

**Minutes of the Meeting of Shevington Parish Council  
Held Wednesday 25 September 2024  
7:00pm – The Community Centre at Vicarage Lane Fields**

**Present:** Councillor William McKnight (Chairman), Councillors John Whiteley and Helen Thompson  
Nine members of the public

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

**286 Apologies for Absence**

Cllrs Mike Grimes, Mike Crosby, Chris Horridge and Jess Diggle

**287 Declaration of Interests**

None

*Standing Orders were suspended.*

**288 Herons Wharf Play Area**

A resident of Herons Wharf had written to the Parish Council in August to ask if he could raise certain issues in relation to the responsibility for the maintenance of Herons Wharf play area. As the resident wished to be present during the discussion, the matter was deferred from the Council meeting in August to this meeting.

During the short discussion that had taken place during the meeting in August the Clerk had been asked to contact the Planning Department to find out precisely what the agreement with the developer (Morris Homes) of the estate had been with regard to the future maintenance of the play area.

The response from a senior officer at the Planning Department stated: *“Our understanding is that there is a management company in place on this estate, and that the residents pay a fee to the company to cover the maintenance of the play area and possibly other communal areas. If the resident has concerns about the standard of maintenance being undertaken, they would need to raise this with the management company.”*

The resident was present and explained the current situation in relation to the maintenance of the play area, the cost of which was covered by 38 households in Herons Wharf. These residents had been told that it was a private play area, but in practice everyone used it. Signs had been installed restricting its use to children belonging to the 38 households, but they were ignored.

Residents of the properties in question had concerns about future cost implications and how they could be addressed. The issues were discussed. The Clerk was asked to write to the District Councillors to ask them if they would be willing to look into the legal position. She was also asked to contact Mr Peter Schickhoff-Brown to ask him if he would be willing to advise the group.

## **289 Matters Introduced by Members of the Public**

### **Tree at 83 Gathurst Lane**

A resident of a property neighbouring 83 Gathurst Lane raised concerns about potential risks posed to a very large elm or ash tree growing in the back garden of No.83, which had recently acquired a new owner. The resident was concerned that the new owner could be a developer who might wish to fell the tree and wished to know whether there was any possibility of making the tree a subject of a TPO.

During the discussion that took place the Clerk was asked to write to the Trees & Woodlands Officer to establish whether there was any possibility of the tree receiving protected status.

### **Christmas Lamp Post Motifs for Shevington Centre**

A resident asked the Council about the cost of the Christmas lighting in the centre of Shevington Village. The resident was of the view that the expenditure on Christmas decorations was too high. The Chairman advised the resident that the Christmas lighting was very popular with other residents and provided great pleasure to both residents and visitors alike.

## **290 District Councillors' Reports**

The previously circulated report from the District Councillors was received.  
*See Appendix A*

*Standing Orders were reinstated.*

## **291 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council (28 August 2024)**

The previously circulated Minutes were considered.

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council, held on 28 August 2024, were approved as a true and correct record.

## **292 Chairman's Report**

There was no report from the Chairman. However, he raised a query about the provision of PPE for members of the Parish Council visiting the Miles Lane Extra Care facility. It was agreed that this would be considered under Item No.297.

## **293 Reports from Councillors**

### **Parental Parking in Front of Shevington High School**

A member reported that, in spite of the strategies employed by the school to manage it, parental parking outside the school continued to create issues for neighbouring residents and other road traffic at certain times of day.

## **294 Reports from Representatives**

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

The representative reported that about a dozen people had been present at the meeting the previous evening. Discussion had focussed on a number of things:

- The principal issue discussed was that of the funding of the maintenance of the defibrillators in the Parish. Someone had reported that the Northwest Ambulance service charged £89 for a new battery and pads for a specific type of defibrillator. It was thought that there was sufficient in Community Association funds to cover the costs of maintaining approximately three of the 24 defibrillators in the Parish. These three were believed to be compatible with the ones for which NW Ambulance would supply batteries and pads.
- There was a discussion about the cost of Christmas decorations in the Parish. The representative advised the Council that he took no part in this discussion.
- Announcements were made about various events: Macmillan Coffee Mornings, Messy Church, a Craft Fair at Shevington Methodist Church, the 'Memories' group resuming meetings and 'Be Well' walks at Stockley Park.
- People had heard reports that the field behind the new 'Extra Care' facility was to be used to provide allotments for residents of the facility. There was general agreement on the view that the land, which had previously been used by the former school as a playing field, should again be used to provide such a facility for local sports clubs.

### **Crooke Village Residents Association**

The CVRA had met the previous week. The representative reported that:

- Remembrance Service would be conducted around the WWI Memorial Tree on Monday, 11 November 2024 at 11am.
- Just over a week prior to this meeting several bags of fly-tipped refuse had appeared beside the Wigan Council litter bin located at the entrance to the Crooke Hall Inn car park. This had been reported to Wigan Council, whose operatives had removed it. The identity of the perpetrators was unknown, but suggestions has been made to Wigan Council as to how future issues of this nature could be addressed.
- The Annual Christmas Lunch for residents of Crooke Village would be held on a date to be agreed. The CVRA funded the cost for the Over 60's. The Under 60's paid a small fee.
- The maintenance needs of the defibrillator on the wall of the Crooke Hall Inn had led him to have a conversation with a Wigan ward councillor from another area. During the conversation it had emerged that the funding of maintenance of the many defibrillators in the Borough was a major issue and was currently a matter under consideration at Cabinet level. A discussion amongst those present followed. It was observed that the funding of defibrillators and their maintenance was both a boroughwide and a national issue.

### **Shevington Recreation Ground Trustees**

It was reported that the Trustees were currently meeting. Mr Jim Maloney had announced his retirement as both a Trustee and the Trust's Secretary / Treasurer with effect from the Annual Council Meeting in May 2025. As he was a Parish Council appointee, the Trustee vacancy would need to be advertised.

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

The Clerk reported that the FSMP had folded because of difficulties experienced in finding new members and someone to take the Chair. They had donated the balance (£2,649.72) of their funds to the Parish Council. This had been transferred to the Council's account and had been allocated to the 'Memorial Park Development

reserve'. The outgoing Chair was hoping to attend the Council meeting at the end of October.

There were no reports from  
**Shevington Youth Club**  
**'in Bloom' Groups**  
**Patient Participation Group**  
**Vicarage Lane Fields Developments**  
**Vicarage Lane Allotments**  
**Forest Fold Allotments Tenants Association**  
**Shevington Fete**

## **295 DRAFT Minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committees (4 September 2024)**

The previously circulated DRAFT minutes of the Policy & General Purposes and Finance Committee meetings on 4 September 2024 were received.

## **296 Remembrance Sunday Arrangements**

The Clerk reported that since the last Council meeting the wreaths had been ordered. Mr Charlie Neve confirmed that a short service would be held at Crooke Village on Armistice Day - Monday, 11 November - at 11am. Cllrs John Whiteley and Helen Thompson would lead a service at Whiteacre Park at the same time.

There was a brief discussion. Mr Neve agreed to organise / lead the parade on Sunday, 10 November and to lay a wreath on behalf of Veterans; he and Cllr John Whiteley would read out the names of those from the Parish that fell during the two world wars.

Costings for the hire of a PA system and an operator had been sought, but were still awaited. The Clerk advised that, in view of the time factor involved, a decision would need to be made under delegated authority.

## **297 Visit(s) to Miles Lane Extra-Care Facility**

Peter Collins, Wigan Council's project manager, had written to the Parish Council to offer members the opportunity to visit the site on two Friday in October. If these dates were not convenient, he was also able to offer Thursday mornings in November.

Members were invited to indicate whether they wished to visit and on which of the suggested dates they were able to attend. As there were not many members present, the Clerk agreed to consult members by email.

Concerns were raised about whether PPE would be provided. The Clerk would also enquire about this.

## **298 Christmas Shop-Front Award Leaflet Distribution**

A copy of the leaflet to be circulated to local shops informing them that the competition was going ahead and inviting shopkeepers to take part had been previously shared with members. It was received and its distribution was discussed.

**Resolved:** Members approved the leaflet and agreed the following:

- (i) Cllrs Helen Thompson and John Whiteley would distribute leaflets to shops in South and North wards.
- (ii) The Clerk would ask Cllr Mike Grimes if he would be willing to distribute leaflets to shops in West ward.

## **299 Community Achievement Awards**

**Resolved:** The Council agreed to continue the tradition of presenting awards to residents who have made a considerable contribution to the life of the local community. The presentations will take place during the Annual Parish Meeting in March.

## **300 Urgent Tree Felling in Memorial Park**

The report on the Annual Inspection of Property had included references to a tree in Memorial Park that had started to lean more than it had been previously. Just over a week before this meeting the Clerk received notification from Wigan Council that a resident had reported to them that he had noticed that the tree was leaning to a greater degree than it had been before.

The Clerk had tried to contact the Trees & Woodlands Officer to seek permission to fell the tree, but had not been successful. Meanwhile, a member of the northern area grounds maintenance team had visited the park and inspected the tree. He reported back to the Greenspaces Area Manager for this area. Following consultation with the latter and with the Chairman, a decision was taken that the tree should be felled on H&S grounds and an application for permission to do so should be submitted retrospectively.

A quotation of £600 for the work was provided by a local tree surgeon. Following consultation with the Chairman and another councillor, the quotation was approved under delegated authority and the tree was felled the following day. A tall stump remained in place (it was tall to reduce the risk of anyone tripping over it), but would be removed and ground on the next occasion that tree felling was carried out in the park.

**Resolved:** The Council approved the felling carried out by Working Woodlands at a cost of £600 retrospectively.

## **301 October Newsletter**

**Resolved:** The text for inclusion in the October edition of the newsletter was approved.

## **302 Clerk's Report**

The previously circulated report was received. *See Appendix B.*

## **303 Financial Aid Applications**

None.

### 304 Payments, Income & Bank Balances

The Income / Expenditure schedule for September was received and discussed.  
*See Appendix C.*

**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.

### 305 Planning Applications

**A/24/97712/CU: 6 Braidhaven Appley Bridge Wigan WN6 8HH - Change of use from a dwellinghouse and domestic garage to a mixed use as dwellinghouse and dog grooming salon.**

The above planning application was noted.

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

### 306 Next Meetings

30 October (Council); 6 November (Policy & GP and Finance Committees)

### CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

**Resolved:** That, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded and they were instructed to withdraw.

*Most members of the public left the meeting.*

### 307 Policy & General Purposes Committee Co-options

Applications from three candidates for the two vacancies had been previously circulated to members. The three candidates remained in the meeting and were interviewed by the elected members present and one of the sitting co-opted members of the Committee.

The meeting was paused.

The three elected members discussed the co-options 'in camera' and the meeting resumed.

**Resolved:** The Council agreed to co-opt all three candidates to the Policy & General Purposes Committee with effect from 30 October 2024.

All three candidates agreed to be co-opted onto the Committee and discussed their respective roles with the Council.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:50 pm.

**Chairman**