

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Tuesday 21 July 2025 at 7.30pm

In the Village Hall, Middle Street, Shepton Beauchamp TA19 0LQ

Councillors present: Cllr Nigel Wylie Carrick (Chairman)
Cllr Andrew Rowswell
Cllr Tim England
Cllr Paul Vacani

Cllr David Bourn (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Angela Joy
Cllr Sally Burwood

In attendance: Ruby Coombes (Clerk)

Members of the public: There were no members of the public in attendance.

Unitary Councillors in attendance: Somerset Cllr Adam Dance (arrived at 20:05 left at 20:35)

Open session

There were no matters raised by members of the public.

Reports from Somerset Council

Cllr Dance reported regarding the boundaries commission review.

Cllr Dance reported he was concerned about the medical services in the area with the closure of the stroke and maternity units at YDH and the removal of 10 beds at Chard. Cllr Dance is holding a meeting with senior leadership and staff from YDH to address issues within the working environment. It was felt the NHS need to make it a more attractive place to work. It was also noted that 2 new dental practices will be opening in Chard and Crewkerne

Cllr Dance has also secured a 10-minute rule bill on neurodiversity regarding dyslexia and ADHD and the way affected children are taught during their time at school.

Ser Item

1276. To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972, s85(1))

Apologies were received from Cllr Nick Howard and Cllr Ed Wakley.

Resolved. To accept and approve the apologies given.

1277. 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 1283 and signed the book.

1278. To approve as a correct record the minutes/decisions of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 16th June 2025 (LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41(1)).

Resolved. That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16th June be signed as correct.

1279. LCN (Local Community Network)

Cllr Wylie Carrick reported to the council regarding the LCN. It was noted that a Walk Promotion Booklet is being produced thanks to funding secured from SALC. Further information regarding participation can be sought from [Michelle Brooks](#) at Somerset Council.

It was noted that the Crewkerne and Ilminster LCN will meet on 25 September 2025, 8 December 2025, 11 March 2026 and AGM on 24 June 2025. LCN subgroup will meet on 23 October 2025, 22 January 2026, 23 April 2026 & 16 July 2026 (Provisional). Details to be circulated in due course. Councillors are encouraged to send a councillor to the LCN meetings. The Highways subgroup meetings are particularly useful.

The council noted that the minutes from the last LCN meeting have not yet been circulated.

1280. Mud and flooding in village (re-title as flood resilience)

It was noted that Cllr Wylie Carrick and Cllr Rowswell had met with JW Drains & Jetting to decide priorities within the parish. It was decided that the Storm drains from Lambrook Road (Nr Covey) leading into Cowleaze could be started straight away. The storm drain from Sheepway culvert through to Cowleaze required a crawler camera and therefore the quote will be prepared based on the measurements of the area that is being inspected. There will be work carried out at Great Lane as

there are a number of blocked drains, this price will be based per drain. A quote will be prepared for all proposed works and returned to council.

Cllr Rowswell informed the council that the plan is to see if the flood defences installed by Somerset Council are fully functional, and if not, Somerset Council should be asked to ensure that they are.

Cllr Joy enquired about sandbags for the properties that flood. Cllr Wylie Carrick informed the council that there are 21 properties within the parish that are at risk. It was noted that Somerset Council no longer issues sandbags to homeowners, and homeowners are now responsible for the purchase of flood protection devices for their own properties. It was decided to put further information regarding flood prevention resources in The Web on the website, and added to Facebook. Cllr Wylie Carrick agreed to ensure the flood prevention information on the website was up to date.

Action: Cllr Wyle Carrick / Cllr England / Clerk

It was noted there are a number of sessions relating to flash flooding, for flood wardens or anyone interested, available. The next one is online on 21st August, there will be recordings of the meetings. It was decided to add the relevant links to website when available.

The council also noted the Somerset prepared community resilience day on Wednesday 15th October 9:15 – 4pm at Taunton Racecourse. This will also be highlighted on the website, in The Web, and on Facebook.

Action: Cllr England / Clerk

1281. SID

Cllr Bourne has filtered out the anomalous fast speeds and re-issued the data and reports. These will be added to the website. The data shows that generally vehicles are slowing down when approaching the SID and abiding by the speed limit.

The council discussed future readings and locations of the SID. A councillor is required to charge the SID battery and communicate with the ranger regarding to changing its location.

It was noted that the downloads only work on windows on android devices.

1282. Defibrillator

Cllr Joy requested a deputy for defib maintenance. **Resolved.** Cllr Burwood agreed to be the deputy.

1283. Grant Application for £5000 for St Michael's Church Ground Maintenance

Cllr Vacani provided the council with background information relating to the grant application. It was noted the council approved a grant of £1600 in the previous financial year. The PCC had tendered for the grass cutting .

The council felt it was an important well used and visited piece of 'open ground' in the village. It was acknowledged that the competent Parish Councils are now enabled to make grants to Churches. It was felt that many people in the village would want to see the Church grounds and cemetery to be maintained to a neat and tidy standard. Cllr England agreed to investigate whether the existing contract could be combined with the grass cutting that takes place at the recreation ground.

Resolved. The council agreed to provide a grant up to a maximum of £5,000 for general 'Ground Maintenance' of the Church grounds and cemetery, but will investigate further regarding future for future grass cutting. The PCC would remain responsible for managing the works, but bills submitted for Ground Maintenance must be addressed direct to the Council for payment.

1284. Finance

To review the Bank Reconciliation as at 30th June 2025 (previously circulated).

To approve the schedule of payments totalling £2,667.96 (previously circulated)

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

1285. Neighbourhood Watch The council discussed implementing a Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

PCSO Hickey had been in contact with the council concerning the recent thefts in the allotments, and tool thefts from Silver Street. She would like to attend a council meeting but isn't available in September or October.

It was noted that there had been no progress on neighbourhood watch scheme since the last time it was raised and there was no interest within the community to join/create one. It was decided to add it to the newsletter.

Planning Application 25/01 295/HOU Westbury, Littlefields.

The council noted there had been no comments on the planning application. It was noted that the house next door has had an extension built. The council had no objections or comments on the planning application.

1286. Report from Clerk/RFO. *For information only*

There was nothing to report.

1287. Reports. *For information only*

Highways. Cllr Rowswell reported that the potholes at Mountfields have been deemed needed repair. Cllr Rowswell had followed up with Lee Norman regarding the flooding at the flyover, Somerset Council have agreed to clear some of the ditching but have not provided a timescale for the work to take place. It was noted there was an accident last Wednesday at the crossroads, the white lines to indicate there are crossroads have been worn away. This will be reported to the Highways department.

Lethbridge Recreational Ground Committee

Cllr England reported that maintenance had been completed at the slope. There may be some maintenance taking place in the top left corner in the hope to establish some more grass growth. There is a space at the disused Rev Haw's memorial shelter which needs to be made safe. The installation of a bench had been suggested.

Cllr England also reported that the Solstice campout had raised around £400.

It was noted that builders are in attendance to investigate the work that is required at the pavilion and prepare quotes. Cllr Wylie Carrick agreed to send the old plans. **Action.** NWC to send through old plans. It was noted that if new equipment is to be installed in the play area, there are areas of ground that need to be flattened in order to make the area bigger. The possibility of adding a fence was discussed. It was noted that a previous quote of £6,000 to fence the Children's Play area had been quoted, but due to the safe location of the area, it was deemed unnecessary to fence the area at that time.

Ranger

Cllr Wylie Carrick reported that the ranger is attending on a regular weekly basis and has been carrying out maintenance on the verges.

Allotments

It was noted by the council that there are 2 Allotments free (Allotment 9 and bottom half of Allotment 13). The long grass/weeds of these allotments have been strimmed back by the Ranger.

Cowleaze

Cllr Bourn reported that the new wildflower meadow is going well, and there are hopes to expand next year. The children's races and games on Saturday was well attended. It was noted that there are some big trees that need to be cut down, and fencing around dog free zone will also need to be replaced shortly.

Footpaths

There was nothing to report.

Defibrillator

It was noted that the defibrillator was deployed twice this month.

1288. Annex A – Deferred items register

Annex A was updated

Meeting closed: 9.11pm

Date of the next meeting: 15th September 2025

