted known issues at Stockley & Whiteacre, no news on those yet.

- Action taken to check on policy across the borough for drinking on the streets, confirm if its town centre specific or applies across the borough following reports of incidents at bus stops > Clerk to check

Discussion around the issues at Gathurst Station, Cllr Crosby highlighted that the Manchester to Southport line was highlighted as the 2nd highest cancellation rate in the UK, issues such as flooding raised with the relevant authorities and funding in place from Northern Rail to address improvements needed. Wider discussions about potholes and Lancashire roads in general.

360. Matters Raised by Members of the Public

A member of the Public raised the issue of uneven paving flags in the memorial park; new clerk has already observed these on a site visit and in hand with a contractor but also part of wider discussions on drainage works to be carried out.

361. Finance

361.1) A grant of £1,500 was approved for the Shevington Fete - **All in favour.**

361.2) Loan Application to PWLB for drainage works part funded by Wigan BC, Loan over 40 years and within existing budgets – Information shared prior to the meeting – **All in Favour**

362. Recruitment & Staffing

362.1) Following the recruitment process Michael Potts was successful at Interview and the recruitment panel proposed he be sworn in as the new Clerk to Shevington PC. Mr Potts made a short speech to the room about his previous experience in work and Parish Councils and expressed excitement in supporting the council in its endeavours. Cllr Voted on his appointment - **All in Favour.**

362.2) Wigan Council's *Audit, Governance and Standards Committee* invited members of Shevington PC to nominate a councillor to attend their meeting, following discussion it was decided that we don't send a representative on this occasion.

363. Purchase of Accounting Software

Cllrs were given prior details of the proposal for new accounting software, concerns were raised about the additional costs involved, Mike (Clerk) gave an overview of his experience with an alternative solution and recommended the one selected by the council as the best fit, also highlight the support on offer which is inclusive in the price and negates the need for any external paid accountancy support, plus the addition of the management of Allotments which wasn't his prior area of expertise.

Members moved to the vote – 1 Abstention, 6 in favour – Passed.

364. Notice Board – Gathurst Train Station.

Discussion had around correspondence, and photos received about the state of the noticeboard at the station that was named as SPC. Cllrs were unsure of the historical agreement for this being placed there. It was resolved to write to Northern Rail to request the removal or review of the name Gathurst Station – Clerk to Action.

366. Allotments

The Tenants Association raised the following points:

Re-measuring exercise - 16 of the allotment plots have been remeasured as there are quite a few anomalies in the sizing when just a few were measured recently by the council. Some were smaller and some were larger than the last set of measurements that were taken – Agreed to complete a remeasuring exercise ahead of the implementation of new software.

Contact details being shared with FFTA Committee – This was refused on the grounds of Data Protection but potential solutions to be explored by Mike (Clerk) when implementation begins.
Plot 30 (Possible development into a Community Plot) – Discussion had between the council and will be evaluated once the new software is in place.

Two Spare Raised Beds – One of the residents gave them up in March and so being advertised on Facebook, discussion around what alternatives they could be used for is they're not taken up soon, clerk to review situation with Angela (*Secretary FFTA*) once the council is on a firmer footing.

Removal of Security Barrier – Removed on H&S grounds, Clerk to look at requirements as part of a review in the next few weeks.

>Clerk to review documentation and Rental Agreements as part of the Software implementation.

Meeting closed at: [Insert Time]

Next meeting confirmed as: Annual Meeting of The Full Council on 21st May 2025.