

**Shevington Parish Council
Chairman's Report to the Annual Parish Meeting
15 March 2023**

This year has been a sad one in which we lost our beloved Queen Elizabeth II, following which the people of Shevington attended the reading of the Proclamation of the Ascending to the Throne of a new King, Charles III. The people present witnessed a ceremony that was last carried out more than 70 years ago. It was gratifying to witness the numbers who turned out in awful conditions. Thank you for all who attended.

Our Clerk, Krystyna, has once again earned our thanks for the way she has once again showed us her professionalism in carrying out her duties. Krystyna works many hours without additional remuneration, which shows her dedication to the people of the Parish.

Before I go on to thank others, I feel I must apologise for the breakdown of our speaker system during the Memorial Service. A large number attended the Service and the lack of a functioning address system was not acceptable. The Clerk has been tasked with obtaining a new system to avoid this happening in future years.

Once again, I would like to thank our Caretaker, Tony. Tony carries out his duties diligently. Many thanks for your hard work. We have appointed a replacement for Sylvia, who left us after relocating outside the area. Her duties have been taken up by Jane, who has proved herself a more than able replacement. Again, our thanks for your hard work.

As Chairman, it falls to me to thank our hardworking fellow parish councillors. These parish councillors give up their time because they care for their Parish. Without their dedication the Parish Council cannot function. Once again, Chris Horridge, our quiet unsung councillor, deserves special mention. He is always there when we need him. Then we have John Whiteley, who for years has given his time for the youth of our village at the Youth Club. Thanks to you all once again.

Thanks to our 'in Bloom' teams, whose displays brighten up our villages. Many thanks to our endless volunteers, who work hard to enhance the lives of our parishioners.

We, as a Parish Council, work closely with our ward councillors. Many thanks for their hard work and updates on the function of Wigan Council.

We are also helped by our Co-opted members and group representatives. These people all give up their time, because they care about our village. Thanks from the Parish Council for this help.

As you will see, we now hold our meetings at Vicarage Lane. This building has been made possible by the hard work of our local sports teams and thanks to the people of our Parish, who, through the Precept, allowed us to purchase the land. This facility is a credit to the hard work of these dedicated volunteers. Heartfelt thanks for your hard work.

Many of you have asked what progress has been made on the Memorial Park Drainage. I can tell you that we can finally see light at the end of the tunnel. We should, hopefully, be in a

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position to at last see some movement. Obstacles in the past appear to have been removed, so I hope it will be full steam ahead this coming year.

Finally, my thanks to Jessica, our Vice Chairman, who has ably stepped in when I have been unavailable. Our Parish Council is in good hands.

Sadly, our long standing councillor, John Ball, has decided not to stand for re-election. John will be a big loss and hard shoes to fill. Thanks, John, for all your years of service.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all our parishioners for their support. Without them we could not function.

Cllr Bill McKnight
Chairman – Shevington Parish Council