

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 15th June 2026 at 7.30 pm

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

Councillors present: Cllr Paul Vacani (Chair) Cllr David Bourn (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Tim England Cllr Sally Burwood
Cllr Dave Linten Cllr Ed Wakley (from 7.50 pm)

In attendance: Stella Davies (Locum Clerk)

Unitary Councillors in attendance: Somerset Cllr Steve Ashton (arrived 7.35 pm & left at 8.00 pm)

Report from Somerset Council

Cllr Ashton reported that the Local Plan was moving forward and they have published the HELAA which is where they ask people if they would like houses built on their land. The Government has a plan for seventy-five thousand houses in Somerset in the next 20 years. The first tranche of land that has been offered has capacity for one hundred and sixty thousand houses. The first consultation will be in July. The Government wants building work to be completed within 30 months. The phosphate issue is pretty much sorted and should not hold up new developments. He aid that moving forwards if there is a planning application that we want to comment on and it is in a month that the Parish Council does not meet, it is advisable to hold an extra-ordinary meeting as we will have no right to contest during an appeal process.

Cllr Jo Roundell Greene has been given a 6-month dispensation and so will not be attending a Parish Council meeting during that time.

Concerning potholes, Cllr Ashton is receiving a report on potholes filled. Regarding the January flooding issues, Somerset Council have been given £50m to address the flooding issues. A large amount of that money is for Parish Councils.

Cllr Vacani mentioned that the Parish Council was in receipt of a draft of the Transport Policy concerning buses and that Shepton Beauchamp did not feature in it. It is covering South Petherton and various villages, but not Shepton. He had written to the head of the Transport Committee suggesting that the bus that goes from South Petherton to Yeovil hospital could go via the village. but had received no response. He asked if Cllr Ashton could bring this matter to his attention.

Cllr Ashton said he was now Vice-Chair of the planning committee. The Clerk mentioned that she had written to the planning department about Piece Lane and had received no response, so asked him to chase it for her.

Ser. Item

- 1414. To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given** (LGA 1972, s85(1))
Apologies were received from Cllr Angie Joy (away), Cllr Steven Fidgeon (away) and Cllr Andrew Rowswell (away).
Resolved. To accept and approve the apologies given.

- 1415. 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)
There were no declarations of interest
- 1416. To approve as a correct record the minutes/decisions of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18th May 2026 (LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41(1)).**
Resolved. That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th May be signed as correct.
- 1417. Approval of Internal Auditor Report**
 To receive and approve the Internal Audit Report for FY 2025/26
Resolved. That the Internal Auditor Report be approved.
- 1418. Approval of Annual Governance Statement**
 (Section 1 of the Governance and Accountability Return 25/26 (**Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015**))
Resolved. That Section 1 – The Annual Governance Statement be approved as correct.
- 1419. Approval of Accounting Statement**
 Section 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return 25/26) (**Accounts & Audit Regulations 2015**)
Resolved. That Section 2 – The Accounting Statement be approved as correct.
- 1420. Consider if the Council can declare itself exempt or if a basic or intermediate review is required**
Resolved. That the Council cannot declare itself exempt and will need to undertake a basic review.
- 1421. Approve the period for the exercise of public rights as 22nd June – 31st July 2026 (30 working days)**
Resolved. That the period for the exercise of public rights be approved as 22nd June – 31st July 2026.
- 1422. Play Equipment Inspection Report from January**
 To report on the inspection report and highlight any areas of concern

Cllr England reported that on the external inspection report, all the findings were low risk or very low risk. The report had been reviewed at a recreation field committee meeting. Cllr Vacani asked why there were two items marked with crosses on the third page and what they meant. The Clerk is to email the company and asked them.

Action – Parish Clerk

He also reported that an area had been cleared in the play area for new equipment and that grass seed had been put down, which is growing. They carried out a survey and will be buying climbing equipment.

1423. Mud and flooding in village

To update the council on any relevant developments.

Cllr England reported that S&D services are coming on 22nd June to clear the culvert . There is a place to move the spoil so it can dry out. Cllrs England and Rowsell have put a note through villagers' doors in Lambrook Road to ask them to keep the road clear and park instead at the recreation ground. The work is expected to take 3 days. He needs to check with The Rivers Authority that they are happy to still fund us as we are running behind their timeline.

1424. SID report Nov 2025 – May 2026

To discuss the summary report and resolve if any actions need to be taken.

Cllr Bourn said the report was very similar to previous reports. The Ranger cannot locate the SID at the approved site at the end of Lambrook Road as it would have to be sited too close to the ground and so an additional pole would need to be installed there. It appears that the higher speeds are diminishing. The majority of people keep within the speed limit.

The cost of a new pole is to be investigated – it needs to be a pole that can snap if hit by a vehicle

Action – Cllr Fidgeon

1425. Risk Assessment v5

To review the risk register and make necessary amendments.

Resolved. The Risk Register was reviewed, and approved with various amendments in the following sections:-

- Business Continuity
- Financial Records
- Bank and Banking
- Allotments

It was suggested that Sarah Brunt be emailed and thanked for regularly filling the water bowser, check it is hers and ask for it to be removed once the crops in the adjoining field had been harvested.

Action – Parish Clerk

Regarding the allotment section, Cllr Burwood offered to check the meter readings on a monthly basis. The Clerk is to contact the site manager in the Piece Lane development as the meter is located there, so we can be shown where it is located.

Action – Parish Clerk/Cllr Burwood

It was suggested that Wessex Water (Business Services department) be contacted for an assessment to see if the meter can be replaced with a smart meter, providing there is no cost.

Action – Parish Clerk

1426. Grant Awarding Policy v3

To approve the Grant Awarding Policy v3

Resolved. Grant Awarding Policy v3 was approved with two amendments.

1427. Finance

To review the Bank Reconciliation as at 31st May 2026 (previously circulated).
To approve the schedule of payments totalling £4,468.70 (previously circulated)

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

1428. Platinum Jubilee Garden

To discuss the lack of volunteers to weed the flowerbeds and resolve if prices should be obtained from local gardeners.

Resolved. It was decided to advertise for more volunteers and in the interim get quotes from local gardeners so that it can be kept in good order.

Action – Parish Clerk

1429. Annex A – Deferred items register

Annex A was updated.

Meeting closed: 9.10 pm