

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 20th January 2025 at 7.30 pm
In the Village Hall, Middle Street, Shepton Beauchamp TA19 OLQ

Councillors present: Cllr Nigel Wylie Carrick (Chairman) Cllr David Bourn (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Angie Joy Cllr Andrew Rowswell
Cllr Tim England

In attendance: Stella Davies (Clerk)

Members of the public: There were no members of the public in attendance.

Unitary Councillors in attendance: Somerset Cllr Jo Roundell Greene (arrived 7.45 pm & left at 8.20 pm)

Report from Somerset Council

Cllr Roundell Greene reported that there was an education bill going through parliament at the moment which would affect our schools, particularly academies. There is only one school in Somerset which is not an academy and that is Wadham school. There is a report on smoking from the public health department. and statistics are available which shows how life expectancy is shortened through smoking. They are going to try to get into schools with this information. The government have agreed that the County should become a mayoral authority with Dorset and Wiltshire in 2026. This should help with jobs, productivity and growth and bring more money into the county.

Cllr Wylie Carrick said that we needed an update on the electoral boundary review and Cllr Roundell Greene said that the deadline was today for the first round of submissions. Cllr Wylie Carrick said we did not have enough information to put in a submission and that we had not seen the County Council's submission. He thought this topic should be on the LCN agenda. She suggested that we brought this up at the LCN meeting and said there would be another chance to comment.

Ser Item

1178 To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972, s85(1))
Apologies were received from Cllr Howard (away) and Councillor Burwood (training).
Resolved. To accept and approve the apologies given.

1179 Declarations of interest – Members to declare any interest, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interest they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct and to consider any prior requests from members for dispensations that accord with the Localism Act s33 (b-e). (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)
There were no declarations of interest.

1180 To approve as a correct record the minutes/decisions of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 16th December 2024 (LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41(1)).
Resolved. That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16th December 2024 be signed as correct.

1181 LCN (Local Community Network)
To discuss any relevant issues that have been received from the LCN.

Cllr Wylie Carrick said that at the next LCN meeting on 30th January there would be an update from the highways and transport working group for alternative contractors to be employed, which is relevant for us. Cllr Wylie Carrick will attend. He asked the Clerk to ask if at this late stage we could add on the Somerset Electoral review and to clarify the latest dates for items to be added to the agenda.
Action – Parish Clerk

1182 Virements
To resolve to approve the list of virements previously circulated
Resolved. The list of virements were approved.

1183 Budget for FY 25/26 and Precept

To resolve to approve the budget for the new financial year and to set the precept.

A discussion took place around the proposed budget and some adjustments were made, which reduced the budgeted precept figure.

Resolved. To approve the revised budget and to set the precept at £42,000 (5p per week increase for a Band D taxpayer). The Clerk to inform Somerset Council.

Action – Parish Clerk

1184 Removal of damaged and fallen trees at the recreation field

To approve the spend of £975 to fell and remove the damaged trees at the recreation field

Resolved. The spend of £975 to fell and remove the trees was approved.

1185 Mud and flooding in village

To update the council on any relevant developments

Cllr Wylie Carrick reported that following the meeting in December. We had still not received any costing from Kier (the Somerset County Council approved contractor) about the urgent clearing and jetting of certain drains which the Parish Council had agreed to pay for. We have already chased for this and will chase again.

Action – Parish Clerk

1186 Somerset Electoral Review

To discuss the boundary review and resolve if a response is to be sent from the Parish Council.

Cllr Wylie Carrick noted that this was the first submission. The councillors did not think there was any requirement for put up our views at this stage. When we receive the next paper that would be the time to submit a response.

Resolved. A response was not appropriate at this time

1187 Local stroke services

To review the correspondence from Adam Dance MP and resolve if the Parish Council wish to vote to support local campaigners and submit a response to Adam.

Resolved. Whilst the Parish Council did not think it appropriate to vote on this as it was the decision of individuals, the councillors agreed to post something onto the Parish Council Facebook to let individuals know that there was a petition in place.

1188 Risk Assessment v5

To approve and re-adopt Risk Assessment v5

Resolved. Risk Assessment v5 was approved and re-adopted.

1189 Finance

To review the Bank Reconciliation as at 31st December 2024 (previously circulated)

To approve the schedule of payments totalling £3,260.85 (previously circulated)

Resolved. The bank reconciliation was approved and signed as correct by a non-bank signatory. The payments were approved.

1190 Report from Clerk/RFO. For information only

The Clerk reported that the bank is reducing the interest rate on our savings account on 18th February from 2.60% to 2.50%.

The Play Equipment Company contacted us to say they were running behind schedule. She chased them in early January and they said this would be completed by the end of the month. She will chase them again.

Action – Parish Clerk

1191 Reports. For information only

Highways

Cllr Rowswell has reported more potholes, which have been repaired. The flooding over the bridge near Branstons was mentioned. Apparently, Somerset Council have removed trees there and cleared the ditch, but now it is the responsibility of Highways England as the water drains onto the bypass. Cllr Rowswell said he would contact Somerset Council Highways department for an update.

Action – Cllr Rowswell

Depending on the response that Cllr Rowswell receives from Somerset Council Highways, Cllr England suggested we contacted Barrington and Seavington Parish Councils as the flooding would impact those Parishes as well and see if they would also contact Somerset Council Highways department (if they have not already done so).

Action – Parish Clerk

Lethbridge Recreational Ground Committee

There is a Bingo night on 11th February in the Duke of York, to raise funds. Raffle prizes would be welcome.

Ranger

Cllr Wylie Carrick that the Ranger was doing a good job. The Clerk reported that the two-handled digger for use on the drains is arriving on Thursday. Cllr Wakely asked if it was worth the Parish Council purchasing a set of drainage rods as well. It was suggested we wait and see if the Ranger has some first.

Allotments

Nothing to report.

Cowleaze

Cllr Bourn said they had applied to The Woodland Trust and have 120 saplings which they will plant March/April in the dog-free zone where the fencing is bad. Wessex Water are awaiting the management plan.

Footpaths

There was nothing to report.

1192 Annex A – Deferred items register

Annex A was updated.

Meeting closed: 9.05 pm