

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 16th March 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 Linten

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

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

Unitary Councillors in attendance: None.

Open session

None.

Reports from Somerset Council

None.

The meeting started at 19:30

In the absence of the Parish Clerk, the Chairman noted that a temporary Clerk needed to be nominated for the meeting in order to take the minutes. Cllr Rowswell proposed Cllr Joy. This was seconded by Cllr Linten and this was unanimously agreed.

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1369.	To resolve to exclude the press and public for item 1381
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It was resolved to exclude the press and public for item 1381 due to discussion relating to staff.

1370.	To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972, s85(1))
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All councillors present, no apologies received.

1371.	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).
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Declarations of Interest were received from Cllr Burwood in relation to item 1377.

1372.	Co-option
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The council noted there had been interest in the vacant position.

1373.	To approve as a correct record the minutes/decisions of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 16th February 2026 (LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41(1)).
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Resolved. That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16th February be signed as correct.

1374.	Flood Resilience
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Cllr Rowswell reported that he was awaiting a call back from SW Drainage. Cllr Rowswell had also met with Lee Norman regarding Robins Lane. Lee Norman has a scheme in place which is subject to budget, it is planned to put in 3 gullies and a pipe to Cowleaze. Cllr Rowswell advised Lee Norman of the state of Shells Lane/Whitefield Lane and has been in contact regarding sweeping, the silt traps have also been inspected. Lee Norman also indicated the road to Barrington is possibly going to be part resurfaced. The overhanging trees and leaves were also discussed, as well as the ownership of a tree which is lying on a cable. The clerk will contact Lee Norman regarding progress. The silt at the top of Great Lane was also reported, photos were sent to Lee Norman and a response will follow.

Councillors requested the Locum Clerk follow up with Adam Dance regarding the flooding at the flyover as there has been no contact from National Highways since the meeting that was held.

1375. Cowleaze Culvert

Cllr Rowsell reported he is still awaiting a decision on the application to the Somerset Rivers Authority. The review panel met on the 26th February and it could take 6-8 weeks for a decision. Councillors agreed to wait for the outcome of the application and make a definite decision at the next council meeting.

1376. Finance

The payments on the payment schedule were approved.
The bank reconciliation was approved.

1377. Allotments

The Council discussed the meeting that was held with 8 allotment holders. The allotment holders all accepted the cost recovery in respect of the water and all are aware that the water will not be turned on until all of the £25 deposits are paid. 1 allotment holder offered to form a committee.

The pipe has been installed and Wessex Water are due to connect by 19th March, the developer is keen to move on with the work now that the weather is improving. Cllr England agreed to measure how much pipe is required. Cllr England and Cllr Wakely reported they are having difficulties finding the push taps and reported the cost will be approximately £50 per tap.

1378. Policy updates

The council reviewed and approved the IT policy and the updated Accessibility statement for the website.

1379. Reports. *For information only*

Highways.

Potholes have been reported but not repaired, no further updates. The locum clerk will contact Cllr Roundell-Green regarding the pot hole outside Branstons and to bring information relating to the council tax bill to detail the split of "other services".

Lethbridge Recreational Ground Committee

Contractor to delay the works at the Rec due to the large amount of water still there.

Ranger

Cllr Bourn met with the Ranger last week. He will be asked on his next visit to work on the weeds in the streets and also the bridle path at the top of Piece Lane as there is a large branch hanging over the path.

Allotments

Cllr Burwood reported there is now work starting at the allotments due to the improvement in weather. The young allotment holder has made good progress with his plot. It was decided to ask the Locum Clerk to review which allotments are vacant and arrange for these to be advertised.

Cowleaze

It was reported that grass cutting will start soon and working parties are being organised.

Footpaths

Nothing to report.

Defibrillator

The defibrillator was deployed twice this month but not used. The site visit report was completed by Cllr Joy and a new battery for the Village Hall Defibrillator has been ordered.

1380. Staffing Committee

The council noted that the Staffing Committee should be comprised of 5 Councillors and there are currently only two. The Chair of the Parish Council will be on the Committee along with the 2 existing members Cllr Joy and Cllr Rowsell. Cllrs Linten and Wakely were duly appointed to the staffing committee.

It was agreed that the matter of who would Chair the Staffing committee would be deferred until the Council could benefit from the Locum Clerk's guidance when she is next in attendance.

Meeting closed: 20:54pm

Date of the next meeting: Tuesday 21st April 202

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