

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 15th September at 7.30pm
In the Village Hall, Middle Street, Shepton Beauchamp TA19 0LQ

Councillors present: Cllr David Bourn (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr Andrew Rowswell

Cllr Tim England

Cllr Paul Vacani

Cllr Angela Joy

Cllr Sally Burwood

Cllr Edward Wakely

In attendance: Ruby Coombes (Clerk)

Cllr Bourn (vice-chair) opened the meeting and chaired until the election of chair

Members of the public: There was 1 member of the public in attendance.

Unitary Councillors in attendance: Somerset Cllr (arrived at 20:20, left at 20:33)

Open session

A parishioner attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding the development on Piece Lane. It was noted that Piece Lane is not adopted and not up to the standard that is able to take so much construction traffic, there are also concerns regarding traffic levels and HGVs accessing the site through the village, as well as parking issues.

The parishioner also highlighted to the council that the drains are being affected. There is water run-off from the site which is running down the road and in to the drains on Piece Lane, resulting in silt deposits in the drains. The natural soakaway had been removed and replaced, but this is already full. Cllr England stated there should be a soakaway for each property and an attenuation pond installed and that this was agreed to be acceptable mitigation by the planning officers. Cllr Wakely noted the timing and level of the rain on Monday, and that other areas of the village had struggled in the downpour. It was decided to pass on concerns to the planning department and to invite a representative from the development team to hold an open forum or attend a council meeting to hear resident's questions and concerns.

Reports from Somerset Council

Cllr Roundell Green reported that the new school year has started and Somerset Council are focussing on attendance levels. There are 6 special education units currently and it is hoped this will increase to 15 by April 2026. There is still a £100m deficit in the council budget which is being worked on.

Cllr Roundell Green agreed to pass on information regarding the drains to Lee Norman. Shepton Beauchamp Council will forward the results of the crawler camera to Cllr Roundell Green. Cllr Roundell Green will also follow up the concerns of flooding related issues at the Piece Lane development.

Cllr England thanked Cllr Roundell Green for the information relating to funding opportunities and noted the information regarding the "Flood Mary" sessions had been added to the Facebook page.

The meeting started at 19:45

Ser Item

1289. To elect a chair

Cllr Vacani was elected as chair of the council for the rest of term. Proposed by Cllr Wakely, seconded by Cllr Rowswell. All councillors voted unanimously.

1290. To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972, s85(1))

Apologies were received from Cllr Nick Howard.

Resolved. To accept and approve the apologies given.

1291. 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).

None received.

1292. To approve as a correct record the minutes/decisions of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 21st July 2025 (LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41(1)).

Resolved. That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 21st July be signed as correct.

1293. LCN (Local Community Network)

There was no further update regarding the LCN. The council discussed its involvement with the LCN and decided to attend meetings where possible if they were thought to be useful.

1294. Flood Resilience

It was noted that Love Lane flooded due to the rain earlier in the week and the culvert had become blocked. Cllr Rowswell reported this and the ranger attended the site to remove the blockage. The drains at Shells Lane were unblocked by a parishioner.

It was noted that Middle Street was badly flooded in January. Residents are concerned following the recent rain. The council has arranged for the culvert to be surveyed and it will be cleared if needed. Information had previously been provided to residents regarding sandbags. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

1295. Lethbridge Pavilion Roof

Cllr Rowswell updated the council regarding the work required on the pavilion roof, 3 quotes have now been received. As there was a potential for some asbestos to be present, the relevant asbestos survey was carried out. The results show limited asbestos in the survey which will not hinder the required work. The council agreed to proceed with the quote from Colin England with a £1,000 reserve to cover any extra costs if required. Cllr England and Cllr Rowswell will manage the project and repairs. Proposed by Cllr England, seconded by Cllr Bourn, all councillors voted unanimously.

1296. Removal of the tree at the memorial garden

Cllr Rowswell provided information regarding the bay tree in the memorial garden. It was decided it would cost less to remove the tree and brambles than to cut back the area. Neighbouring properties had been asked for their opinion and they were happy for it to be removed.

The council decided to submit an application to Somerset Councils Tree Officer to remove the tree at a cost of £60 for the application.

Proposed by Cllr Joy, seconded by Cllr Burwood. All councillors voted in favour

1297. Finance

To review the Bank Reconciliation as at 31st July 2025 & 31st August 2025 (previously circulated).

To approve the schedule of payments totalling £4,752.24 (previously circulated)

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

1298. Report from Clerk/RFO. For information only

The clerk provided an update regarding the water access at the allotments. The council investigated ways that they could cover the cost of the water and it was decided Cllr Burwood would draft a letter for the allotment holders. The potential of a water deposit was discussed.

The clerk also updated the council that the mobile phone provided was difficult to use due to being so slow, the clerk suggested using her own mobile instead.

1299. Reports. For information only

Highways. Cllr Rowswell reported that he had been in touch with Lee Norman regarding the flyover drain clearance. The council had completed some work but there is further work required to be undertaken by Highways as the road is still flooding. It was noted that the white lines have been refurbished at the cross roads at the top of the village and a few more pot holes have occurred which will be reported.

Lethbridge Recreational Ground Committee

Cllr England reported that the pavilion committee had received quotes for moving some of the built up ground in order to expand the childrens play area, quotes are roughly £1,500. Cllr England is also establishing other avenues of funding for equipment.

Ranger

It was decided to review the schedule of works and have the clerk as the main contact for the ranger. Cllr Bourn has offered to be in charge of the SID and battery charging.

Allotments

It was noted by the council that there are 2 Allotments free (Allotment 9 and bottom half of Allotment 13. Cllr Burwood noted items are now dying off and there is some tidying up to be completed

Cowleaze

Cllr Bourn reported that 4 of the big gate posts had been replaced due to the old ones rotting away. There will be some juicing of the apples in early September and people are invited to help. It was noted the ride on mower has developed an electrical fault and will require a replacement part.

Footpaths

There was nothing to report regarding footpaths around the parish. It was noted that there is vegetation that is overhanging the pavements making access difficult.

Defibrillator

There was no further update.

1300. Annex A – Deferred items register

Annex A was updated

Meeting closed: 20:52 pm

Date of the next meeting: 20th October 2025

