



SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER NO 14

APRIL 2025

PRECEPT

The Parish Council met in January to discuss the budget for the forthcoming financial year. Somerset Council have reduced the services that they offer to us free of charge and they are now chargeable. The Parish Council is, however, aware that Somerset Council are significantly increasing the amount that we will all pay on our council tax and so have tried to keep the increase of our precept to a reasonable amount. As a result, a Band D taxpayer will only pay 5p per week more than last year.

FLOODING IN THE VILLAGE

Following the flooding in our village and other villages and towns in the area in January, our local MP Adam Dance held a Flooding Forum in Ilminster on 13th February. This was attended by some of our councillors who produced a flood report for Shepton Beauchamp, detailing the village's history and recent trends of flooding. The report outlined the support provided by Somerset Council and local representatives, the extent of recent flooding and areas most affected. It also addressed ongoing drainage and infrastructure issues, community concerns and potential solutions to mitigate future flooding. Key recommendations included silt run-off, increasing pipe capacity at choke points, using accredited local contractors for maintenance and establishing an emergency team.

A representative from Somerset Rivers Authority attended the meeting and confirmed that the Parish Council was eligible to apply for a grant for immediate mitigation measures. The first deadline for applying was 25th February and the Parish Council have submitted an application. We are waiting to see if we have been successful.

Our February Parish Council meeting was well attended with villagers and the flooding was discussed in great detail. Somerset Cllr Roundell Greene said it was important that every householder that was affected, register on the Somerset Council website "property flood resilience" as there is money available for carpets, kitchens and damaged items. This registration is protected by GDPR rules and will not affect home insurance.

PLATINUM JUBILEE GARDEN

We do have some volunteers who weed the rose beds in the garden, but we are in need of more help please.

The top two borders in the garden are currently being tended, but there are seven other beds of various sizes around the small tree that we need help with please. Not one of these is huge.

If only seven more villagers could 'adopt' a bed each and take responsibility for keeping that one bed weeded and tidied, it would not be an onerous task for anyone.

If you could spare a few hours please contact the Parish Clerk.

DEDICATE A TREE

The Recreation Field Committee would like to plant some trees on the embankment at the far end of the recreation field. These will be native trees and it is hoped that there will be 12 – 15 trees planted there.

It has been suggested to us that some villagers may either like to sponsor a tree or dedicate a tree to someone. The charge for this would be £40 per tree and people would be able to provide their own small plaque.

If you would be interested in doing this, then please contact the Parish Clerk for further details.

STROKE SERVICES IN SOMERSET

As you may be aware there are plans to close the Hyper-Acute / Acute Stroke Care services in Yeovil Hospital. This means that anyone suffering a stroke will either have to go to Taunton or Dorchester hospital. Change.org are running a petition to save the stroke services at Yeovil Hospital. If you feel strongly about this closure the petition can be accessed by following the link: <https://www.change.org/p/save-yeovil-s-acute-stroke-care-services>

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Our Parish Council meetings are usually held on the third Monday of each month (except August) in the village hall at 7.30 pm and open to the public. The agenda for the meeting is posted in the notice board outside the church. We do try and put the minutes from the previous meeting in there as well, but if there is not room, then they are always available on our website. <https://sheptonbeauchamp-pc.gov.uk>

The Parish Council can be contacted via the Parish Clerk on 07541 537681 or by emailing clerk@sheptonbeauchamp-pc.gov.uk