

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 15th April 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 Cllr Ed Wakely
Cllr Sally Burwood

In attendance: Stella Davies (Clerk)

Members of the public: There were 2 members of the public in attendance.

Unitary Councillors in attendance: Somerset Cllr Jo Roundell Greene did not attend

Open session

The members of the public were concerned about the recent thefts in the village over the last few months, both of tools from work vans and latterly a work van itself from outside the house. It was thought it was a professional gang that had carried out these thefts. Crimes of this nature appear to fall between dialling 999 and 101. They have also contacted Adam Dance about this and the Police Crime Commissioner. There is a rural crime team in the area and the members of the public asked if the Parish Council could contact them and ask if there was a representative who could be contacted. They were also concerned that there was no longer a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in the village.

The Chairman said that we had contacted the police community support officers and asked if they could attend the Annual Parish meeting and Parish Council Meeting on 12 & 19 May respectively. He agreed that it would be good for the village to have a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and will follow this up with the rural crime office. We should encourage members of the community to re-start the scheme. This will be discussed on a future agenda.

Ser Item

1219. To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972, s85(1))

Apologies were received from Cllr Nick Howard (working)

Resolved. To accept and approve the apologies given.

1220. 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 1232 and signed the book

1221. To approve as a correct record the minutes/decisions of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 17th March 2025 (LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41(1)).

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

1222. LCN (Local Community Network)

Cllr Wylie Carrick said he had been unable to attend the meeting on 3rd April and so was unable to report on anything. The next Crewkerne & Ilminster Highways Working Group meeting will be held on 1st May 10.00 – 12.00. He is unable to attend, so Cllr Rowswell offered to attend.

Action – Cllr Rowswell

1223. Sponsorship of books for the school

To resolve whether to donate £252.12 in respect of sponsorship of books for each child in the school.

Resolved. The council unanimously approved the donation of £252.12 for the sponsorship of books.

1224. Mud and flooding in village

It was noted that the Somerset Rivers Authority grant had not been accepted. One of the reasons was the grant stated that 21 houses had suffered flooding and none of the partner organisations hold such records. Despite the Parish Council encouraging people to report flooding, only 4 property owners had done so.

It was suggested that this is noted in the next Newsletter that if more people had reported flooding, the grant may have been successful.

Action – Parish Clerk

Cllr Wylie Carrick said that we are still waiting for the Somerset Council highways department to produce the protocol regarding the use of local contractors. In the meantime, we have designed an initial specification for the annual contract, which had previously been circulated to the councillors. This was discussed by the councillors and the tender notice will be sent out by the Clerk to external contractors.

Action – Parish Clerk

1225. Budget Report for FY 24/25 at year end. For information only

The Clerk presented the annual budget report which was reviewed by the councillors.

1226. Re-allocation of reserves at end of FY 24/25

To discuss and approve the re-allocation of reserves (previously circulated)

Resolved. The re-allocation of reserves was discussed and approved.

1227. Annual Leave not taken last Financial Year

To approve the Parish Clerk carrying forward to this financial year 4 hours annual leave not taken last year.

Resolved. That the Parish Clerk can carry forward 4 hours annual leave to this financial year.

1228. Finance

To review the Bank Reconciliation as at 31st March 2025 (previously circulated).

To approve the schedule of payments totalling £2,647.93 (previously circulated)

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

1229. Report from Clerk/RFO. For information only

The Clerk reported that she had contacted the local Police Community Support Officer based in South Petherton and asked them to attend a Parish Council meeting and was awaiting a reply. It was suggested that if they can't attend a council meeting, then we ask them to attend the annual meeting of the Parish.

So far 6 people have confirmed they would like to dedicate or sponsor a tree at the recreation field.

The dog signs have been paid for and are in transit. They were awaiting a new supply which is why we did not have them before.

The internal audit had been completed and there were no reportable findings. The Clerk suggested that we use the same auditor for the financial year 25/26 and that she is booked now as last year, she was fully booked by July. She felt it would be useful for the new Clerk if the auditor was already in place. This was agreed.

The precept has been received and has been transferred to our savings account.

1230. Reports. For information only

Highways

Cllr Rowswell has reported potholes and a couple of street lights. The two potholes at the top of the village in upper silver street were reported, but the County Council say they are not an issue as they are not deep enough. There is trench as you approach the village on the right-hand side by the crossroads which he has reported and again the County Council say it is not a hazard. He has also asked for the white lines at the Hurcott crossroads to be re-instated, to prevent an accident with cars not stopping.

Lethbridge Recreational Ground Committee

Cllr England reported that Cllr Wylie Carrick had provided some sapling trees which they have blocked the gap by the children's play area. They need to advertise their event for the summer and the bench that we have taken down needs painting and putting back together.

Ranger

Cllr Wylie Carrick reported that the Ranger had cleared the top crossroads. The fallen tree in the grass area in front of Piece Lane had been reported to Somerset Council.

Allotments

The Clerk reported that there was one allotment holder who wants to give up part of her allotment, so this needs to be re-measured in due course.

Cowleaze

Cllr Bourn reported that they have planted a row of hedging towards the eastern side. They have also replanted the willow tunnel in the dog-free zone. A willow dome will be build in that area as well.

Footpaths

Cllr Wakely mentioned that there were dog owners who were letting their dogs run off the footpaths onto the fields which had just been planted with potatoes. He suggested that we mention this in the next newsletter and remind people that this is private land and people should keep to the footpath.

Action – Parish Clerk

It was mentioned that some of the walkers were from Barrington and it was suggested that we share this information with the Barrington Clerk and ask them to mention this on their Facebook page that dogs should be kept on a lead when walking through crop fields and bring it to the attention of the Parish Council.

Action – Parish Clerk

1231. Annex A – Deferred items register

Annex A was updated.

To resolve to exclude members of the press and public. To agree that item 1232 below be dealt with after the public have been excluded as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Resolved. Cllr Joy left the meeting.

1232. Staffing – in confidence

Cllr Wylie Carrick updated the council on the progress of the recruitment of a new Clerk/RFO

Meeting closed: 9.10 pm