

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SHERFIELD ENGLISH PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 22nd April 2026 at 7.30pm
at the Pavilion, Sherfield English Recreation Ground

Present: Councillors Sheila Cook, Stephen Dovey, David Griffiths (Chairman),
 Jerome Hoffman, Donnamarie Lewis and Rod Noble

In attendance: Mel Taylor (Parish Clerk)
 5 members of public

26/249 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Cllr Graham Noble.

26/250 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS

Cllr Hoffman declared an interest in agenda item number 10a (Minute reference 26/258a) – planning application number 26/00658/FULLS – as a potential commercial interest.

26/251 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2026, and the Planning Committee meeting held on 11th March 2026, as true and accurate records of the meetings.

26/252 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

26/253 OPEN FORUM

A resident raised concerns regarding the Case Officer's report for planning application 26/00306/FULLS (Pemberton Lodge), particularly the interpretation of planning policies COM2 and COM12, the classification of the existing static caravan as a dwelling, and references within the report to the Equality Act 2010. Concerns were also expressed regarding the consistency of the report's conclusions and due process relating to the application.

Council supported the comments of the resident and thanked them for highlighting their concerns which, it was confirmed, had been submitted to Test Valley Borough Council.

The Chair of the Village Hall Trust [UFG] reported that they had attended the Southern Area Planning Committee meeting at which the planning application mentioned above (26/00306/FULLS) was due to be considered, however, determination of the application was deferred to a future meeting. UFG also reported that First Response / Defibrillator training would be held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 28th April, 10.00am to 12.00pm, and that they were working with other parishes interested in activities provided by the Village Hall.

Chairman signature:

Date:

26/254 SOUTHERN WATER FUTURE ROADWORKS ON THE A27

Following the withdrawal by Hampshire Highways of the permit for Southern Water's A27 roadworks in January 2026, Council considered a suggestion from a resident to establish a joint Working Group with neighbouring parishes. The proposed purpose of the group would be to engage with Southern Water and Hampshire Highways during the planning and rescheduling of the works, and to act as a liaison between residents and the relevant authorities to support effective two-way communication.

In the absence of County Councillor Adams-King, it was agreed to defer consideration of this suggestion to the next meeting.

26/255 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR/COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

In the absence of Borough and County Councillors there were no reports at this time, however, County Councillor Adams-King's monthly report for March had been previously circulated.

26/256 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

In the absence of Borough and County Councillors there was no update at this time.

26/257 VILLAGE HALL

The Chair of the Village Hall Trust [UFG] reported that the AGM had been held the previous week and had been well attended. The Village Hall continues to operate without issue.

The Parish Council's request to relocate the defibrillator from the Hatchet Inn to the Village Hall had identified some practical complications that would need to be overcome. An alternative location on the verge of the A27 was suggested as a potentially more visible and accessible location.

26/258 PLANNING

a) Council considered the following planning application:

Having declared an interest in this agenda item, Cllr Hoffman refrained from discussion and voting

Ref No.	Address	Proposal	Resolved
26/00658/FULLS	Danes Orchard, Danes Road, Shootash	Change of use from dwelling (Use Class C3) to school learning hub for children with special educational needs (Use Class F1)	SUPPORT

b) Council noted the following planning updates since the last meeting:

Ref No.	Address	Proposal	SEPC response	TVBC response
25/02483/FULLS	Land at Birchgrove Dunwood Hill East Wellow	Demolition of existing building and erection of dwelling, garage with office/storage above and associated access, landscaping, parking, boundary fence and package treatment plant	No objection	Permission granted

Chairman signature:

Date:

