

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF SHERFIELD ENGLISH PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 18th February 2026 at 7.30pm
at the Pavilion, Sherfield English Recreation Ground

Present: Councillors Stephen Dovey, David Griffiths (Chairman), Donnamarie Lewis, Graham Noble and Rod Noble

In attendance: Mel Taylor (Parish Clerk)
 Councillor Nick Adams-King (Test Valley Borough Councillor and Hampshire County Councillor)
 Agent for planning application 26/00079/FULLS
 PCSO's Hattie Locke and Sandra Engler (Hampshire & IOW Constabulary, Romsey North Team)
 4 members of public

26/225 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Sheila Cook and Jerome Hoffman.

26/226 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS

There were no declarations of interest.

26/227 DISCUSSION WITH PCSO'S REGARDING SPEEDING IN THE PARISH

PCSOs Hattie Locke and Sandra Engler were invited to attend to discuss the Parish Council's and residents' concerns regarding speeding on the A27 through the parish. PCSO Locke advised that the A27 is not suitable for Community Speedwatch due to the speed limits, however, deployment of a police speed gun may be an available option. Cllr Griffiths explained that the Parish Council is considering the installation of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) on the A27, as these have proved effective in Whiteparish and Kings Somborne. It was suggested that the most suitable locations for SIDs would be at the 40mph signs near the Church (eastbound) and at Branches Lane (westbound). It was noted that exiting the Church car park onto the A27 is difficult. Cllr G Noble asked whether deployment of the speed gun would be for data collection only or whether offences could lead to prosecution. PCSO Locke confirmed that enforcement could lead to prosecution. Cllr Noble further asked whether this would be a one-off visit or whether multiple visits could be arranged and was advised to submit details of days and times when speeding is of particular concern, for consideration. A resident in attendance raised concerns regarding speeding on Branches Lane and was advised to request that this location be included in police patrols. PCSO Locke invited the Parish Council to submit details of any other matters of concern.

PCSOs Locke and Engler were thanked for their contribution and they left the meeting

26/228 OPEN FORUM

A resident raised concerns regarding roadwork signage, potholes and verge management, which had been reported to Hampshire Highways. The resident sought the support of the Parish Council in progressing these matters. Councillor Adams-King requested the report reference numbers and advised that, due to significant repairs currently required on main highways, these issues were likely to be lower in the current priority hierarchy.

Chairman signature:

Date:

26/228**OPEN FORUM continued**

The Chair of the Village Hall Trust [UFG] reported as follows:

Closure of the A27 had directly impacted users of the Village Hall and communication with Southern Water and Hampshire Highways had limited success. Feedback from a drop-in event at the Village Hall, hosted by Southern Water on 3rd February, had been sent to Southern Water and Hampshire Highways but not all feedback had been enacted.

Fallen branches had been cleared from the A27 layby, along with litter picking and improved drainage of an area of rainwater pooling on the A27.

Public footpaths outside the village hall had been cleared, resulting in increased surface width. It was suggested that the Lengthsman Scheme might be considered for addressing grass encroaching on footpaths on the A27.

UFG will be attending the Hampshire Constabulary Rural Crime conference later in the month and welcomed any comments or issues to be raised in that forum.

The Village Hall is hosting an open day on Saturday 21st March and the Parish Council was invited to host an information stand.

Test Valley Borough Council are studying reptile numbers at Mill Lane Meadows and other works had been undertaken on site in the past six weeks, another volunteer morning was scheduled for 12th March, followed by a community lunch at the Village Hall.

A reminder that there is a village Community Resilience WhatsApp group that residents can join.

HGVs regularly use Newtown Road from Dunwood Chipping which is not suitable for such vehicles.

The shop at the caravan park is struggling and more support from the community is needed. Potential to consider a Community Shop model, such as Broughton Community Shop.

26/229**MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING****RESOLVED**

to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2026 as a true and accurate record.

26/230**MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

26/231**BOROUGH COUNCILLOR/COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Councillor Nick Adams-King (Hampshire County Councillor) reported as follows:

Mayoral elections, that were first proposed for May 2026, have been deferred to May 2028.

It is not known when the government will respond to Local Government Reorganisation proposals and this could be impacted by the purdah period ahead of the local elections on 7th May 2026.

A proposed 4.99% increase in council tax 2026/27 is to be considered by Hampshire County Council the following week. Significant savings were required in 2026/27, with a further £100m of savings required in 2027/28.

Chairman signature:

Date:

On the day of the meeting, a permit to Southern Water had been withdrawn. Arrangements to facilitate two sets of concurrent major roadworks had not been adhered to, resulting in significant local highway issues, including inappropriate diversions. Agreements during consultation were not relayed to relevant operational departments. Works to be rescheduled, potentially during school summer holidays.

Following the conversation earlier in the meeting with PCSO's, Councillor Adams-King advised that Officers were conducting a survey of highway sites in Awbridge in March and would be requested to include assessment of the A27 for the installation of Speed Indicator Devices near Branches Lane and the Church entrance, including costs for installation of poles. SID's will need to be solar powered.

In terms of rural crime, quad bike thefts around Wellow had been reported.

Following award of a Councillor grant to the netball club, lighting at the pavilion had been completed.

Referring to an item in open forum regarding community shops, Test Valley Borough Council has grant support available that would be appropriate for community shops.

Regarding planning matters, Hill Farm Caravan Park (25/01756/VARS) unlikely to be required to submit a full application but elements of proposals will require new applications.

*Councillors thanked Councillor Adams-King for his updates and he left the meeting
1 member of public left the meeting*

26/232 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

No further update to that reported by Councillor Adams-King in minute reference 26/231.

26/233 PLANNING

i. Council considered the following planning application:

Ref No.	Address	Proposal	Resolved
26/00079/FULLS	Post Hill Farm Salisbury Road	Replacement Dwelling <i>The agent for the applicant was in attendance and answered Councillors questions regarding this application</i>	No Comment
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

Chairman signature:

Date:

ii. Council noted the following planning updates since the last meeting:

Ref No.	Address	Proposal	SEPC response	TVBC response
25/02348/FULLS	Land west of Sandhill Farm Salisbury Road	Erection of dwelling combined with partial change of use from agricultural to residential land, with landscaping scheme	Object	Refused
25/02860/TPOS	Swinley House Doctors Hill	3xOaks selective reduction of width by up to 2m	No comment	Consent

iii. Council noted that Test Valley Borough Council has issued a provisional Tree Preservation Order 1296 for land at East Croft, Branches Lane, Sherfield English.

26/234

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillors reviewed the draft Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor G Noble advised that he and Councillor Hoffman had been in discussions with Test Valley Borough Council Officers who had been supportive of the draft Plan.

RESOLVED

to approve the Neighbourhood Plan as presented, and to support progression to Regulation 14 consultation.

26/235

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY PLAN

Councillor Griffiths advised that he was liaising with the Community Engagement Officer at Test Valley Borough Council regarding a grant to support community resilience and emergency planning. This could include a generator for the Pavilion and potentially an additional [third] defibrillator, to complement those at the Pavilion and Hatchet Inn.

Councillor Griffiths also expressed appreciation to the Village Hall Trustees for securing a consistent electricity supply to the hall in the event of supply issues.

26/236

LENGTHSMAN SCHEME to include footpaths and village maintenance

Councillor Dovey reported that clearance of the A27 footpath from Graemar Lane to Bunny Lane had been completed and invited suggestions for work to be carried out in March.

Councillor Griffiths advised that Michael Eastwood had submitted an invoice for mowing in 2025.

26/237

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 of up to £1,000 towards the cost of purchasing a Speed Indicator Device has been submitted to Test Valley Borough Council and the outcome is awaited.

Chairman signature:

Date:

ii. Request to Hampshire County Council and the Police & Crime Commissioner to consider the installation of a speed camera on the A27

The estimated cost of a yellow fixed speed camera including installation is in the region of £90,000 plus £10,000 per year for ongoing maintenance. The Police & Crime Commissioner is offering grants of up to £20,000 towards the total cost, however, the applicant is required to confirm that they can meet the remaining installation cost of up to £70,000, plus the annual maintenance cost of £10,000. There is also a requirement to provide evidence of need, which includes evidence of injury collisions where speed is a factor, or in the absence of injury collision, data on multiple non-injury collisions where speed is a factor.
No further action at this time.

iii. Request to Hampshire County Council and the Police & Crime Commissioner to consider expansion of the 40mph stretch on the A27

The County Council has confirmed that its policy is to prioritise traffic management schemes at locations with a recurring casualty collision history and where a clear, treatable pattern of collisions can be identified. Based on current evidence, this location is considered a low priority and they propose no further action at this time.

The Council also advised that reduced speed limits are typically only considered where there is evidence of recurring collisions linked to excess or inappropriate speed. Speed limit reductions without supporting engineering measures generally result in only marginal speed reductions, and the Police are unlikely to support new limits where compliance is expected to be low.
No further action at this time.

iv. 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 Transport Services were very helpful and provided guidance on companies to approach. Most of the suppliers identified work primarily with metal framed shelters and only offer replacement rather than refurbishment. Two additional companies that work with wooden frames were contacted, however, they also only offered replacement services and would not undertake the required groundwork, which must be carried out by a contractor registered with Hampshire County Council. A company was identified that is able to both refurbish and replace the shelters. The application outcome is expected within six weeks.

26/238

THE HATCHET INN

The Parish Clerk advised that advice had been sought from the Community Engagement Officer at Test Valley Borough Council on the process for registering the Hatchet Inn as an Asset Of Community Value and this will now be pursued.

It was noted that blocks had been sited to prevent access to the car park of the Hatchet Inn.

The potential new tenants had confirmed that they still hoped to pursue the tenancy of the pub but recent unexpected circumstances had caused some delay.

Chairman signature:

Date:

26/239 IT POLICY
RESOLVED Councillors reviewed a draft IT Policy.
 to adopt the IT Policy, as presented.

26/240 VILLAGE HALL
 The Chair of the Village Hall Trust [UFG] had no further updates to those reported in Open Forum.

26/241 COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS:
 The following reports were noted:

St Leonard's Parish Church

Councillor Noble advised that there was nothing to report at this time.

Defibrillator

Councillor Griffiths reported that both defibrillators had been checked and were working and South Central Ambulance Service had been advised.

Sherfield English & District Community Association (SEDCA)

Councillor Lewis advised that her first edition as editor was published last month and good feedback had been received. There had been an initial reduction in advertising revenue but following social media posts this had increased, although it was hoped to generate more income from advertising.

1 member of public left the meeting

26/242 FINANCE
i. Bank Balance
 A bank statement had not been received from TSB since the last meeting.

RESOLVED **ii. Payments for approval**
 to approve the following payments:

Payee	Details	Amount	Due date
D Griffiths	Reimbursement for purchase of replacement defibrillator pads for the Pavilion	£78.77	ASAP
M Taylor	Parish Clerk's salary – January 2026	£186.00	31.01.2026
M Taylor	Parish Clerk's salary – February 2026	£186.00	28.02.2026
M Taylor	Parish Clerk's salary – March 2026	£186.00	23.03.2026*
Michael Eastwood	Grass cutting, hedge maintenance, banks in 2025	£309.00	not stated

* to ensure clearance through the bank account before the end of the financial year

iii. Grant Application

Councillors considered an application from St Leonard's Church for a grant towards the cost of £544 for maintaining the church grounds in 2025.

RESOLVED to award a grant of £250 to St Leonard's Church towards maintenance of the churchyard in 2025.

Chairman signature:

Date:

iv. Defibrillator at the Hatchet Inn

Councillor Griffiths advised that the defibrillator at the Hatchet Inn is no longer supported by the manufacturer and a replacement unit will cost approximately £900. However, the unit was still functioning properly and therefore no need to replace at this time, but to note that a replacement will be required in due course.

*Councillor Lewis left the meeting
2 members of public left the meeting*

v. Banking arrangements

Councillors considered a report from the Parish Clerk providing an overview of alternative banking options, as the online banking function provided by the Council's current bank, TSB, was not suitable.

RESOLVED to transfer the Parish Council's banking arrangements to Unity Trust.

vi. Internal Auditor 2025/26

RESOLVED to confirm appointment of Claire Connell to conduct the internal audit 2025/26.

26/243 STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS 2025/26

Sherfield English Parish Council notes that, due to staff changes during the 2025/26 municipal year, the Council's strategic documents (Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Risk Management and Asset Register) were not formally re-adopted. The Parish Council confirms that the principles and provisions contained within the previously adopted versions of these documents have continued to be adhered to throughout the year.

The Council further assures that the relevant strategic documents will be formally reviewed and adopted at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May 2026.

26/244 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 22nd April 2026, 7.30pm at The Pavilion, Sherfield English Recreation Ground.

Following meeting: 20th May 2026.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.12pm.

Chairman signature:

Date: