



## Shepton Montague Parish Council

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Clerk: [clerk@sheptonmontagueparish.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sheptonmontagueparish.gov.uk)

Date: 29 January 2026

### **Minutes of the Shepton Montague Parish Council meeting held on **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2025** at **7.00pm** in Shepton Montague Village Hall.**

#### **PRESENT:**

Clrs: Sykes (Chair) (JS), Hunter (JH), Williams (PW), Watch (FW) & Willasey-Willsey (AW-W)

Clerk/RFO: Sam Mainstone (SM)

Somerset Councillors: Cllr Trimnell (LT)

Parish members: 5 including representative from The Newt, Zoe Young (ZY)

#### **Open discussion; Opportunity for parish members to comment on agenda items prior to the start of the meeting.**

Agenda Item 25/47- Pleased this item has been added to the agenda, to clarify, the suggestion is to approach the neighboring parish councils of North Cadbury, Pitcombe, and Bratton Seymour to jointly campaign for a roundabout at the A359/A371 junction.

A member of public raised concerns of a Foul smell noted in the village, believed to be caused by a bonfire, however, it would seem no others have noticed this.

#### **Meeting started at 7:03pm**

#### **25/35; Declarations of interest.**

Members to declare any interests, including disclosable pecuniary interests (DPI) they may have in agenda items that accord with the parish council's [Code of Conduct](#) and to consider any written requests from members for dispensations that accord with the Localism Act 2011 s33 (b-e) (this does not preclude any later dispensation).

None received.

#### **25/36; Approve the minutes of the last [meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025](#) as a true and accurate record of that meeting.**

**It was RESOLVED (5-0-0) that the minutes of the last meeting dated 7<sup>th</sup> August 2025 are a true and accurate record of that meeting.**

The minutes were signed by the Chair.

**25/37; To receive the Clerk's report and to note any recommendations.**

Report received and noted.

**25/38; To receive Somerset Councillors latest report.**

Cllr Power sends his apologies, he was unable to attend due to Remembrance Sunday rehearsals.

Cllr Trimmell gave her summary of news:

- The A359 at Queen Camel will be closed between the hours of 9:30am and 3:30pm for resurfacing works on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> November.
- The Boundary review decision is expected to be approved soon which will gain a Bruton seat. Bratton Seymour, Lamyatt, Milton Clevedon and Whittham Friary will remain unchanged, but Wincanton will lose a seat, which is being challenged.
- The 3-month Planning department period to catch up has now ended. This did not provide a significant backlog clearance. Although this period has ended, issues with the Planning Department remain challenging, with prolonged waits for enquiry responses. It is assumed that Parish Councils should revert back to making direct contact with any enquiries. It is also assumed that Planning Enforcement activity has returned for both routine and urgent enquiries.
- Garden waste collections will be changing, an email will be circulated to those affected.
- The [consultation for Yeovil's master plan](#) has now closed. If you would still like to have your say, there is a petition available at Café no.50 (50 Princes St, Yeovil BA20 1EQ), or there will be a link to the petition on Cllr Trimmell's Facebook page.
- Adult social care inspection is expected at the end of September, and it is hoped results should arrive in December/January. All areas have/will receive this inspection since the new framework and criteria.
- It is recommended to continue to contact Somerset Highways via the online reporting page as it seems this is the most successful route for a response.
- Consultation for Somerset Council pay grading review is now in progress.
- A new transformation partner is being introduced at Somerset Council to identify ways necessary financial savings can be made by 2029.

**25/39; To note the National pay agreement 2025/26: Somerset Council Pay Policy**

**Statement 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 circulated in meeting papers.**

- a) To consider appropriate pay increase for clerk in line with Somerset Council grade 13 Scale Point 8 (as per contract), raising from current rate of £12.80 per hour to £13.47, and to consider backdating to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

**ACTION:SM**

**It was RESOLVED (5-0-0) to approve the clerk's pay increase from £12.80 per hour to £13.47 per hour, and to backdate this pay increase to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.**

**25/40; To note clerk's hours of work to date since last meeting.**

Included in the meeting papers; Clerk's timesheets since May 2025 and to note a total of 2 hours annual leave has been taken.

Noted by all. The clerk suggested presenting the hours of work in a quarterly summary total in future. All agreed this would be preferred.

**It was RESOLVED (5-0-0) for the clerk's hours to be presented as a quarterly summary total in future.**

**ACTION:SM**

**25/41; To consider proposed draft budget for 2026/27.**

The draft budget was reviewed and noted by all. The following observations were made:

1. There remains one Fingerpost sign that requires replacement – Clerk to obtain quotes for the next meeting, with a view to using these reserved funds.
2. 20 MPH speed limit – All agreed this should be explored as a new project. Clerk will initially approach Highways to make enquiries to help ascertain the reserve figure for this project.
3. Defib machine – All agreed that an annual peppercorn rent should be paid to the Shepton Montague Inn, who have kindly agreed to host, in order to cover fees for the power supply.

