



POLICY & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING

**WEDNESDAY 2 OCTOBER 2019 - 7 P.M.
SHEVINGTON LIBRARY**

AGENDA

1. **Apologies** – to receive apologies from Committee members.
2. **Declaration of Interests** - to receive any declarations of interest (personal and/or prejudicial) with regard to items on the Agenda.
Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest, (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest), they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 28 June 2012 and amended on 25 October 2012. Members are reminded that if they have any personal interests of a prejudicial nature or a disclosable pecuniary interest they must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room. Any member needing clarification must contact the Clerk.
3. **Minutes of the Last Policy & General Purposes Committee Meeting (4 September 2019)** - to consider, agree and approve the signature of the previously circulated Minutes by the Chairman as a correct record of the meeting. (circulated with the papers for the Council meeting on 25 September)
4. **Village Issues – for information only**
To receive reports relating to the legitimate business of the Council from Committee members and Council officers (Councillors are asked to advise the Clerk in advance of any reports – including the subject matter - they wish to make.)
5. **Equitable Distribution of Expenditure on 'In Bloom' Projects in the Parish – for discussion and agreement**
Earlier this year a proposal was made that the Parish Council should consider the distribution of expenditure on 'In Bloom' projects in the Parish and whether it is equitable. Below is a table showing the distribution of expenditure in this area in 2018/19:

LOCATION	PROVISION	EXPENDITURE
Shevington	Provision & maintenance of 23 planters all year round, maintenance of one three tier planter during the Summer season, plants for and watering of all Shevington in Bloom tended flower beds on Parish Council property during the Summer	£3,264
Appley Bridge	Provision & maintenance of 5 planters all year round plus watering of all Appley Bridge in Bloom planters and flower beds during Summer	£830
Shevington Vale	Provision & maintenance of 2 planters all year round plus watering of all Appley Bridge in Bloom planters and flower beds during Summer	£612
Crooke Village	Provision & maintenance of 6 planters all year	£636
Shevington Moor	Provision & maintenance of 3 planters all year	£318
Gathurst Station	Provision & maintenance of 4 planters all year	£424
Appley Bridge Station	Provision & maintenance of 3 planters all year	£318
TOTAL:		£6,402

Cllr W McKnight will lead on this.

Members are invited to discuss the issues and agree the best way forward.

(As this is a matter of policy with respect to distribution, Co-opted Committee members may vote on this.)

6. Northwest in Bloom Awards – for discussion and agreement

The Britain in Bloom North West Awards are on Friday 1st November 2019.

Tickets are priced **£30** per person.

As last year North West in Bloom were over subscribed for this event, this year they are asking that all entries initially request up to 10 tickets per entry. If additional tickets are required, we have been asked to complete the waiting list sheet and these will be considered when initial requests have been processed.

Ceremonies will start at 10.30am with coffee and a chance to see the exhibition and meet up with friends. This will be followed by lunch and the Awards Ceremony and close around 4:30pm.

The ticket application form for the event needs to be returned to North West in Bloom with our payment by Monday, 7 October. Any members wishing to attend need to inform the Clerk by this meeting and bring their payment with them to the meeting.

The fact that the Council has been invited to the Awards suggests that the park has received an award.

Members are invited to discuss the matter and nominate a representative(s) to officially accept the award on behalf of the Council.

(Co-opted Committee members may vote on this.)

7. Fields of Remembrance - for agreement (enclosed)

The Parish Council have been invited by the Royal British Legion to consider taking part in the 'Fields of Remembrance' event. Enclosed is an explanatory document.

Members are invited to consider the information and agree the best way forward.

(Co-opted Committee members may vote on this.)

8. Consultation on Audit Code of Practice – for agreement (enclosed)

The National Audit Office has issued the second part of its [consultation on the new Code of Audit Practice](#) which is due to come into force by 1 April 2020. NALC will be responding to some of the questions and have asked parish councils to make a contribution to their answers. This consultation would usually be considered by the Finance Committee, but, because the responses need to be with NALC before the next Finance Committee meeting, it has been included on this agenda.

Enclosed are the following:

- (a) The covering document for this item
- (b) The NAO's response to the Stage 1 consultation responses (by email only)
- (c) The NAO's Stage 2 consultation document (by email only)
- (d) The new draft Code of Audit Practice (by email only)

Most of the documents are being circulated by email only because of their size.

Members are invited to consider and agree the replies to NALC's questions.

