



Clerk: clerk@sheptonmontagueparish.gov.uk

Date: 19 June 2026

MINUTES of the Shepton Montague Parish Council Annual meeting held on **Thursday 7th May 2026 at **7.00pm** in Shepton Montague Village Hall.**

PRESENT:

Cllrs; Sykes (chair), Hunter, Willasey-Wilsey

Clerk: Patrick Pender-Cudlip (LOCUM)

Somerset Councillors: Cllrs Trimnell and Power (arrived at 7:33pm)

Parish Members: 4

Meeting started at 7:00pm

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

A member of the public:

- welcomed the news that the 'temporary' railings at the 'Yarlington triangle' (the junction of Cattle Hill and the A371) are to become a permanent fixture; unlike with a hedge, drivers can see through them, and more easily avoid conflict with oncoming traffic.
- expressed disappointment at the failure of The Newt to give advance warning of the 6th March fireworks display to local livestock keepers and pet owners, causing considerable distress. A representative of The Newt apologised and promised to warn the Shepton Montague email coordinator about any firework displays in future.
- expressed the hope that The Newt would warn local residents about events likely to create traffic congestion on Caryedge Lane, so that they could make their dispositions accordingly. A representative of The Newt promised to pass on a list of forthcoming events to the Shepton Montague email coordinator who could circulate news of any which might cause traffic congestion, such as the recent Garden Festival.

Minutes

26/01; Election of Chair for the year 2026/27.

To nominate and elect a councillor to the office of Chair. The newly elected Chair will sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

It was proposed that Cllr Sykes should remain Chair.

It was RESOLVED [3-0-0] to elect Cllr Sykes as Chair for 2026/27.

26/02; Election of Vice Chair for the year 2026/27.

To nominate and elect a councillor to the office of Vice Chair.

It was proposed that Cllr Williams should remain Vice Chair.

It was RESOLVED [3-0-0] to elect Cllr Williams as Vice Chair for 2026/27.

26/03; Apologies for absence (LGA 1972 s85(1)).

Apologies were received from Sam Mainstone (Clerk/RFO) and Cllrs; Watch and Williams.

It was RESOLVED (3/0/0) to approve the apologies and the reasons submitted.

26/04; 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.

26/05; [Minutes of the last meeting.](#)

To approve and sign the minutes held on 21st January 2026, as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

It was RESOLVED (3/0/0) to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting dated 21st January 2026.

26/06; To receive the Clerk's report and to note any recommendations.

In a review of the Action Points there was a brief discussion of the proposed installation of a defibrillator at the pub, and defibrillator training.

Clerk's report: deferred.

26/07; To receive reports from Somerset Councillors.

[This item was discussed after item 26/12 because the Somerset Councillors were delayed by a previous appointment, but in the interests of clarity and consistency it is minuted in the Agenda order].

Cllr Power agreed to get in touch with a locally based Somerset Council (SC) Defibrillator trainer who is able and very willing to provide appropriate training to local volunteers. He also reported on the efforts of the SC Highways Department (Highways) to repair potholes, particularly on Verrington Lane.

Cllr Trimnell expressed immense frustration at Highways' failure to respond when contacted by Somerset Councillors, and suggested that parish councils might have a greater chance of generating a response.

Both councillors expressed disappointment that County Hall appears almost deserted as so many SC staff are working from home, and it has become very difficult to arrange face to face appointments.

26/08; To review Shepton Montague Parish Council Governing Documents/policies:

- a) Standing Orders
- b) Financial Regulations
- c) Code of Conduct
- d) Risk Assessment and Management Policy
- e) Asset Register

It was RESOLVED (3/0/0) to approve the Council's Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Code of Conduct, and Risk Assessment and Management policies unchanged, and the Asset Register as amended with the addition of a printer, barbecue and defibrillator.

26/09; To note and approve clerk's hours of work to date since last meeting.

- a) To approve Clerk's additional hours for Q4 (Total of 28)

It was RESOLVED (3/0/0) to approve the Clerk's 28 hours for Q4.

- b) To receive and approve Q4 Payroll summary

This item was deferred.

26/10; Finance:

- a) To consider budget to date.
- b) To approve invoices and payments since last meeting.

- c) To approve bank reconciliations since last meeting.
- d) To approve list of direct debit payments for 2026-27; Monthly internet fee/ Quarterly

- e) Accountants fee. To note SALC affiliation fees are unchanged since 2025/26.

The Chair noted that the £500 consultation fee paid to Somerset Council Highways was a potentially refundable deposit.

It was RESOLVED (3/0/0) to approve items 26/10 a) – e).

- f) To review/approve renewed Insurance quote – Amended details to cover £8K precept

It was RESOLVED (3/0/0) to approve the renewed Insurance quote, with a £14 increase in the annual premium, to £264.

26/11; To review the Internal Auditor report and to note any recommendations.

It was RESOLVED (3/0/0) to approve the Internal Auditor report and note its recommendations.

26/12; AGAR 2025/26:

- a) To consider and approve the Certificate of Exemption. To be returned to the external auditor no later than 30th June 2026.