The Draft will be reviewed with the above amendments, and return to the January meeting for approval.

**ACTION:SM**

**25/42; To receive the South East LCN AGM notes 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025.**

None available.

**25/43; Boreholes; Update from Cllr Sykes.**

The Parish Council wrote to the Environment Agency regarding the monitoring and licensing of boreholes in our area and received the response, (attached “EIR response”):

**25/44; To review the 2025 Parish Fete and consider plans for next year.**

This is an independent event organised outside of the council. The same is planned for next year and there is no review required.

**25/45; CIL spending; To note legislation (The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010, regulation 59c, and to approve the draft CIL report for return and publishing.**

**It was RESOLVED (5-0-0) to approve the draft CIL report for return and publishing to the website.**

**ACTION:SM**

**25/46; Defibrillator; Research information in meeting papers**

- a) To consider funding mechanisms and discuss next actions.  
The BHF grant has been declined. The Newt have kindly stepped in and offered to fund this. Arrangements will continue between the ZY/clerk.

**ACTION:SM/ZY**

- b) To consider/decide 2 separate locations  
A location has been secured at the Shepton Montague Inn, to be fitted on the external wall where there is a shelter. This kind offer extends to supplying the machine's power.
- c) To consider quotes and decide next steps  
Clerk will organise with ZY.

**25/47; To consider options regarding road safety due to increase in traffic through Higher Shepton**

- a) To consider options for purchasing a Speed Indicator Device (SID), review the brochure and discuss next actions.  
The brochure was reviewed and noted. Options were discussed. All agreed this as a project reserve for next financial year and the clerk will explore further, with findings to return to the next meeting.

**ACTION:SM**

b) To consider the process for applying a 20mph speed limit through Higher Shepton and discuss next actions.

All agreed this could be a project for next financial year, the clerk will explore further with Somerset Highways.

**ACTION:SM**

c) To consider supporting a campaign for a roundabout at the A359/A371 junction. An A371 working group was formed in the past, which the Newt became involved in, but there has been no activity on this for some time. At that time, a roundabout was explored, and a different plan was developed by the Newt. ZY will explore this further.

**ACTION: ZY**

d) If SMPC supports the campaign for a roundabout at the A359/A371 junction, to consider approaching neighboring parishes to combine efforts and to discuss next steps.

Await the findings from ZY, but there may be alternative designs.

**25/48; Planning items; To note the following planning applications received since the last meeting:**

a) NOTIFICATION ONLY:

**Proposal:** Application to discharge the planning obligation dated 12 September 1995 between South Somerset District Council and Robert John Dimond and Christina Dimond pursuant to planning permissions 942826 and 951108 for alterations and conversion of agricultural buildings into 2 No. dwellinghouses

**Location:** Higher Farm East Street Shepton Montague Wincanton Somerset BA9 8JJ

**Applicant:** Robert Dimond And Christina Dimond Application Type: Discharge of Planning Obligation Application Number: 25/02344/DPO

Noted by all.

**25/49; Finance: -**

a) To note the notification of exempt status has been received and acknowledged.

Noted by all.

b) Payments since last meeting; invoices in finance papers.

Noted.

**It was RESOLVED (5-0-0) to approve the list of payments since the last meeting.**

c) Review of Bank Reconciliations since last meeting.

Noted and signed.

d) To note September Payroll – next due December 25.

Noted.

e) To review updated budget to date.

Noted by all.

f) To receive update regarding transfer of bank account from Lloyds to Unity Trust Bank.

Noted by all. The next step will be to apply for a payment card to allow the council to make online purchases. This will involve a small administration fee, which was noted by all.

**ACTION:SM**

**25/50; To consider the two routes to follow in order to merge parishes and to consider the next steps.**

Report was noted. The clerk at Bratton Seymour has since been in touch and reports there have been no positive responses in the parish. This will not be further explored.

**25/51; To nominate attendance for the 2 NALC events;**

- a) [Future Leaders; Attracting young talent to parish and town councils](#)  
JS will attend.
- b) [Planning for the future; Navigating the new planning framework](#)  
Clerk to send through dates for this to Cllrs.

**ACTION:JS/SM**

**25/52; Agenda items for next meeting**

- Review of Policies
- Review of asset register (To add new purchased items)
- Review layout of website (agendas and meeting papers)

**25/53; To review meeting schedule for next year; Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan, Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June “Annual Parish Meeting”, Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August, Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November.**

22<sup>nd</sup> Jan is to be rescheduled to Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026. This will be updated on the website.

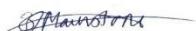
**ACTION:SM**

**25/54; Date of next meeting **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026**, please forward any agenda items to the clerk by **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2026**.**

The date of the next meeting is rescheduled to 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

**Meeting ended at 8:30pm**

Signed



S Mainstone

Parish Clerk **29 January 2026** on behalf of the Council