9. Manchester Future Airspace – for information

In 2017 the Government published a policy on the future of UK airspace. This made it clear that modernisation is essential and also led to the industry's regulator, the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), developing the Airspace Modernisation Strategy (CAP1711). The strategy reflects the fact UK airspace is among the busiest in the world, having been designed for a different era. One of the foundations of this strategy is the need to respond to changes in technology and the improved navigational capabilities of current aircraft. As part of this, the Government requires Manchester Airport to lead a process of changing the airspace around the airport, which relates to flight paths used by aircraft arriving at or departing from Manchester Airport and flying at heights of up to 7,000ft. The UK en-route air traffic control provider (NATS) is responsible for reviewing flight paths above 7,000ft. There is a clear process for the airport, as change sponsors, to follow, which is set out by the CAA called CAP1616, and this will take more than two years. The CEO of Manchester Airport has written to the Parish Council as the airport embarks on the first phase of this process. The first phase within CAP1616 (step 1B) is called "Define" and requires Manchester Airport to agree the broad principles to adopt when designing new flight paths. This is not a formal consultation, but a requirement to develop a good understanding of the "principles" that matter most to the people and organisations affected by the airport's operations. Manchester Airport has a long history of talking to and working with the communities around the airport, and the approach to this project will be no different. During step 1B, Manchester Airport will be holding a series of focus groups, organised by independent research organisation YouGov. They will involve a wide range of stakeholders from surrounding communities to ensure that there is a representative view on what matters to people ahead of designing the options for future flight paths.

Focus group attendees will be asked a series of questions to help gather their views on the "principles" that should be considered. There are 11 questions in the consultation looking at a range of topics, such as whether it's better to concentrate flight paths over one area or spread them out more widely, and balancing noise and emissions.

It is also important that anyone who is interested or has a view can join the conversation, and therefore there is a document outlining the approach and asking people questions about what should be considered at step 1B. This is on the dedicated website at www.manchesterairport.co.uk/futureairspace, which has a link to the online form where people can answer the questions (www.manchesterairport.co.uk/designquestions). The document also includes further background and a series of FAQs, which members may find useful if they have further questions, or if they are asked about the process. The questionnaire is open until 6th October 2019.

It is important to note that at the moment there are no specific proposals for how airspace around Manchester could change. It is therefore imperative that those affected by the airport's operations submit their views on the "principles" to consider when modernising the routes. This will result in a set of "Design Principles" that will be taken forward into developing a set of options during 2020 ahead of a full consultation.

Members are invited to note this information and consider responding to the consultation on-line.

10. Gathurst Station – for information

More than ten years ago the Parish Council became a level two adopter of Gathurst Station. As part of the adoption the Council provided four planters on the platforms and a notice board on the Wigan-bound side of the station. The Council also employed a contractor to collect litter and sweep the platforms once a week and to grit them during the Winter. While the Council ceased to provide the services of the contractor about eight years ago, it continues to provide the planters, which are maintained by the same contractor who maintains all of the Council's other planters, and the notice board.

Six or seven years ago volunteers from Shevington & District Community Association began developing the bank behind the Southport-bound platform. There were several working party events over a couple of years, but a shortage of willing helpers meant that the task became too great for the remaining stalwarts. A notable achievement during that period involved persuading Northern to install a handrail and tarmac the footpath from the Southport-bound platform to street level.

When Arriva took over the franchise their management were not clear about the purpose of adopters and there was a great deal of confusion. A representative who attended a meeting of the Parish Council to discuss their future role told the Council that Arriva were

only going to have single tier adoption and encouraged the Council to just continue with whatever they were doing. This is what the Council did.

Some months later the Council received an invitation to attend a meeting for station adopters. The Council were given a choice of two venues on different dates. No one could attend on either date. Northern were notified of this and asked the Council to submit its proposal for Gathurst Station in writing. This was done. No more was heard formally about this until the Council heard along the grapevine that someone from Roby Mill who had attended the meeting in Manchester had volunteered to become the adopter.

Some time afterwards new planters started appearing on the Southport-bound platform and over the past couple of years the floral displays on the platform have been developed. Then a couple of weeks ago a notice board containing information about the group of people who have been working on the Southport-bound platform appeared on the fence. The notice board contains contact details for the group, who are called the 'Friends of Gathurst Station'.

There are five of them. Four of them live in Roby Mill and one lives in Orrell.

Cllr M Whitham spotted the contact details and made contact with the group. They are keen to begin developing the Wigan-bound side and were keen to make contact with the Parish Council. In the light of this Cllr Whitham and the Clerk met with them recently at the station to talk about their proposals. They were invited to come to a Parish Council meeting. As they were unable to attend this one, they will come along to a future meeting.

Members are invited to note this information.

11. Planning Applications – to consider for comment

At the time of the preparation of this agenda there were no relevant planning applications to bring to the attention of the Committee.

- 12. Dates of Next Meetings:** 30 October (Council);
7 November (Policy & GP and Finance Committees)

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K Pilkington

Clerk to the Parish Council