

**Minutes of Meeting held on
22 September 2026 at 19:00 at Village Hall, Shapwick**

- 26/27/43** **Present:** Councillors Croucher (GC), Anderson (WA), Rogers (PR), McGowan (MMc), Gaskell (LG), Lockyer (TA) (19:25), Clerk Chilcott & four members of public. Councillor Matt Martin (MM)
- 26/27/44** **Apologies:** None
- 26/27/45** **Declarations of Interest on Agenda Items:** None
- 26/27/46** **Proposal to accept minutes of the following meetings:**
(a) 28.07.26
(b) 14.08.26 (Extraordinary meeting – Planning)
Circulated for reading prior to meeting – All in Favour – GC Signed
- 26/27/47** **Co-option of Parish Councillor:** Application received from Steve Polden (SP), introduced to parish council.
LG Proposed Co-option of SP
PR Seconded
Voted all in Favour.
SP joined Councillors.
- 26/27/48** **Villagers Open Period:** None
- 26/27/49** **Somerset & Local Councillor Reports:** MM advised full council had met and agreed planning changes coming into effect 31st October 2026 and the planning committees will now only see planning applications over nine homes as not classed as major development. As yet, how this will work is yet to be seen, but MM understanding is that if the applications are under nine homes, within policy and compliant the planning officers will deal with them.
MM was also asked to feed back the short notice on the briefing for the new planning from 17th September. He advised a recording should be available and to email if we do not have access to.
- 26/27/50** **LCN & Somerset Updates:**
(a) Local Plan 2045 Update: Moved so that TL could participate when she arrived.
(b) Somerset Connectivity & Integrated Transport Strategy: GC attended consultation in Glastonbury, discussed connected transport options.

- (c) between the corridor (Wells/Glastonbury/Street/Bridgwater) Results not yet published. SP asked about how to change mindset to use public transport, there is more options connecting Wells/Glastonbury & Street, then Street to Bridgwater. Identified that better bus service is required & electric charging facilities for those that cannot charge on driveway to encourage electric vehicle ownership.
- (d) GC was unable to attend and no update provided.

26/27/51

Proposal to accept working party recommendations on application to extend allotment area: Report circulated to councillors prior to meeting to read. LG gave summary:

- No clear requirement provided for extension as no copy of waiting list provided.
- Community consultation was against the expansion.
- Original plans provided for wildflower area, and this is being developed.

Recommendation of working party is to decline allotment extension request.

LG Proposed to decline application

MMc Seconded

All in favour

Clerk to write to Allotment association to advise of decision & thank member of the public for previously mowing the strip of land but to cease this going forwards and request that the hedges, for 1 Church Cottage are retained at a height of two meters to protect the view from Church to Dovecote.

26/27/52

Proposal to accept the Wet & Dry resilience plan from preparedness group:

GC gave details: Shapwick has a preparedness group that reports back to Parish Council, as Somerset have an obligation to ensure prepared for variety of events. There is increasing evidence of wetter Autumn/Winter and flooding. Discussed putting an insert in the Shapwick News. The cost of this will be in the region of £60.00 to promote resources for residents to be prepared for such events.

MMc - will assist with the editorial, and graham will revisit layout.

All in favour of running the article.

CG proposed budget of £60.00

PR Seconded

All In favour

26/27/53

Revisited point 26/27/45 (a): Lack of details of things happening regarding the local plan between Nov 26 & Sept 27 and councillors feel the Local Plan 2045 timetable is not truly clear and lots of consultation but no dates for details to be released. Councillors feel that if sufficient notice is not given,

this does not allow Parish Councils time to respond. It was requested of MM that he feeds this back to Somerset Council.

Local Plan, GC to provide update in Shapwick news, Councillors felt that the draft GC shared needs to relevant information only publish. GC will redraft and share with councillors prior to publication.

26/27/54**Village Green & Play Area:**

- (a) Village Green/Play area inspection:** WA gave update, brackets on base are loose and have been tightened. PR to have an additional look with WA and report back. The stream was overgrown again, GC advised has trimmed since inspection has taken place.
- (b) Future Village Green Shading options:**
 - (i) Shading:** PR & WA to revisit and report back at the November meeting for location options, permanent/semi-permanent.
 - (ii) Tree Planting:** Councillors raised concerns from previous meetings regarding the number of trees, leaf litter. It was felt an on-site meeting to discuss options would be beneficial. Dates to be discussed.
 - (iii) Village green Signage:** PR to revisit, LG to provide wording for signage and PR will arrange and place.
- (c) Long Sutton Visit:** Details of GC visit to Long Sutton circulated prior to meeting. The management of the Wildflower area was discussed and GC advised that it should be trimmed once per year. Malcolm has agreed to undertake this shortly and the cost of £200 for the strimming and £300 for the disposal of cuttings is within the maintenance budget. TL advised to save funds she will arrange to have the cuttings and compost them. So, the cost will be reduced to the strimming only.

26/27/55**2026/27 Projects:**

- (a) Website:** Website was started in 2023; it was felt to reach out to community groups that have a page and see if they are still using it. SP raised if we are monitoring traffic to the website and GC advised this was broken currently.
GC proposed a website review.
SP Seconded
All in favour
SP & PR to review and report back in Jan 27.
- (b) Slowly Slowly 20mph zone:** GC updated this this should come into effect circa. March 2027, the speed limit on Shapwick Hill is also be reduced to 40mph

26/27/56

Finance & Admin Reports:

- (a) **Standing orders:** The draft Standing orders were circulated to the councillors prior to the meeting. The councillors felt it was best to have another meeting for the purpose of reviewing the standing orders and acknowledged the work that GC and MMc had put into it so far. Dates to be discussed and confirmed.
- (b) **Proposed review of Shapwick Parish Councils Policies:** All current policies are on the website and have been divided between the councillors to review in pairs and GC will circulate how to review and assess them. Report back to November meeting.
- (c) **Proposal for use of CIL monies received:** Confirmed reporting required in December and confirm monies used towards the new play area slide.
- (d) **Council email addresses:** Councillors were reminded that council email addresses should be used. GC will speak with email/web supplier and arrange assistance for these that require it to help set up.
- (e) **Proposal for village email mailing list:** Gc proposed setting up email mailing list for villagers to issues agendas and minutes. SP advised the website may be capable of people subscribing on there and then when Agendas or minutes are uploaded, they would automatically get an email notification of they have signed up. SP & PR to investigate this further and report back.
- (f) **Transactions approved between:** Again, this was circulated prior to the meeting and copies provided in the meeting. Councillors checked over them and they were happy that all transactions had been signed by two councillors.
- (g) **Financial Report:** Update given that reserves are looking to be around £10k at the end of the year (Mar 27) and that spending will be required to be on budget for the remainder of the year.
- (h) **Bank Reconciliations:** Distributed prior to the meeting for review.

Meeting closed at: 21:05

Signed: Date: