

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 17th March 2025 at 7.30 pm
In the Village Hall, Middle Street, Shepton Beauchamp TA19 0LQ

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

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 7.50 pm & left at 8.35 pm)

Report from Somerset Council

Cllr Roundell Greene said the budget had been approved. On the 1st April the new ways of working begin and they are hopeful that staff know what jobs they will be doing as there is still some uncertainty. She said there was a Clerks meeting about using volunteers on the highways and what they can and cannot do. As our Clerk could not attend, she will send us a copy of the document. She has asked about using local contractors and she had still not had an answer, but she will keep chasing this.

Ser Item

1205. To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972, s85(1))

Apologies were received from Cllr Nick Howard (unwell)

Resolved. To accept and approve the apologies given.

1206. 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)

Cllr Joy declared an interest in item 1208 and signed the book.

1207. To approve as a correct record the minutes/decisions of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 17th February 2025 (LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41(1)).

Resolved. That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17th February 2025 be signed as correct.

1208. Grant Application – Village Hall

To review the grant application from the village hall and resolve whether to give a grant of £800

Resolved. It was unanimously agreed that a grant of £800 be given to the village hall.

1209. Silver Springs entrance car parking

To discuss the point raised in the public session at the last Parish Council meeting from a resident who said that vehicles were parking too close to the entrance into Silver Springs which made visibility difficult. To resolve if any action can be taken.

Resolved. It was decided that this was a common problem throughout the village but that there was no action that the Parish Council could take, other than mention this in the next Newsletter and ask people to be considerate when they parked near any junctions

Action – Parish Clerk

1210. LCN (Local Community Network)

To discuss any relevant issues that have been received from the LCN

It was noted that the next LCN meeting is on 3rd April. The minutes from the January meeting have been sent to us and they included the fact that Cllr Wylie Carrick had asked about requirements regarding the use of alternative contractors to clear the drains. He suggested that we should ask for the April meeting agenda to include an update on the progress of the protocol report for local contractors.

Action – Parish Clerk

Cllr Wylie Carrick said he should be able to attend the LCN meeting on 3rd April. Cllr Wakely said he would try to attend.

1211. Piece Lane

To review any additional correspondence that has been received and resolve if any action needs to be taken.

We have requested the feedback from the community consultation, which had now been sent to us. It answers all the questions that have been raised. The field run-off and attenuation pond were mentioned and a response had been given by the developers. Jo Roundell Greene had fought hard on our behalf to ask the planning authority if the proposed attenuation pond was sufficient and the reply was that planning officers could not revisit the application had to take advice from the environment agency, who raised no objection to the scheme and included additions which will be attached to the final decision when issued. It was suggested that the document is put onto the website and then a message put on the village Facebook, to let people know.

Resolved. To put the feedback document first onto the website and then the Facebook page.

Action – Parish Clerk / Cllr England

1212. Mud and flooding in village

To update the council on any relevant developments.

Cllr Wylie reported that over the last month we had put out notices on our website, on Facebook and by email about the drop-in sessions. He had attended a drop-in session on 11th March which a few residents also attended. He spoke to the Somerset Flood Risk manager, and he would like a copy of the report that we took to the Adam Dance flood meeting. Somerset Prepared have a small grant available of up to £5,000 for Parish Councils (for example for a drain camera or a jetting trailer). There was an Emergency Volunteers Action Group representative there and they can provide flood prevention kit to people in vulnerable homes. We can tell the householders concerned about this, should they wish to pursue it.

In conjunction with Seavington Parish Council we also asked if householders wanted to purchase flood prevention items, as buying in bulk would be cheaper, but there was poor response.

Finally, there were 21 houses were flooded but only 4 had reported it on the Somerset Council portal, so we have little chance of getting a grant to help mitigate against future flooding. Neither Somerset Council or the Parish Council will continue to hold a stock of sandbags.

A discussion took place as to whether we can use an independent contractor without getting a protocol from Somerset as another Parish Council had gone ahead without a protocol in place, but the contractor and the Parish Council would be liable for any accident or damage to the drains

Cllr Wylie Carrick said he met with 4 contractors, so that we can issue a tender to clear the drains and then hopefully we will have a protocol from Somerset Council in place by then. We also need to find out from Highways which are the blocked drains. We will issue a tender notice as soon as possible.

Action – Cllr Wylie Carrick / Parish Clerk

Cllr England said he had a contact who had come to Shepton Beauchamp with a view to carrying out a study of the area, if we want to go down that route. This is an option which we can discuss at a future meeting.

1213. Parish Council April Newsletter

To resolve to approve the April Newsletter at a maximum cost of £85

Resolved. The April Newsletter was approved and the Clerk confirmed that the actual cost was £65

1214. Action Plan v7

To review and approve Action Plan v7

Resolved. The Action Plan was reviewed and after amendments had been made, v7 was approved.

1215. Finance

To review the Bank Reconciliation as at 28th February 2025 (previously circulated).
To approve the schedule of payments totalling £2,095.69 (previously circulated)

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

1216. Report from Clerk/RFO. *For information only*

The Clerk reported that with effect from 6th May the interest rate on our savings account will reduce from 2.50% to 2.25%.

She contacted the Rector about the removal of moss from the church path and they will not be applying for a grant as he feels that mechanically removing the moss would do more harm than good. They will continue with treating the moss, but he thanked the council for their support.

She had contacted Lee Norman from the Highways department about the new drain at the bottom of Love Lane. He replied that to put a gully cover on and replace the manhole was on the ever-growing list. He said he had added Love Lane to the future schemes list for a new system, but that there are a number of priorities ahead of Love Lane at the moment.

1217. Reports. *For information only*

Highways

Cllr Rowswell said he had reported more potholes. The streetlight has been repaired at the bottom of Great Lane at the third time of asking.

Lethbridge Recreational Ground Committee

Cllr England said he had carried out his monthly check on the play equipment. There is a broken bench which he has moved out of the way. The committee were getting quotes from builders for repairing the pavilion overhang roof. The grass looks very neat. Some of the dog signs have gone missing. When we buy them, we can put some around the village as well, as dog poo seems to be a problem everywhere.

Ranger

Cllr Wylie Carrick said the Ranger now has someone helping him. Cllr Rowswell asked if they could shovel up some of the rubble at the top of the crossroads. **Action – Cllr Wylie Carrick**

Allotments

Cllr Wylie Carrick reported that there was now one allotment available as the current allotment holder did not want to continue with it. Cllr England said he would put a post on Facebook about this. **Action – Cllr England**

Cowleaze

Cllr Bourn said that they had planted a double line of hedging on the eastern side of Cowleaze. They hoped to start mowing next week. They need more gravel to replace the gravel that was washed away during the recent flooding.

Footpaths

Cllr Wakely remarked on the amount of dog that was on the footpaths. He also saw five bags of bog poo dumped in one of the fields. This was where sheep were grazing and if sheep ingest dog faeces they will die. Cllr Rowswell mentioned that there was a bar sticking out of the ground on the footpath going down from Ash Lane towards Barrington and asked if the Ranger could clear it.

1218. Annex A – Deferred items register

Annex A was updated.

Meeting closed: 9.15 pm