

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Thursday 25th June 2026 at 7.30 pm
In the Village Hall, Middle Street, Shepton Beauchamp TA19 OLQ

Councillors present: Cllr Paul Vacani (Chairman) Cllr David Bourn (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Tim England Cllr Ed Wakely
Cllr Sally Burwood Cllr David Linten
Cllr Steven Fidgeon

In attendance: Stella Davies (Clerk)

Ser Item

1430. To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given (LGA 1972, s85(1))
Apologies were received from Cllr Andrew Rowswell (working) and Cllr Angie Joy (working).
Resolved. To accept and approve the apologies given.

1431. 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

1432. To approve as a correct record the minutes/decisions of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th June 2026 (LGA 1972, sch 12, para 41(1)).
Resolved. That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 15th June be signed as correct.

1433. Appointment of new Clerk/RFO
To give a summary of the final interview marks.

To approve the following:

- To approve the selection made by the Staffing Committee
- To agree the start date for the new Clerk/RFO
- To agree the hourly rate
- To agree the length of the initial handover
- To agree that funding be taken from reserves for the handover period

Resolved. The new Clerk/RFO selected by the Staffing Committee was approved as Kim Lea.
The start date was agreed as 1st August 2026
The hourly rate was approved.
The length of the initial handover was agreed at 3 months.
It was agreed to use funding from reserves for the handover period.

1434. Reports. To receive updates from councillors:

Highways

In the absence of Cllr Rowswell, Cllr England reported that S & D services work on the Cowleaze culvert will take until the end of the week. The excess spoil is going in Cllr England's farm. If it is suitable when dried to spread on a field, it will be, otherwise the Council may need to pay to have it taken away. He has contacted Somerset Rivers Authority, and they are happy for us to submit

documentation and evidence later than originally agreed. The contractors also agreed to jet the drain at the bottom of Shells Lane. It was mentioned that the drains at the bottom of Robins Lane needed to be inspected and we could use S&D Services to do this.

The drain cover outside the village hall has been marked up and replaced by Somerset Council. They have also marked up others coming into the village.

Lethbridge Recreation Ground Committee

Cllr England reported that a meeting needed to be arranged. Volunteers have agreed to help reinstate The Hawes Memorial in early July, so the only expense will be materials. A budget has been put aside for £1,500 for materials. The contractor is due to start the pavilion repairs but has not yet sent through his insurance details. The Clerk is to chase.

Action – Parish Clerk

Ranger

Cllr Bourn reported that the Ranger works semi autonomously. Some of the footpaths need strimming. Cllr Vacani mentioned that there were brambles that needed cutting back on the footpath that runs from the bottom of Ash Lane towards Shells Lane.

Allotments

Cllr Burwood said that the water troughs were appreciated, particularly in the recent hot spell. There are rented allotments which are very badly overgrown, which the Clerk confirmed. Many allotments were in a bad state, with waist level grass. The policy for allotment holders who do not keep their allotments is that they are sent a letter asking them to improve the state of the allotment or it would be taken away from them. The Clerk mentioned that she had someone interested in taking an allotment and it was suggested that we ask the Ranger to clear it prior to it being taken.

Action – Cllr Bourn

Cllr Burwood is going to check if there is any movement on the allotment holders setting up an association.

Action – Cllr Burwood

The Clerk asked if the size of the allotment could be confirmed and Cllr England said he had something that could do that.

Action – Cllr England

Cllr Burwood asked if the Clerk could send her a map of the allotment holder, so she can make a definitive list of the state of the allotments.

Action – Parish Clerk

Cowleaze

Cllr Bourn reported that the ride on mower is having an annual service. It was mentioned by the Councillors how nice the area was looking.

Footpaths

Cllr Wakely reported that there was nothing to report. Some of the paths are overgrown. Cllr Vacani mentioned that the first footpath gate onto Lambrook Road (where the footpath goes down to Cowleaze) does not shut properly and needs looking at.

Action – Cllr Wakely

Defibrillator

In the absence of Cllr Joy there was no report.

Meeting closed: 8.30 pm