

**Minutes of a meeting of
SHERFIELD ENGLISH PARISH COUNCIL
held on Wednesday 20 May 2026 at 9pm, following the Annual Parish Assembly
at the Pavilion, Sherfield English Sports Field Ground**

Present: Councillors Sheila Cook, 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)
3 members of public

26/268 ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN AND APPOINTMENT OF A VICE CHAIRMAN
RESOLVED that Cllr David Griffiths be elected Chairman, and that Cllr Rod Noble be elected Vice
Chairman, of Sherfield English Parish Council for the municipal year 2026/27.

26/269 APOLOGIES
An apology for absence was received from Cllr Jerome Hoffman.

26/270 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST RELATING TO AGENDA ITEMS
There were no declarations of interest.

26/271 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 22 April 2026 as a true and accurate
record.

26/272 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETING
There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

26/273 APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES
RESOLVED to confirm the following Councillor appointments to Council roles and outside bodies:

- i. Chair of Planning – Cllr Sheila Cook
- ii. Website & Social Media – Cllr Donnamarie Lewis
- iii. Highways – Cllr Stephen Dovey
- iv. Lengthsman Scheme & Footpaths – Cllr Stephen Dovey
- v. Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Graham Noble
- vi. Defibrillators – Cllr David Griffiths
- vii. SEDCA – Cllr Donnamarie Lewis
- viii. St Leonard's Church – Cllr Rod Noble
- ix. SERP2000 – Cllr Jerome Hoffman
- x. Village Hall Trust – deferred
- xi. Sherfield English School Trust – Cllr Sheila Cook

It was agreed to defer agenda items 7 (26/276) & 8 (26/277) to later in the meeting, pending the arrival
of Councillor Nick Adams-King.

Chairman signature:

Date:

26/274 VILLAGE HALL

The Chair of the Village Hall Trust had presented to the Annual Parish Assembly held immediately prior to this meeting. Summarised as follows:

The Trust confirmed it continued to meet its aims in line with Charity Commission guidance, with a wide range of regular activities and community projects delivered throughout the year. Bookings had increased and hire charges remained broadly unchanged. Key projects included Community Art and resilience initiatives, installation of solar panels and battery system, insulation works to the entrance hall, kitchen and loft, alongside other ongoing maintenance.

Thanks were recorded to Trustees, regular volunteers and supporting organisations including Test Valley Borough Council, Sherfield English Parish Council and the Sherfield English Schools Trust.

The Chair added that the NHS is reviewing urgent care services and will be holding a consultation forum before the end of June, with an online consultation also planned.

26/275 PLANNING

a) Council considered the following planning applications:

Ref No.	Address	Proposal	Resolved
26/00830/FULLS	Domus, Tote Hill, Lockerley	Erection of an ancillary garden room, installation of a stone patio area, and construction of a timber pergola	Garden room should remain part of existing dwelling and not separated and implementation of landscaping that was a condition of planning permission should be secured.
26/00831/TPOS	Workshops, Sandhill Game farm, Newtown Road	Trees 1, 2, & 3 – Oak – Fell	Plans and supporting information currently available are unclear and key details are insufficiently presented. Clearer drawings and additional supporting information is required.

b) Council noted the following planning updates and status:

Ref No.	Address	Proposal	SEPC response	TVBC response
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	Permission granted
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
26/00306/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	Permission granted

Chairman signature:

Date:

Councillor Nick Adams-King joined the meeting

26/276

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 being 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.

County Councillor Adams-King explained that the proposal was, in practical terms, a non-starter. Hampshire Highways would not be able to participate in such a group; handling in excess of 70,000 permit applications each year and with no capacity to support an ongoing liaison arrangement of this kind. It was noted that the issues in January had not been with the plan itself, which had been carefully developed and communicated, but with the contractor failing to follow the agreements made with Southern Water. Southern Water had since acknowledged this and identified the need for improved communication and engagement when the works are revisited. Concerns raised by residents earlier in the year would be put to Southern Water once communications begin ahead of the rescheduled works.

26/277

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

There was no further update to that presented by Cllr Adams-King to the Annual Parish Assembly held immediately prior to this meeting. Summarised as follows:

The published Local Government Reorganisation will create four new Councils:

Portsmouth, Southampton, North of the County, and Mid-County (within which the parish would sit). The Mid-County authority covers a very large geographic area.

Reorganisation in the New Forest would result in a significant reduction in business rates income for that area. The cost burden on the new authorities was expected to be substantial, while their ability to raise income would be reduced. In some areas, council tax increases of around 20% were anticipated. A Judicial Review may be considered due to the disproportionate inequalities in funding.

Councillor Nick Adams-King left the meeting

26/278

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND EMERGENCY PLAN

a) Cllr Griffiths reported that two Community Resilience workshops held recently had been very successful. A summary of both the in-person and online meeting had been provided by the host and would assist in preparing the next draft Plan.

b) Council considered a request from the host of the two Community Resilience workshops for reimbursement of £13.60 for printing a flyer for insertion in the last SEDCA newsletter, and £14.25 for the hosting platform fee for the online workshop.

RESOLVED

(i) not to approve reimbursement of the flyer printing costs as the process undertaken for producing and distributing the flyer had not been sought with prior agreement from the Parish Council or SEDCA;

2 members of public left the meeting

(ii) to approve reimbursement of £14.25 for the hosting platform fee.

Cllr R Noble left the meeting

Chairman signature:

Date:

26/279**LENGTHSMAN SCHEME to include footpaths and village maintenance**

Cllr Dovey reported that there had been a transition period whilst a new Parish Clerk was recruited at Stockbridge Parish Council, who oversees the Lengthsman Scheme. The A27 footpath had been cleared. Works for June had not yet been requested. Cllr Lewis requested that low hanging branches around the Mill Lane bus shelter are cut back in preparation for the new bus shelter. Cleaning of village highway signage was suggested.

Cllr Griffiths reported that gutter cleansing between Bunny Lane and Greymar Lane was required and this would be reported to Hampshire Highways.

26/280**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 had been submitted to Hampshire Highways seeking permission to install 2 SID's on the A27. If approved, Hampshire Highways would then provide costs for the required infrastructure, which would be presented to Council for consideration.

ii. 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)

Cllr Lewis reported that work was expected to be carried out in August 2026. In order to progress with endorsement and return the grant agreement, Councillors had approved the agreement via email.

iii. Other highways matters

There were no other highways matters.

26/281**THE HATCHET**

It was noted that, at the cut off of 15th May, 21 responses had been received to the appeal for feedback from the community to demonstrate the value of The Hatchet to the community, and thanks were expressed to the community. The application would now be submitted to Test Valley Borough Council.

26/282**ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN**

As the Internal Auditor's report had not yet been received, it was agreed to defer this item to an additional meeting to be held in June 2026.

26/283**DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS****RESOLVED**

to hold an additional meeting on 03 June 2026 to consider the Annual Governance and Accountability Return and planning applications.

RESOLVED

to confirm the dates of meetings for the municipal year 2026/27 as: Wednesdays 08 July 2026, 19 August 2026 (Planning, if required), 02 September 2026, 14 October 2026, 25 November 2026, 06 January 2027, 17 February 2027, 17 March 2027 (Planning, if required), 21 April 2027 and 19 May 2027.

All meetings commence at 7.30pm at The Pavilion, Sherfield English Recreation Ground.

Chairman signature:

Date:

26/284**RESOLVED****EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

that, due to the employment-related matter to be transacted, members of the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

1 member of public left the meeting

26/285**RESOLVED****CLERK'S REMUNERATION**

to pay the Parish Clerk a Working From Home allowance of £26.00 per month, with effect from May 2026.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.42pm.

Chairman signature:

Date: