



2026/2027 /

Shapwick Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held on

28 July 2026

at 7.00pm at the Village Hall, Shapwick

Present: Graham Croucher (GC) Lesley Gaskell (LJG) Moray McGowan (MMG) Wendy Anderson (WA) Paul Rogers (PR) and Tracey Lockyer (TL)

26/27/17 Apologies: Louise Chilcott (clerk)

26/27/18 Declarations of interest: None

26/27/19 Minutes of previous meetings:

(a) AGM 19 May 2026

(b) Village Parish Meeting 19 May 2026

(c) Extraordinary PC meeting 10 June 2026

Approved and signed by GC

26/27/20 Adoption of Standing Orders:

GC explained the background to this item on the agenda. The current standing orders are out of date. SALC have advised that the model standing orders should be adopted as a whole. Compliance with the wording in bold is obligatory. There is a concern that if the PC adopts the policy as a whole it may do so without fully understanding the implications of that. GC proposed a working party be formed to report back to the PC for the September meeting. Agreed that GC, LJG, WA and PR would be on the working party.

26/27/21 Villagers Open Period:

See comments below.

26/27/22 Parish Council Vacancy:

(a) GC reported an adoption of the co-option policy had been circulated prior to the meeting MMG proposed adoption seconded TL agreed unanimously.

(b) Roger Scott has resigned as a Parish Councillor. GC thanked him for his contribution to the Parish Council which included the monthly reports on the playground area, negotiations for the new slide, and the construction of the bee mound. GC has reported the vacancy to Somerset Council, once the notice period expires the PC can co-opt a new councillor.

26/27/23 Request for comments update:

(a) Extension of the allotment area; GC reported 11 comments against none in favour. The comments will be considered by the working party.

(b) 20 mph zone; 11 comments in favour none against. There were 4 comments from residents on High Lane, one from Loxley Batch. Following this GC contacted Gary Warren at Somerset who confirmed the current speeds on High Lane are too high. He suggested use of a SID once the 20 mph limit imposed elsewhere to see if this has reduced the speeds and allow the lower limit to be extended. [the documents with the results of the consultation are attached to these minutes.]

Gary Warren also said that Ashcott PC have asked for a reduction of the speed limit on the A39 before Ashcott to 40 mph, if this proceeds it may allow a reduction in the speed limit from the A39 into Shapwick.

Dovecote School have offered support to the application for a 20 mph zone and a contribution of £2500 towards the costs.

Councillors were asked to accept the contribution proposed PR seconded WA unanimous agreement.

26/27/24 Village Green & Play Area:

Councillors discussed the documents circulated prior to the meeting including a draft policy relating to the use of the village green and a further notice outlining main rules. Councillors approved the policy in principle.

- (a) Play area inspection report; following Roger Scott's resignation WA will be take over reporting with assistance from LJG. The format of the report to be updated.
- (b) The bee mound has been inspected by GC and Sue Sellick, it is being used and planting beginning to grow. See attached report.
- (c) Tree Planting Plan; Due to the recent hot weather the need for some form of shade has become more pressing. Councillors had previously agreed there should be a tree planting scheme but that this needs to be under guidance as to what would be suitable. TL mentioned the concern that there has been a lot of tree loss and that any replacements are likely to take some time to establish. She has a contact who maybe able to help. In the meantime PR and WA agreed to do some research on more temporary shading.



26/27/25 Finance Report

- (a) Review of the Purchase & Payment Plan was deferred until clerk returns.
- (b) Clerks Pay Award also deferred.
- (c) Forecast report is attached to these minutes.
- (d) The payments record for the period since the last meeting was signed by MMG and TL,
- (e) Bank reconciliation has been completed by GC.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.10pm. The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 22 September 2026.

Signed.....

Date.....

Notes on the Villagers Open Meeting

Ros Murphy expressed concern about the bee mound and the implication that it was going to be removed. She thanked councillors for their hard work. GC explained there would be a report on the bee mound later in the meeting.

Regarding the area between the allotments and adjoining property ("the meadow") this provides a peaceful area and ought to be retained.

Dennis Murphy thanked PC for their work and again expressed view that the meadow was a positive space as were the allotments themselves both provided benefits to the village.

Mathew Soultter said that there was evidence in his own garden that the bees were using the mound.

Mike Beale echoed these views and thanked PC for the production of the Shapwick News.