

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 16th June 2025 at 7.30pm

In the Village Hall, Middle Street, Shepton Beauchamp TA19 OLQ

Councillors present: Cllr Nigel Wylie Carrick (Chairman) Cllr David Bourn (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Andrew Rowswell Cllr Nick Howard
Cllr Tim England Cllr Ed Wakely

In attendance: Ruby Coombes (Clerk)

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

Unitary Councillors in attendance: Somerset Cllr Jo Roundell Greene (arrived at 20:10 left at 20:20)

Open session

There were no matters raised by members of the public.

Reports from Somerset Council

Cllr Roundell Greene informed the council that Somerset Council has won the Local Government Chronicle award for their provision of adult services. It was noted that Somerset Council are trying to provide better care for the elderly to enable them to be discharged from hospital which results in financial savings, £10 million this year, with a further £3 million hoped to be saved next year.

It was noted Somerset Council are still progressing with their transformation program after becoming a unity authority. There is not currently a list of who to contact relating to specific areas and responsibilities, Cllr Roundell Greene suggested emailing so that it could be forwarded on.

Cllr Wylie Carrick stated that parish online were able to provide a map of gullies within the parish, the data from a few years ago is available but there has not been any updated information available from Kier. It was felt this information would be useful to parishes so that they could keep an eye on problem areas, the condition of the gullies and the frequency they are cleaned would be useful to parish councils who are being asked to take on the responsibility of maintaining them. It was noted that Lee Norman provided an extract which allowed the drains to be plotted.

Ser Item

1256. Co-option

It was **resolved** to co-opt Paul Vacani as a councillor.

1257. To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972, s85(1))

Apologies were received from Cllr Angie Joy (Holiday) and Cllr Sally Burwood (illness)

Resolved. To accept and approve the apologies given.

1258. 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 Vacani declared an interest in item 1270 and signed the book

1259. To approve as a correct record the minutes/decisions of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 19th May 2025 (LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41(1)).

Resolved. That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 19th May be signed as correct.

1260. LCN (Local Community Network)

Cllr Wylie Carrick reported to the council regarding the LCN. The Crewkerne and Ilminster sub group met on 1st May 2025. Cllr Wylie Carrick encouraged other councillors to read the minutes which include information regarding chapter 8 training frustrations. It was felt it is important to send a representative to the next meeting. It was noted that the AGM for the LCN was the 11th June which saw the election of a new chair and vice chair and then continued in to a workshop, the council is awaiting the minutes from this meeting.

It was noted that the Somerset Resilience road show is being held on 8th July at West Coker hall, followed by flood warden workshop.

It was noted that the draft recommendations for the electoral boundaries have been adjusted. There is no change to the South Petherton boundary and ward but representative councillors will be reduced to 1. Comments are due to be received by Somerset Council by 11th August 2025 and changes are proposed to come in to effect at the next election in 2027. There will be changes to the South Petherton Ward boundaries, but not to the Parish Council Boundaries.

It was noted the Somerset Festival of Remembrance will be held in Wells Cathedral later in the year.

Cllr Rowswell had attended a meeting relating to Highways with Somerset Council, it was felt the services available were in decline.

1261. Mud and flooding in village

It was noted that there had been a meeting with Lee Norman from Somerset Council. Cllr Rowswell reported that since the end of January and the end of May there had been several vehicles in attendance to clear the chamber, but this did not guarantee they were 100% clear. A recent report of the remaining blocked drains was provided by Kier. Cllr Wylie Carrick agreed to send round a map of the reported blocked drains mapped on Parish Online to councillors. The required drainage improvements in Cowleaze at the bottom of Love Lane had been discussed, Somerset Council felt this was a long-term issue. It was noted the ditch needs to be kept clear.

There are several drains in the parish that need to be repaired, require further investigation, are blocked or are covered in vegetation. The council agreed to allow further action from ranger where necessary.

Regarding the culvert at Silver Springs, it was noted that the grate rope has snapped. It was decided the grate should be cleared regularly and manually by the ranger which should alleviate the need for a new rope.

It was noted the Silver Street culvert had a small, padlocked gate but the key holder is not known. It was suggested it might be held by the Street Scene clean team.

Cllr Rowswell noted it was surprising how few drains had been cleared. It was noted that Great Lane and Sheep Way have been changed from a bi-annual clean to an annual clean. It was felt that Somerset Council were pro-active regarding issues but were limited by budget constraints. Cllr Rowswell suggested further data should be made available to the public.

The council noted that FWAG have been in contact with land owners

1262. Wessex water connection to the Platinum Jubilee Garden

Cllr Rowswell noted that the roses that have been planted in the Jubilee Garden are currently watered by volunteers using water from Tudor House next door. Cllr Rowswell has requested a connection from Wessex Water but an initial assessment is required. It was **resolved** to proceed with the initial assessment at a cost of £166.80.

Action Cllr Rowswell

1263. Village Hall grant

Resolved. The re-allocation of the £800 grant was discussed and approved by the council.

1264. 100 club

Resolved. The council agreed that Ruby Coombes will be the new promoter of the lottery.

1265. July Newsletter

Resolved. The council approved the cost of the July newsletter of £65. Councillors agreed to make arrangements to collect future copies of the newsletter. It was suggested the newsletter could be an outlet for the SID reports.

1266. Shredding of documentation

Resolved. The council approved the £30 cost of shredding old documentation. It was noted that the notice of destruction had been received.

1267. Standing orders

Resolved. It was resolved to approve the latest version of the standing orders.

1268. SID

The latest Speed Indicator Device statistics were reviewed by the council. Cllr Bourn had produced graphs from the data; it was felt to enhance the value of the data times and locations were required. Cllr Wylie Carrick agreed to provide this information to allow Cllr Bourn to create a summary paragraph. The council noted the highest speed of 97mph was an aberration and should be removed from the statistics. It was decided the reports produced by Cllr Bourn should be added to the website.

Action Cllr Wylie Carrick & Cllr Bourn

1269. Finance

To review the Bank Reconciliation as at 31st May 2025 (previously circulated).
To approve the schedule of payments totalling £1,735.88 (previously circulated)

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

1270. Planning. For information only

Cllr Vacani declared an interest in this item as the owner of the property. The council noted the TPO.

1271. Report from Clerk/RFO. For information only

There was nothing to report. The Clerk requested to be able to upload documents to the website.

1272. Representative for bus issues.

Cllr Bourn felt it would be better suited for someone who uses the bus to be the bus representative. It was **resolved** that Cllr Howard would be the representative from the council regarding bus issues.

1273. Reports. For information only

Highways. Cllr Rowsell had reported potholes and also followed up with Lee Norman regarding the flooding issue at the flyover. Lee Norman has brought this to the attention of National highways again. It was also noted that the verges need to be cut back at the entrance from Ilminster at the crossroads to Bellmont Road, it was also noted that Whitefield lane requires more work done. Cllr Wylie Carrick agreed to discuss this with the contractor.

Action Cllr Wylie Carrick

Lethbridge Recreational Ground Committee

Cllr England reported that there is a camp out this weekend at the recreation ground. Cllr Rowsell had provided a quote for £2,800 for replacement rafters which are required at the pavilion. Cllr Rowsell will try to get another quote to be discussed at the next meeting. Cllr Vacani raised concerns regarding dog access at the Recreation Ground. Cllr Wakely noted that the saplings need to be removed and tidied up along the bank, which is estimated to take half a day. It was felt this should be decided by the committee at their next meeting. They could also consider removing the tops of the some of the other trees.

Action Cllr Rowsell

Ranger

Cllr Wylie Carrick reported that the team continues to work well, and that some of the drains have been cleared. It was noted that it is not possible to obtain a map from the website of all the drains in the village, however small localised maps could be obtained from Wessex Water.

Allotments

It was noted by the council that there is currently 1 whole allotment and an additional ½ allotment vacant.

Cowleaze

Cllr Bourn reported that the Mary Clark memorial bench has been installed in the dog free zone. It was noted that Cowleaze also hosted the Crossing of Hands ceremony which 50-60 people attended. A group of volunteers had attended to help with hedging, tidying, and a fallen apple tree. In July there will be a joint volunteers and events program, including games and sports for children. It was noted that a number of fences at Buttle Close need to be replaced.

Footpaths

There was nothing to report.

1274. Annex A – Deferred items register

Annex A was updated.

To resolve to exclude members of the press and public. To agree that Item 1275 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.

1275. Tender for Drain clearance and jetting

Resolved. It was decided to proceed with the quote provided by JW Drainage & Jetting.

Meeting closed: 9.23pm