It was RESOLVED (3/0/0) to approve the Certificate of Exemption.

- b) Section 1:

To approve and sign the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

It was RESOLVED (3/0/0) to approve the Annual Governance Statement, which was signed by the Chair and the locum Clerk.

- c) Section 2:

To approve and sign the Accounting Statements.

It was RESOLVED (3/0/0) to approve the Accounting Statements, which was signed by the Chair and had previously been signed by the Responsible Financial Officer.

- d) To consider the suggested period for the exercise of public rights period (which must include 1st July 2026) 3rd June – 14th July 2026.

Authorities certifying themselves as exempt SHOULD NOT send the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return to the external auditor. The Annual Governance Statement should be approved before the Accounting Statements and both must be approved and published on the website before 1st July 2026.

The exercise of public rights period was approved – 3rd June – 14th July 2026.

26/13; To discuss plans for the Annual Parish meeting (and Council meeting) on 18th June.

a) To discuss potential groups to invite.

It was agreed that invitations should be sent out to representatives of the Parochial Church Council, the Village Hall Committee, and local farmers and businesses.

b) To discuss Council's annual report.

The Chair agreed to write an Annual Report, outlining the work of the Council.

26/14; Update regarding road safety campaign.

The Chair reported that SC would levy a fixed fee of £3,250 for the administrative work associated with the proposed £20mph speed limit, and that the contractors' costs for the physical works might be a similar amount. He suggested that the Road Safety Scheme (i.e. 20mph limit) should take priority over the Speed Indicator Device (SID), and that £4k. currently earmarked for the SID might usefully be re-allocated to the road safety scheme. Later on, if further funds were required to purchase a SID, the Council might consider crowd-funding, or private subscriptions.

It was RESOLVED (3/0/0) that the £4k. in the SID budget be re-allocated to the Road Safety Scheme.

26/15; Planning items; To note the following planning applications received since the last meeting:

a) **Date Registered:** 27th February 2026

Applicant: Mr T Gilbert

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

Application Number: 26/00412/S73A

[Planning link](#)

Closing Date: 20th March 2026

Noted.

b) **Date Registered:** 16th February 2026

Applicant: Chris and Christina Boycott

Location: Parkland Farm, Parkland Farm Road, Stoney Stoke, Wincanton,

Somerset BA9 8HZ

Application Number: 26/00259/FUL

Closing Date: 9th March 2026

Comments: Shepton Montague Parish Council have no objection to this application provided the treatment room is not planned for commercial use.

Noted.

c) **Date Registered:** 16th February 2026

Applicant: Mr Paul Rawson

Location: Land OS 3426 Hadspen Estate, Bratton Seymour, Wincanton, Castle

Cary, Somerset BA7 7NG

Application Number: 26/000156/FUL

Closing Date: 9th March 2026

Comments: Shepton Montague PC have no objection to this application, but would like to offer the following comments:

1. The applicant has agreed to ensure that **no construction traffic** will be routed through Shepton Montague village, and has undertaken to install appropriate signage.
2. The village is vulnerable to flash floods under extreme rainfall conditions, and the applicant has stated that the run-off from this development will be **below the original green-field value** – i.e. a net improvement.
We hope the Planning depart will help ensure that these conditions are adhered to.

Noted.

d) **Date Registered:** 23rd April 2026

Applicant: Mrs Sarah Beeny

Location: Stokeford Farm, Stoney Stoke, Wincanton, Somerset BA9 8HR

Application Number: 26/00816/S73A Section 73A determination

Closing Date for comments: 14 May 2026

Councillors expressed disappointment at the continued failure of the applicants to observe Condition 13 of planning application 19/01133/FUL, requiring the demolition of the existing dwelling and outbuildings within three months of the date of first occupation of the new dwelling; they also expressed dismay at the continued failure of the Local Planning Authority to enforce this condition. It was noted that the case for removing Condition 13 had been framed in different ways at different times, and that the offer to build fewer units if Condition 13 were removed does not seem appropriate.

It was RESOLVED (3/0/0) to recommend that the application be REFUSED and Condition 13 of application 19/01133/FUL be enforced, and it was noted that the failure of the Local Planning Authority to enforce compliance with Planning law undermines the Authority's credibility and effectiveness, and that of the Planning system itself.

25/16; To discuss agenda items for next meeting.

Councillors noted that the next Council meeting would be preceded by the annual parish meeting, and supported the idea of inviting Bratton Seymour residents to attend. It was observed that when there was a burglary epidemic back along, several Bratton Seymour residents joined a Shepton Montague WhatsApp group in order to share information, and this awareness of common interests suggested the possible advantages of working more closely together in future.

26/17; Date of next meeting Thursday 18th June 2026, which will begin with the informal parish meeting. Please forward any agenda items to the clerk by Monday Monday 1st June 2026.

Noted by all.

Meeting ended at 9:35pm.

Patrick Pender-Cudllip
LOCUM Clerk
19 June 2026 on behalf of the Council