Minutes of a meeting of
SHERFIELD ENGLISH PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 14 October 2026 at 7.30pm
at the Pavilion, Sherfield English Recreation Ground

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

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

26/330 APOLOGIES
There were no apologies for absence.

Test Valley Borough Councillor Gordon Bailey and Hampshire County Councillor Nick Adams-King had advised that they were unable to attend the meeting.

26/331 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN RELATION TO AGENDA ITEMS
There were no declarations of interest.

26/332 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING
RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 02 September 2026 as a true and accurate record.

26/333 MATTERS ARISING
There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

26/334 OPEN FORUM

i. A resident expressed concern at the new National Planning Policy Framework rules that had recently been introduced by the government and the potential effect of applications being approved outside of Test Valley Borough Council's Planning & Development Committee process.

Cllr Lewis joined the meeting

ii. A resident raised concern that lodges at Hill Farm were being marketed with 'full-time residency'. Cllr Lewis advised that they had spoken with the agent early that day who advised that the lodges were 'leisure homes built to a residential bungalow standard' with a 12-month leisure licence for holidays, they cannot be residential and it was understood that TVBC would require a register of buyers with proof of a permanent address. Planning conditions relating to external material, tree and root protection, construction demolition and environmental and ecological plans had been discharged, conversations were ongoing with Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) regarding external lighting and car parking.

iii. A Village Hall Trustee apologised on behalf of the Trust for confusion with a grant application for the installation of WiFi at the hall. There was no intention to mislead but acknowledged unfortunate wording which had not made it clear that funding was also being sought from other funders.

26/335 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Cllrs Bailey and Adams-King were not present.

26/336 VILLAGE HALL

A report had been received from the Chair of the Village Hall Trust prior to the meeting, advising that a new website had been launched, enhancing the hall's public presence and ensuring compliance with digital security and accessibility requirements. The Trust continued to support other community groups operating within the village. Community engagement remained strong, with the forthcoming line dance event fully booked. Planning for the autumn and winter programme was progressing well, including a Craft Fair in November and two additional seasonal events, with details available on the new website. Hall bookings continued to grow steadily on a month-by-month basis. Several new community organisations had begun using the facility this year, broadening the range of services available to residents and further strengthening the hall's role as a key community hub.

26/337 NOTICEBOARDS

Council considered a resident's suggestion to install noticeboards in each bus shelter to display local information, events and activities. It was noted that noticeboards were already installed at the Graemar Lane and Newtown Road bus shelters, however, the Newtown Road noticeboard was currently locked and contained outdated information. It was agreed to obtain quotes to replace the lock on the Newtown Road noticeboard and to install a noticeboard at the Mill Lane shelter. Responsibility for managing content was allocated to Cllr Lewis (Newtown Road), Cllr Griffiths (Mill Lane) and Cllr Hoffman (Graemar Lane).

26/338 PROPOSED DIVERSION OF PART OF FOOTPATH NUMBER 21

Council considered a proposal by Hampshire County Council to divert part of Footpath No. 21. The proposed diversion would relocate the footpath from the centre of a paddock to the field boundary, formalising the route currently used by the public. It was noted that the proposed route would improve accessibility through the replacement of stiles with gates, remove the need to cross an earth bund and avoid areas used for temporary electric fencing.

RESOLVED No objections to the proposal.

26/339 PLANNING

a) Council considered the following planning applications:

Ref No.	Address	Proposal	RESOLVED
26/02060/FULLS	Land at Dunwood Manor Danes Road Awbridge	Change of use of former car park to car parking and B8 vehicle storage (retrospective)	Object – on the same grounds as those submitted for the application refused in 2022 (22/03287/FULLS); non-essential development in the countryside and an unacceptable facility located immediately adjacent to residential properties
26/02161/VARS	Danes Orchard Danes Road Shootash	Vary condition 2 of 26/00658/FULLS to allow for reconfiguration and conversion of garage/living accommodation into a therapy room with improvements made to the living accommodation	No Objection but should remain tied to the original application

26/02177/VARS	Workshops Sandhill Game Farm Newtown Road	Variation of Condition 1 and Condition 7 of 24/01225/FULLS to enable the revised parking layout to be implemented	No Objection

b) The following planning updates and statuses were noted:

