



**MINUTES OF SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12th February 2026
@ 7.30pm at The Village Hall, Sherston**

Cllr Martin Smith - (Vice Chair) chaired the meeting in Tanya Burgess's (Chair) absence

Present

Cllrs Martin Smith (MS), Nigel Freeth (NF), Ben Smee (BS), Mike Tarrant (MT), Gerard Joynson (GJ), Denise Gibson (DG), Philip Blick (PB), Clerk Jayne Curtis (JC), PC = Parish Council.

Attendees: 1 member of the public.

1. Apologies for absence

Council to receive apologies for absence.

Tanya Burgess (TB)

Fiona Shipsey (FS)

Gail Whale (GW)

Matthew Wofinden-England (MWE)

2. Declarations of interest

No declaration of interests received.

3. Exclusion of the Press and Public.

To agree any items to be dealt with after the Public (including the Press) has been excluded under Standing Order 3.D.

4. Minutes

The minutes were confirmed and signed as a correct record of Sherston Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 8th January 2026.

5. Planning.

PL/2026/00419 - Sherston Scout Headquarters, Sherston. Proposed installation of solar PV panels.

Comments by 26th February 2026

No Objection

PL/ 2026/00315 - 9 Easton Square, Sherston. Proposed two storey extension and demolish existing porch, replace with a new larger porch and internal alterations.

Comments by 19th February 2026

No Objection

PL/2026/00875 – Headwaters, Brook Hill, Sherston. Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. G5 – Hazel – recoppice to gain a 6 metre clearance from overhead powerlines. G6 - Climbing Species – remove by 1 metre to clear stay insulator for public safety.

Comments by 3rd March 2026

No Objection

PL/2026/00915 – 26 Easton Town, Sherston - Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. T1- Birch tree – side prune to gain a 4m clearance from overhead lines. T2 – Hawthorn tree – pollard 3m in height to gain a 4m clearance from overhead lines. T3 – Hazel tree – pollard to 3m in height to gain a 4m clearance from overhead lines. G7 – Prunus trees – reduce leaders by 1m to gain a 4m clearance from overhead lines. T8 – Hazel tree – pollard to 3m in height to gain a 4m clearance from overhead lines. T9 – Cherry tree - side prune to gain a 5m clearance from overhead lines. G10 – Prunus trees – reduce leaders by 1m to gain a 4m clearance from overhead lines.

Comments by 4th March 2026.

No Objection

PL/2026/00916 – 28 Easton Town, Sherston – Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. T4 - unspecified tree - crown reduce to gain a 4m clearance from overhead lines. T5 & T6 - Pine trees - reduce leaders by 1m to gain a 4m clearance from overhead lines. G7 - Prunus trees - reduce leaders by 1m to gain a 4m clearance from overhead lines. T11 - Pine tree - side prune to gain a 5m clearance from overhead lines. G10 - Prunus trees - reduce leaders by 1m to gain a 4m clearance from overhead lines

Comments by 4th March 2026

No Objection.

PL/2026/00917 – 30 Easton Town, Sherston - Notification of proposed works to trees in a conservation area. T12 - Walnut tree - side prune to gain a 5m clearance from overhead lines

Comments by 4th March

No Objection.

6. The date change was approved for 21st May 2026 for the Annual Parish Meeting due to lack of booking facilities.
7. The resignations of Graham Morris and Richard Greatrex from Sherston Parish Council were noted.
8. Business Rates update - No further update as Cllr MWE was not present.
9. Baby Barn Update
The PC decided that PB would go back to the Baby Barn to convey that with regret the Baby Barn cannot move forward at this current time with a lease on the North Building, as the terms of the Pennymead Trust would appear to prevent this; the legalities of doing so are therefore in doubt and expensive legal advice would need to be taken and applications to the Charity Commission undertaken.

PB would then communicate to the residents/parents who responded to his survey regarding this provision that it will not be going forward.

PB will write an article for the Cliffhanger magazine explaining this outcome.

The PC recorded as requested below the objection of a resident to the proposal to lease the North Building as a 'Baby Barn.' It was also noted that the objection has been raised prior to the outcome of current engagements with legal professionals

etc. as well as the planned briefing of residents, all of which will feed into the Trusts' final decision.

“As a beneficiary, I formally object to the Parish Council acting in its capacity as trustee of the Sherston Recreation Ground Charitable Trust proceeding with or completing any lease or re-lease of the North Building, or granting any rights over the Recreation Ground to a connected party or otherwise without prior Charity Commission authority, as required for designated charitable land - in most cases. I ask that this objection, and the fact that it was raised before any such decision is implemented, be formally recorded in the minutes of this meeting.”

10. It was agreed that JC to liaise with Tanya w/c 17th February regarding the re-launch date of the website.
Action – JC/TB
11. It was agreed that JC would further investigate the GDPR Training Courses and report back to the PC at the next PC Meeting. JC requested to attend these courses in line with the new Assertion 10 Audit Regulations.
Approved.
Action - JC
12. A Bleed Kit was approved to be purchased by the PC to be placed next to the Village Hall defibrillator at a cost of £299.00 excluding VAT. JC to order.
Action – JC
13. It was agreed by the PC to take the Internal Auditor's advice and obtain bank cards for PC's purchases. Any costs involved to the PC will be obtained and relayed back to the PC.
Action – JC
14. The PC approved the undertaking of the work of dismantling, inspection and repair of the Hags play equipment on the Recreation Ground at the cost quoted by Hags on 15th January 2026 of £2552.67 excluding VAT.
Action - BS
15. Grass Cutting – The PC approved extending the existing grass cutting contract for one year for a minimum of 16 cuts per year at a cost of £300.00 per cut of the recreation ground, sports field and village hall field.
Action - BS.
16. The PC approved the Play Park and Skate Park inspections renewal. This comprises of three quarterly inspections and one annual inspection at a cost of £840.00 excluding VAT.
Action – BS
17. The PC approved the renewal of the Recreation Ground Goal Mouth at a cost of £358.00 excluding VAT.
Action – BS
18. The PC approved the maintenance of the door of the telephone box in the High Street in Sherston at a cost of £381.00 excluding VAT.
Action - BS

19. The PC approved to allow car parking on the Recreation Ground on Friday 3rd, Saturday 4th, and Sunday 5th July 2026 for the yearly Boule's weekend and further approved the parking for the Boules event for as long as the annual Boules Events continues until further notice.

Action - NF

20. Flood Mitigation – Pinkney flooding – It has been requested that the drainage team at Wiltshire Council put Sherston on the list for a potential visit from an expert in Natural Flood Management. This would cost £250.00 excluding VAT. The PC approved this amount.

Action - MS

21. The PC has received two grant requests and application forms have been sent out to respective parties. To-date no completed forms have been received.

Action - JC

22. The PC received another notice in regard to a Westonbirt Sprint Triathlon for Sunday 3rd May 2026 but this time for university students. It was approved to send the following response via email to the organisers:

“Further to your email and attachments, Sherston Parish Council would ask the cycle route is not through Court Street at the Rattlebone Public House end, but they would need to bear right into the High Street by the Co-Op Store and then sharp left. This is for safety reasons.”

Action - JC

23. The following policies were sent to the PC to be approved at the PC meeting: .-

Biodiversity Policy – It was decided that BS would look at and present the amended policy at the March Meeting.

Action - BS

Freedom of Information Policy/Information Available and Schedule of Charges - approved.

IT Policy – approved.

Privacy Policy – approved.

GDPR Policy – approved.

It was approved to insert these on the website before the relaunch of the website took place.

Action – JC

24. The PC approved to convey to the Rattlebone to let the PC know if they apply for a TENS notice so that the PC can proactively advise residents.

Action - MWE

25. The current recycling scheme company has discontinued recycling printer cartridges, so this has now come to an end until another company has been sourced. The PC kindly requested no recycling be placed in the telephone box until further notice.

26. The Scout Project at Sherston Scout Hut are looking for funding to finance their solar panels. They are currently looking at various options, and a grant application form has been sent to the Sherston Scouts from the PC.

27. **Working Group / Outside Bodies Reports**

Members to receive verbal reports from the chairs of the working groups and any Outside Body Representatives if something to report.

Working Groups

Footpaths & Highways – **TB**, NF, MS, GW –

Work has been carried out at Grove Wood and repairs have been carried out on one of the paths. TB to contact MS with an update of meeting held as he was unable to attend.

Action – TB

Climate & Biodiversity Group – **BS**, MS

Nothing to report.

Allotments Group – **BS**, NF

Allotments have been inspected and emails sent out. Renewal letters to be sent out w/c 16th February 2026.

Communications Group (including Cliffhanger) – TB, MWE, GW, JC

Cliffhanger

Approval was granted for price increase of Spamguard for Cliffhanger email addresses from £70.00 to £97.44.

Planning/Neighbourhood Plan – **MS**, NF, TB, GJ

MS attended a meeting this month. MLP has done review and they will compile a report for next meeting.

Action – MS

Ways of working – **TB**, PB

Nothing to report.

Finance – **BS**, JC, TB, NF, MWE

Internal Auditor has been booked for 21st April 2026.

Operations Group/Village Maintenance – **BS**, MT, NF

BS had been approached by a volunteer to carry out litter picking. The PC approved this can be carried out. A risk assessment would be required. The volunteers will be advised of any safety clothing to be worn e.g. high vis vests. BS to supply. BS will use the PC's contractor Hills Waste to dispose of rubbish.

Action – BS

The bin has been removed from outside of the Co-Op by the Co-Op due to the volume and inappropriate rubbish being deposited in the bin. DG will find out if the Co-Op has an obligation to provide a bin and inform the PC of the outcome.

Action - DG

Personnel – Date of review to be advised.

Action - DG

Outside Bodies

School – MS

The school is awaiting results of an Ofsted inspection.

Action - MS

Village Hall – BS

Nothing to report.

Emergency Services/Planning – NF, MT

Nothing to report.

Area Board – MS, DG, TB – next meeting will be held on 17th February 2026 at Crudwell.

LHFIG – MS, TB, GW

Nothing to report.

SOSCIC – MS, TB

Nothing to report.

Scouts / Brownies – BS

Nothing to report.

Church – NF

Nothing to report.

Blooming Sherston/Gardening Club – GW, TB

Nothing to report.

Sports Clubs – BS, MS, MWE, PB

Nothing to report.

Recreational Ground Trust – TB

Nothing to report.

Snow Wardens – NF.

Nothing to report.

28. Accounts for Payment

Appendix 1 – payments approved.

NOTE:-Councillors to have updated actions in action tracker prior to each meeting. Action tracker available to members of the public on request from Clerk.

Date of Next Meeting Thursday 12th March 2026
at the Village Hall