

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

**Held on Monday 19th January 2026 at 7.30pm
In the Village Hall, Middle Street, Shepton Beauchamp TA19 0LQ**

Councillors present: Cllr Paul Vacani (Chair)
Cllr Andrew Rowswell
Cllr Angie Joy

Cllr David Bourn (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Sally Burwood
Cllr Ed Wakely

Members of the public: There were 3 members of the public in attendance.

Unitary Councillors in attendance: Cllr Jo Roundell-Green (arrived 19:41 – left 20:01)

Open session

A member of the public attended the meeting to raise concerns regarding construction traffic associated with the development at Piece Lane. It was noted that the land currently being used by heavy vehicles is owned by a parishioner. Concerns were raised regarding the direction of travel of construction traffic and damage caused to trees.

The Council acknowledged that heavy traffic has an impact on the village and that this is a matter of village interest. It was recommended that the parishioner contact the developer directly, and that any correspondence should be made in writing. The Council also advised that the approved traffic route should be checked against the planning application and that concerns be referred to the developer.

A further concern was raised by a parishioner regarding a trench proposed to run through Piece Lane, which they stated had not been included in the original plans. Concerns were expressed about how construction lorries would continue to access the site once the trench has been excavated.

Reports from Somerset Council

Cllr Roundell Green reported on a recent meeting with Highways regarding the flyover. The meeting also included discussion and site visits to David's Lane and the attenuation ponds near Frogmary Farm. Cllr Roundell Green advised that the meeting was productive and that dialogue with Highways will continue.

Cllr Roundell Green also provided an update on the proposed Dog Control Public Spaces Protection Order. The intention is to introduce a blanket approach to address dog fouling and improve dog control. A public consultation is planned for the summer, preceded by a pre-consultation to review the proposed questions.

An update was given on the Council's budget, which must be agreed in February. Cllr Roundell Green stated that the budget shortfall currently stands at approximately £43 million, largely due to pressures within Children's Services. It was noted that the Council does not consider the shortfall should be met entirely through council tax increases. There is hope that the Government will introduce a cap on independent school fees, which would help make costs more manageable. An increase in the number of children entering care was also noted. Adult Services were reported to have shown improvement.

Cllr Wakely raised concerns regarding a development proposal that had previously been discussed with the Council. While the Council had been generally supportive following the initial consultation, no further updates have been received. Cllr Wakely expressed concern that the village had not been given sufficient opportunity for input and felt that there should be greater consultation, as the Parish Council currently has limited influence over planning applications.

Cllr Rowswell reported that the silt traps are full. An email had been sent to Lee Norman, who advised that there is no budget available for works this financial year. A request for inclusion in next year's budget has been made, but no response has yet been received. Cllr Roundwell Green requested to be copied into the correspondence.

The meeting started at 20:01.

Ser Item

1343. To resolve to exclude the press and public for item 1356

The council resolved to exclude the press and public for item 1356.

1344. To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972, s85(1))

Apologies were received from Cllr England.

Resolved. To accept and approve the apologies given.

The council noted the resignation of Cllr Howard and thanked him for his contribution to the community during his time as councillor.

1345. 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).
Declarations of Interest were received from Cllr Joy and Cllr Vacani for item 1356.

1346. Co-option

No application for co-option had been received.

1347. To approve as a correct record the minutes/decisions of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th December 2025 (LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41(1)).

Resolved. That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 15th December be signed as correct.

1348. Flood Resilience

Cllr Rowswell reported that an application to the SRA for the jetting of the culvert was unsuccessful. It was noted that there is one further round of SRA funding available. The Council has not yet engaged with Highways regarding the culverts. It was noted that increased ground cover in the fields appears to have reduced surface water and silt run-off, and that improvements have also been made to the gateways. Members were in favour of pursuing the jetting of the culvert. Cllr Rowswell agreed to review the SRA grant and Somerset Council options and to bring a proposal, including recommendations, to the next meeting for the Council's consideration. It was agreed that specific gullies requiring jetting should be identified. Cllr Burwood emphasised the importance of progressing the jetting works in order to make the village as safe as possible.

Cllr Rowswell further reported that the ditch at Cowleaze had historically not been maintained but was dug last year. Following this work, it is now apparent that the pipe within the ditch is approximately two-thirds full.

It was also reported that JW Drainage had applied a discount to their invoice and agreed to return to lift selected manholes. The clerk will follow this up with JW Drainage. Cllr Rowswell agreed to circulate a map to assist with this work.

1349. Planning

The council discussed planning application 25/03117/FUL relating to Branston Potatoes, Upton Lane, Seavington St Michael.

Members noted that the proposal would result in increased parking provision for machinery and raised concerns regarding the potential impact on traffic levels. Particular concern was expressed about Lopen Road, which was described as having poor visibility and already carrying a significant volume of traffic. It was noted that this route serves as a primary access for ambulances and other first responders to Yeovil and is one of the main access routes into the village. It was also noted that the applicant had indicated that traffic levels would not increase, with the proposal focusing instead on increased storage capacity.

Concerns were raised regarding existing light pollution from the car park and the potential for this to be exacerbated.

The Council resolved to support the application, subject to the material considerations outlined above.

1350. Review of the Budget for 2026/27 financial year

Budget items were discussed and reviewed by the council.

The council approved the proposed budget for the 2026/27.

1351. Precept

The precept request of £44,100 for the 2026/27 financial year was approved unanimously by the council.

1352. Finance

The payments on the payment schedule were approved.
The bank reconciliation was approved.
The council noted the spend to budget for quarter 3.

1353. Report from Clerk/RFO. *For information only*

The Clerk provided an update on the Dog Control consultation. It was noted that conditions at the end of Cowleaze, along the lane opposite the Recreation Ground, appear to have improved. However, Cowleaze Lane continues to present issues.

1354. Annex A – Deferred items register

The council reviewed Annex A.

1355. Reports. *For information only*

Highways.

Cllr Rowsell informed the Council that there are numerous potholes within the parish that are being reported repeatedly. A meeting with Highways is scheduled for 3 March.
It was reported that a meeting had taken place with National Highways, which will be followed up by a Zoom meeting. Some progress has been made, although the extent of this remains unclear. It was noted that Lee Norman had not been aware of these developments.

Lethbridge Recreational Ground Committee

No update from the committee provided.

Cllr Wakely noted that the football pitch has been paced out and could potentially be rotated by 90 degrees allowing the trees to be felled without the installation of a net. The pitch may also require aeration.

Ranger

The Ranger was reported to be working well and attended with two assistants in order to familiarise other staff with the area. The SID was changed during the visit.
It was noted that the silt traps in Great Lane require attention, with the upper trap reported to be full and the lower trap approximately half full. This information has been passed to Highways.

Allotments

Little to report on the allotments due to the time of year.

Cowleaze

A review has been completed outlining what has been achieved over the past year. The report will be circulated to Members. It was also reported that an article will be submitted to The Web to publicise the work undertaken and to encourage further community support.

Footpaths

No update other than a slight improvement in dog fouling.

Defibrillator

There was no further update.

1356. Churchyard Maintenance Tender

The Council considered three quotations received for the Churchyard Maintenance contract. It was RESOLVED that the contract be awarded to Jody Foy.

Meeting closed: 21:08 pm

Date of the next meeting: 16th February 2026.