Ref No.	Address	Proposal	SEPC response	TVBC response
26/00949/FULLS	Yew Tree Cottage Doctors Hill	Two storey side extension and porch	No comment	Permission granted
26/00986/FULLS	March End Doctors Hill	To raise one number chimney stack by 700mm (to 1900mm above ridge line) (Retrospective)	No objection	Not yet determined
26/01060/FULLS	Broxmore Drove Cottage Salisbury Road	Demolish garage and erect replacement garage with ancillary annex, gym and home office	The replacement garage should be part of the existing residential property	Not yet determined
26/01098/FULLS	Farthings Salisbury Road	Erection of 4-bed detached self-build dwelling, car port and bin/cycle store, within the land associated to the residential property known as The Farthings	Support	Not yet determined
26/01152/FULLS	Gambledown View Gambledown Lane	Proposed alterations and extentions to exisiting 2-bedroom dwelling to include a new upper floor level and new roof design to provide additional bedrooms, family living/dining space and integral garage	The design is not in keeping with the village design statement	Permission granted
26/01239/ADVS	The Hatchet Inn Salisbury Road	Display of externally illuminated hanging sign, 2 non-illuminated hoarding panels, 2 externally illuminated fascia signs, 2 internally illuminated poster boxes and externally illuminated panel sign	Support	Not yet determined
26/01240/LBWS	The Hatchet Inn Salisbury Road	Installation of signage, floodlights and lanterns	Support	Not yet determined
26/01538/FULLS	Hillside Nursery The Banks Lockerley	Demolition of stable and outbuilding, change of use to single pitch traveller site with siting of mobile home, erection of dayroom, agte and fencing, laying of hardstanding, landscpaing and associated works	Object on grounds of development in the countryside, visual impact, harm to an importand and irreplaceable view, sewage and drainage concerns and failure to provide evidence required under COM13(d)	Not yet determined
26/01810/PIPS	Plot 5 Newtown Road	Application for permission in principle – Erection of dwelling	Object on grounds of flood risk, environmental impact and non-compliance with Local Plan policy COM2	Refused

26/01857/FULLS	Site of Tin Tabernacle Salisbury Road	Renovation, extension and change of use of Tin Tabernacle building to be used as a single dwelling with associated engineering, access and landscape works	No objection	Not yet determined

26/340 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Hoffman advised that the draft plan was being amended following feedback received from Test Valley Borough Council and would be circulated to Councillors soon for review. Council recorded thanks to Cllrs Hoffman and G Noble for their work on the Plan.

26/341 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY PLAN

Cllr Griffiths was attending a Community Resilience Forum meeting on 17 October 2026. It was suggested that an application could be submitted to Test Valley Borough Council for a resilience grant to purchase a petrol driven generator. Cllr Hoffman advised that SERP2000 would need to check the rules relating to petrol storage if it was to be stored at the recreation ground. It was noted that there may be generators available within the community.

26/342 LENGTHSMAN SCHEME – including footpaths and village maintenance

Cllr Dovey reported that the scheme administrator had been unwell resulting in a delay in requesting tasks. It was noted that £651 was left in the 2026/27 budget for Sherfield English. Cllr G Noble reported that brambles on the corner opposite Mill Lane needed cutting back by a few metres to clear a sight line for the bus, as users were currently having to step into the layby to be seen by the approaching bus.

26/343 HIGHWAYS

a) The Parish Clerk provided an update on the application for permission to install speed monitoring units on the A27. Members considered whether the proposed units should be Speed Indicator Devices or Speed Limit Reminder signs and it was agreed that Speed Indicator Devices were the preferred option.
Locations were agreed at the last meeting and confirmed as near St Leonard's Church travelling east and before Branches Lane crossroads travelling west.

b) Cllr R Noble reported that hedges had recently been cut back and ditches strimmed and cleared along Dandys Ford Lane, resulting in a significant improvement in the appearance of the area and it was suggested that similar maintenance should be extended into Sherfield English.

26/344 THE HATCHET INN

Cllr Griffiths reported that, following the registration of the Hatchett Inn as an Asset of Community Value, the Parish Council should be prepared should the property come onto the market. It was noted that there were currently no potential tenants. The popularity of the summer pop-up pubs demonstrated local demand for such a facility. Councillors discussed the possibility of the Parish Council operating the venue, potentially incorporating a village shop. The Parish Clerk advised that the Council would require the General Power of Competence (Localism Act 2011) and confirmed that the required criteria was currently met. It was suggested that a working group of interested people be established to explore options.

26/345 COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

i. SEDCA (Sherfield English & District Community Association)

Cllr Lewis reported that the newsletter was going well. SEDCA had taken over ownership of the village website. It was noted that the Village Hall had set up a community website. A Village Hall Trustee advised that the Trust had agreed to a new website for the Village Hall, to allow online booking and payment function, that was not available on the current community website. Cllr Lewis agreed to look into the possibility of this function being incorporated into the community website.

ii. St Leonard's Church

A member of the Church team was present and reported that the new Archdeacon of Bournemouth had paid an introductory visit the previous day. A recent fire drill had been successfully carried out. There would be a Remembrance service on 08 November at 10.45am.

iii. SERP2000 (Sherfield English Recreation Project 2000)

Cllr Hoffman reported that Test Valley Borough Council had awarded funding of almost £124,000 for maintenance works and thanks were recorded to the Parish Council for the 5-year funding agreement agreed at the last meeting which had helped secure the Borough Council grant. Phase 2 of the drainage project was complete. Sewage work was due to commence soon, relocating and modernising facilities. A height barrier was to be installed to allow improved access to the site. A Fireworks display was planned for 01 November; gates open 4pm, bonfire at 5pm and fireworks at 6pm. An application to the Sherfield English School Trust had been successful with a grant to replace the charcoal barbeque with a gas barbecue, with thanks recorded to the School Trust.

26/346 FINANCE

a) Financial Report

A financial report for the period 01 April 2026 to 30 September 2026 was noted.

1 member of public left the meeting

b) Sherfield English Village Hall grant application

Council considered a request from the Village Hall Trust for a grant of £300 towards the purchase and installation of a 4G WiFi router and first year data plan for the Village Hall. Members discussed the resilience benefits that such a system could provide during local power outages and other emergency situations and questions were raised regarding the additional benefits the proposed system would offer compared with the use of mobile phone 4G/5G services. It was agreed to defer consideration of the application pending receipt of further information on the benefits of the proposed installation and more detailed quotations for the equipment and service costs.

c) SERP2000

Following the award of a 5-year grant funding agreement to SERP2000 at the last meeting, a letter had been received from the SERP2000 Chairman requested that the organisation's gratitude for the Parish Council's kind and generous support be recorded.

d) Payments

RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

Payee	Details	Invoice number	Amount	Date Paid
Zurich	Insurance 2026/27	116462187	£300.00	08.04.2026
M Taylor	Reimbursement for Title Plan	n/a	£7.00	
M Taylor	Parish Clerk's Salary – April 2026	n/a	£186.00	06.05.2026
HALC	Subscription 2026/27	8249	£359.00	13.05.2026
ICO	Data registration 2026/27	085f3d62120b	£47.00	14.05.2026
M Taylor	Parish Clerk's Working From Allowance -	n/a	£26.00	02.06.2026
M Taylor	Parish Clerk's Salary – May 2026	n/a	£186.00	02.06.2026
D Griffiths	Reimbursement for defibrillator pads	1000322398	£174.00 (£145.00+VAT)	02.06.2026
M Taylor	Parish Clerk's Working From Allowance – June 2026	n/a	£26.00	10.07.2026
M Taylor	Parish Clerk's Salary – June 2026	n/a	£186.00	10.07.2026
J Hartley	Reimbursement for Survey Monkey subscription for NDP	46665765	£384.00 (£320.00+VAT)	15.07.2026
SERP2000	Hire of Pavilion for Parish Council meetings Nov 2025 – May 2026	1/5	£75.00	20.07.2026
HALC	Chairmanship Skills Training – Cllr Hoffman	8634	£70.80 (£59.00+VAT)	30.07.2026
Parish Online	Mapping Software 2026/27	24UN046-0012	£90.00 (£75.00+VAT)	30.07.2026
Parish Online	Website Service 2026/27	24UN046-0011	£378.00 (£315.00+VAT)	30.07.2026
M Taylor	Parish Clerk's Salary & WFH allowance – July 2026	n/a	£212.00	06.08.2026
Clare Connell	Internal Audit 2025/26	2254	£160.00	10.08.2026
M Taylor	Parish Clerk's Salary – August 2026	n/a	£174.80	28.08.2026
GW Shelters	Replacement bus shelter	SI-2360	£17,971.20 (£14,976.00+VAT)	28.08.2026
Awbridge Arborists	Tree works around bus shelter near Hatchet Inn	3617	£870.00 (£725.00+VAT)	28.08.2026
GW Shelters	Refurbishment of bus shelter	SI-2401	£5,012.40 (£4,177.00+VAT)	04.09.2026
GW Shelters	Refurbishment of bus shelter	SI-2406	£4,044.00 (£3,370.00+VAT)	04.09.2026
M Taylor	Parish Clerk's Salary – September 2026	n/a	£174.80	29.09.2026

26/329 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 25 November 2026, 7.30pm at the Pavilion, Sherfield English Sports Field Ground.

Followed by Wednesdays: 06 January 2027, 17 February 2027, 17 March 2027 (Planning Committee, if needed), 21 April 2027 and 19 May 2027.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

Chairman signature: *Date:*