25/02899/FULLS	Bryher House Doctors Hill	Change of use of land to extend residential garden and construction of detached outbuilding consisting of garage and carport	No comment	Not yet determined
25/02934/FULLS	Sandhill Game Farm Newtown Road	Construction of dwelling and provision of package treatment plant	Objection	Not yet determined
26/00079/FULLS	Post Hill Farm Salisbury Road	Replacement Dwelling	No comment	Not yet determined
26/00171/CLES	Blackwater Farm Salisbury Road	Application for lawful development certificate for construction of dwelling without planning permission and use of associated land and outbuildings for ancillary residential use	No objection	Lawful development certificate issued
26/00306/FULLS	Pemberton Lodge Doctors Hill	Erection of self-build dwelling to replace mobile home	Objection*	Not yet determined
26/00446/FULLS	Blue Cedars Newtown Road Awbridge	Extension to the front of the existing garage and lean to extension to side of the garage including tool store, log store and store	No comment	Not yet determined

* The height of the proposed dwelling will result in overlooking and overshadowing of the neighbouring property

26/259 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Hoffman advised that an article placed in the recent SEDCA newsletter seeking land for potential development had resulted in one suggestion being received. Cllr G Noble was working on editing the draft Plan, following feedback from Test Valley Borough Council, prior to progressing to public consultation.

26/260 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr Griffiths reported that he was in communication with the Chair of the Village Hall Trust [UFG] and the Test Valley Borough Council Community Engagement Officer for the area, regarding contributions to the draft Plan. UFG advised that two public engagement sessions had been arranged for mid-May, one in-person at the Village Hall and one online, to gather feedback from parishioners. Evidence of such engagement was also required to support potential grant applications.

26/261 LENGTHSMAN SCHEME to include footpaths and village maintenance

Cllr Dovey reported that tasks submitted for April included clearance of overgrowth on footpaths along the A27 back to the original footpath boundary. It was confirmed that drains on the A27 had been cleared.

It was agreed that tree branches hanging low over footpaths would be included in the request for May tasks.

Chairman signature:

Date:

26/262

HIGHWAYS

The following updates were noted:

a) Speeding on the A27**i. Proposed purchase of a Speed Indicator Device(s) for the A27**

An application for a Borough Councillor grant towards the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) had been successful, with £1,000 awarded with the support of Councillor Adams-King.

Councillor Adams-King had visited the area with the Highways Engineer, who agreed with the proposal that the most suitable locations for the devices were between the church and the start of the 40mph limit at the northern end of the zone, and in the vicinity of the Branches Lane / Dandy's Ford Lane crossroads. Council considered quotations of £2,500 for one SID unit and £4,700 for two units. In light of the £2,500 allocation within the 2026/27 budget for a SID, the £1,000 grant award, an underspend within the 2026/27 insurance budget, and available reserves, it was agreed to purchase two units for installation at the two locations identified above, subject to formal approval from Hampshire Highways. It was noted that installation costs would be confirmed by Hampshire Highways following submission of a formal application.

RESOLVED

to purchase two Speed Indicator Devices at a cost of £4,700 and to submit an application to Hampshire Highways.

ii. Deployment of Hampshire Constabulary's speed monitoring van

Cllr G Noble had advised that the Police had carried out speed testing for several hours on 25th March 2026 with no offences recorded. It was commented that this was likely due to the high visibility of the police vehicle. An alternative date, time (perhaps rush hour) and location were being discussed for a further deployment.

iii. Application to Hampshire County Council for a grant from the Department for Transport's Bus Service Improvement Plan 2025/26 to fund the refurbishment of 2 bus shelters and the replacement of 1 bus shelter (Mill Lane)

Councillor Lewis reported that the application for funding had been successful with an award of £22,000. Associated paperwork was awaited.

Councillors thanked Cllr Lewis for her hard work preparing and submitting the application.

iv. Other highways matters

Cllr Griffiths advised that extensive fly-tipping at Bunny Lane, in the gully next to Boundary House, had been cleared.

26/263

THE HATCHET INN

As part of the application to register the Hatchet Inn as an Asset of Community Value, Test Valley Borough Council require evidence of historic use of the asset, as well as support demonstrating its value to the community. The Parish Clerk advised that posters and social media posts had been published and 15 responses had been received to date. It was agreed to set 15th May as the cut-off for responses, after which the application would be submitted.

Chairman signature:

Date:

26/263 THE HATCHET INN continued

Cllr Griffiths reported that serious concerns had been raised regarding the condition of property, with the flat above uninhabitable due to mould. Estimated £500-700,000 of work required to bring the property up to standard. It was thought that Star Pubs would be unlikely to refurbish until a tenancy application is received.

26/264 COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:

The following reports were noted:

Defibrillator

Cllr Griffiths reported that both defibrillators had been checked and were functioning correctly. A set of replacement pads would be required later this month.

St Leonard's Parish Church

Cllr R Noble advised that guttering work at the rear of the church had been completed. Problems had been identified with guttering to the front, with new cast iron gullies required.

Sherfield English Recreational Project (SERP)

Cllr Hoffman updated as follows: the first tranche of drainage work was now complete. Discussions were ongoing with Test Valley Borough Council regarding grants for the next stage of works, along with seeking grants elsewhere for storage and equipment. The Football Association had awarded a grant of approximately £24,000 over 6 years to help with grounds maintenance. There had been more interest from local sports teams to use the facilities. Cricket (Whiteparish 3rd team) would be starting in May. Netball continued to grow.

The SERP Committee had met the previous evening and the closure of the Hatchet Inn was acknowledged as a loss to the local community. The feasibility of potentially hosting a 'pop-up pub' at the Pavilion, a few times in the warmer weather, was being explored. This could provide a good fundraising opportunity, as well as a valuable offer to the village, however, only early stages of planning at the moment.

Sherfield English & District Community Association (SEDCA)

Cllr Lewis reported that there had been good feedback to recent publications of SEDCA and 'shoutouts' were being received. It was hoped to include information on events in the wider area in future editions.

26/265 INSURANCE

The Parish Council's insurance expired on 7th April 2026. A renewal quote of £689.52 was received from the current provider, Clear Insurance Management. An alternative quote of £300.00 was received from Zurich Insurance for equivalent, and in some elements greater, cover. Due to the time constraint, approval was sought from the Chairman and Cllr Hoffman, as bank signatories, to proceed with Zurich, and it was confirmed that insurance was in place to 6th April 2027.

RESOLVED to note this information and support the action taken.

Chairman signature:

Date:

26/266

FINANCE**i. Budget Report 2025/26**

A budget report for the financial year 2025/26 (1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026) had been circulated and was noted.

ii. Payments for approval

RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

Payee	Details	Amount	Paid date
Zurich Insurance	Insurance premium 2026/27	£300.00	08.04.2026
M Taylor	Reimbursement of Land Registry fee for Title Plan for the Hatched Inn (for Asset of Community Value application)	£7.00	

iii. Contractual Payment

RESOLVED to approve payment of the Parish Clerk's salary for the financial year 1st April 2026 to 31st March 2027, currently £186.00 per month.

iv. HALC/NALC membership renewal

Council considered renewal of membership of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) & the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) at a cost of £359.00 for the year 2026/27, a reduction from £367.00 in 2025/26.

RESOLVED to renew membership of HALC & NALC for the year 2026/27 at a cost of £359.00.

v. Banking arrangements

An application to open a current account with Unity Trust, as agreed at the last meeting (minute reference 26/242v), was underway, with the two signatories from the current TSB account being set-up as initial signatories on the new account.

Council considered appointing additional signatories to ensure business continuity in the absence or unavailability of either of the current two approved signatories and to improve governance and transparency

RESOLVED to add Councillors Donnamarie Lewis, Stephen Dovey, Rod Noble and Sheila Cook to the bank mandate.

26/267

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 20th May 2026, following the Annual Parish Assembly which will commence at 7.30pm at The Pavilion, Sherfield English Recreation Ground.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.29pm.

Chairman signature:

Date: