

SHEPTON BEAUCHAMP PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES OF THE RECREATION FIELD ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on Tuesday 28th July 2026 at 7.30 pm
In The Pavilion, Lethbridge Recreation Field, Shepton Beauchamp TA19 ONE

Members present: Cllr Tim England (Chairman) Cllr Ed Wakely
Georgina Fitchett Suzanne Brister
Lou Wrightson

In attendance: Stella Davies (Locum Clerk)

Item

RFA/147 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Jess Dennis (who asked to come off the committee), Gareth McAveety, Terry Crocker and Ian Brister. Myles Lambert was also absent.

RFA/148 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

RFA/149 Approval of minutes

To approve the minutes from the committee meeting held on Monday 9th February 2026
The minutes from the committee meeting held on 9th February 2026 were approved as correct.

RFA/150 Finances

To provide an update on the current financial situation of The Recreation Field

The Locum Clerk reported that income had been received from the 100 Club for the whole year while the only expenditure paid out so far was for electricity and the 100 Club winners for the first 3 months. the amount held in reserves was just over £26,000 for play equipment, the pavilion, minor improvements (the reinstatement of the Hawes Memorial shelter will come from this section and is estimated at £1,500) and the MUGA.

RFA/151 100 club

To update the committee on the 100 Club

The Locum Clerk reported that there were tickets available for the 100 Club as some people had not renewed for this financial year. There were at least 12 tickets available. This has been mentioned on the village Facebook page and in The Web. Tim suggested this was put on the Parish Council Facebook page as well.

RFA/152 The Pavilion Improvements

To update the committee on the situation regarding the builder

Tim reported that the work will start in August and the contractor's public liability insurance details have been received.

RFA/153 Haws Memorial

To update the committee on what work has been agreed and decide if further funding is required.

Tim reported that He, Terry, Alex and Shane met to look at the work involved. It was suggested that the Parish Council set up a Trade account with Bradfords to purchase the materials. It was suggested that we ask for a credit limit of £2,500 per month.

Action – Parish Clerk

Neil has agreed to remove the surplus soil, then Alex will put up some blockwork. Two of the walls have collapsed and so they need to be re-instated. It had been suggested that metal posts be put in place rather than wooden ones, to make the structure more secure. It was thought that a fence (with downward wooden slats) around the back would stop anyone climbing onto the roof. We are asking for quotes for this. Ed said that what was used as a roof covering was important, possibly lining it with ply and then putting metal sheets on top. It was therefore thought that the original estimate of £1,300 would therefore increase to possibly £1,500. Everyone is giving their time for free and so the only cost would be the materials. There will be costs for the benches to put inside at some point.

RFA/154 New Play Equipment

To update the committee on the progress regarding new play equipment.

Tim said that an appointment had been cancelled with the play equipment company and as we still had the details could we could contact them to ask to reschedule the meeting. He can meet with them ideally between 12 – 2 on a weekday (apart from 7th – 15th August). Lou said she could attend the meeting if it was a Monday or a Friday. Tim asked if the Clerk could attend as well. Gareth also has details of a company to contact, and we need to find a third, so we can get 3 quotes.

Action – Parish Clerk

RFA/155 The Embankment

To give an update on progress to date.

Tim asked if we could speak to the contractors who mow the grass and ask if they can strim close to the edge of the embankment and other edges around the field. This would allow for the grass to grow and then it could be mowed.

Action - Parish Clerk

On the slope itself, the path across the top is blocked again. We also need to ask for some quotes for clearing the greenery on the path at the top and on the slope itself with a hedge trimmer. Ed said he would ask for a quote from a contractor that he had the details for, and the Clerk could ask Neil Chapman and our grass cutting contractors for clearing the bank on a regular basis (bi-monthly during the Spring – Autumn). It was estimated at 600 metres of strimming.

Action – Ed / Parish Clerk

We also need quotes for the trees to be planted along the embankment. Lou will ask Miles is he still able to quote and Tim will ask Ashridge Trees.

Action – Tim / Lou

RFA/156 Complaint re bad language

To report on complaint received about the bad language used during football matches.

Tim said that the Parish Council had received a complaint about the bad language from a visiting football team during a match. The complainant had apparently written to Somerset Football Association but had heard nothing back. Suzanne said she had contacted the referee's secretary, so they know about it and the Yeovil league know about it as well as Somerset Football Association. The Yeovil League say they may send an official out when Shepton play that visiting team again as abusive language should be a sending off offence.

RFA/157 Fundraising

To agree on forthcoming fund-raising events.

Tim said that at the recent Cowleaze event money was raised and he needed the form from the Clerk for signature.

Action – Parish Clerk

The campout was successful last year but there was not a weekend free this year when everyone was free and there was no other event and so it will not be held this year.

There is nothing else planned at the moment, although it was suggested that we have a bingo night in the autumn or a treasure hunt around the village in the summer.

The football club are hosting an event at the recreation field on Sunday 23rd August and asked if the recreation field committee wanted to do a BBQ, but unfortunately there are not enough people available to help.

Suzanne also suggested that the football club and the recreation field committee could hold a quiz night in the village hall and share the profits.

RFA/158 Any other business

Lou mentioned that South Petherton were looking at resurfacing their MUGA and wondered if we also enquired about the cost with the same contractor, whether both Parishes could benefit from a reduced rate if they did them both at the same time.

Action – Parish Clerk

Two of the covers from the football club posts have gone missing and need to be replaced. Lou said there were spares in the Football Club shed.

Action – Football Club

Suzanne mentioned the salt in the shed needed to be removed. Ed and Tim offered to speak to Tommy to see if he could move it.

Action – Ed / Tim

More dog signs need to be ordered (4 signs) including two for the play area (no dogs in the play area).

Action – Parish Clerk

Tim asked if the Clerk could order some asbestos labels which needed to be located where they found the asbestos, which you can get from Amazon. He will send her details of which labels to buy.

Action – Tim / Parish Clerk

It was also mentioned that the walls in the changing rooms are going white – it was thought that this was damp and would be resolved once the roof repairs had been carried out. But Tim will ask the contractor to check.

Action - Tim

Meeting closed: 8.50 pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 9th November 2026