



Chair: Cllr Tanya Burgess

**MINUTES OF SHERSTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
Thursday 21st May 2026 @ 7.30pm, The Village Hall, Sherston**

Present

Cllrs Tanya Burgess (TB), Martin Smith (MS) Vice Chair, Ben Smee (BS), Nigel Freeth (NF),
Mike Tarrant

Visitors: 18 members of public attended.

Apologies for absence

Council to receive apologies for absence.

Cllr Denise Gibson (DG)

Cllr Matthew Wofinden-England (MWE)/Cllr Fiona Shipsey (FS)

Cllr Gerard Joynson (GJ)

Cllr Gail Whale (GW)

1. **Minutes**

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Sherston Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2025.

Approved by Cllr TB and seconded by Cllr MS.

2. **Parish Council Report for 2025/26 - see attached slide deck**

Cllr TB Chair presented a report

The Chair thanked both current and past Councillors and the Clerk for their efforts in the last year to support the Parish Council to service the local Community and the significant number of individuals and organisations who have devoted their time and efforts to help make the village the one we are so proud of.

- **Initiatives Supported/Grants Awarded in Partnership with SOSCIC (Sherston Old School Community Interest) so far in 2026**

Grants were issued to the following organisations:

Sherston Scouts - £3000.00

Village Hall - £3000.00

3. **Report from Wiltshire Councillor – see attached slide deck**

4. **Reports from Parish Associations – key takeaways**

Generally, representatives from a few volunteer organisations gave short presentations outlining their groups, responsibilities, and achievements. Each volunteer organisation stated that new volunteers were needed, and it was emphasised that volunteers could give as little or as much time as their time allowed. Any help would be appreciated.

- **SOSCIC**

- The building is managed in its entirety by 5 volunteers – could do with more.
- Since inception has donated £60,000 to good causes supported through Sherston Parish Council
- £20K was donated this year alone - £3K to Scouts and £3K to the Village Hall the residual £14K sits with the Parish Council to spent as they see fit on a suitable project.

- **Scouts**

- Thanks to both SOSCIC and PC for kind donation for this year towards solar panels and battery storage for their building. Advising that spare stored power capacity could be used for the village should there be a power outage. Completion is planned for the end of the year however more funds are needed.
- 3 Scouts attended with one leader sharing his positive experience and experiences since joining the Scouts 8 years ago
- 7 local schools represented within the scouting community

- **Village Hall**

- Thanks to both SOSCIC and PC for kind donation of £3K for this year, which will go towards providing Projector, Screen and Speakers for community use when hiring the hall. Completion is planned for late July.
- Generally, Hall is well utilised

- Hall has obtained a wedding license working with local businesses to provide food and drink and is now available to book
- **Church**
 - Thanks to both SOSCIC and PC for £7K donation last year towards the repair of the Naive ceiling which collapsed last year. Regrettably a further part of the roof has collapsed which will require additional funds to address
 - Project to renovate windows has been placed on hold due to costs
 - All welcome, cafe every Thursday a.m.
 - Host tours, open gardens, serve tea at Duck Race on Boules Day
 - Bell Ringing and Choir well supported
 - Thanked volunteers for their support - flower arrangements, cleaning, locking up and unlocking
 - Advised that additional Burial ground will be needed in 5 years' time. Requirements have been fed into Neighbourhood Plan.
 - Advised that running costs alone equate to £12K per annum
 - Asked for further help and support as concerns that facility could be lost if not used
- **Gardening Club**
 - Currently have 70 members
 - Several membership levels – Tea and Cake available
 - o Double £35.00p.a.
 - o Single £20.00p.a.
 - Generally between 45-60 people attend each month
 - Meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:30p.m. in the British School Room. A guest speaker attends each month
 - Arrange visits to gardens
 - Attempted to set up 'Blooming Sherston' the driver being to spruce up the village with planters etc however struggled to gain support/volunteers to help as a result do what they can.
- **Drama Group**
 - Offer two productions a year
 - Bring together all ages, offering people the opportunity to learn new skills, increase confidence, and socialise.

- If people are interested, no prior experience is necessary, and you do not need to be ‘on the stage’. You can help backstage, help with makeup etc.
- Young people have helped backstage benefitted from using their experience to build to portfolios for Duke of Edinburgh awards for example.
- Are keen to offer preview nights to Care Homes for example, but struggle with transport and could do with some help
- Stage was constructed in 1980’s and is becoming end of life. Group are looking into ways to replace.

- **Football Club**

- 4 promotions in 5 years
- Planning for what they would need at ground level to support growth
- Thanked PC for their grant donation towards the new pavilion roof
- Maintenance on pitch has taken place recently with fertilizer and weedkiller added to grass
- Club is in a strong financial position
- Looking for volunteers as currently ran by one individual
- Plans to build a cafe – watch this space!

- **Theatre Group**

- Previously ran for 20+years however struggled after Covid was closing however new Chair and team have stepped to reinvigorate – official relaunch 1st June
- 1st outing - trip to Ford Abbey planned mid-June to kick things back off - £20 per person
- Future plans to source productions in locations such as London. Group will offer discounts hopefully on group bookings and coach transport

- **Green Fingers – gardening club for ‘little ones’**

- Club operated by 5 volunteers
- Started in January 2025 with 8 reception year students initially
- Due to popularity grew to 18 mixed aged students by the summer
- Now has 14 (18 was a little too many)
- Meet after school

- Thanked PC for donation towards learning shed and Wiltshire Council for their assistance with their pergola
 - The club follows RHS campaign for gardening and has achieved level 3
 - Contribute to Sherston open gardens
 - Have a display in their learning shed
 - They will also be exhibiting at the upcoming Badminton RHS weekend
 - RHS have contacted the Club with an offer of plants after the show
- **SHOC – Sherston Occasional Community Choir**
 - Meet weekly on Wednesday evenings during term time
 - Great fun
 - Ages ranges of residents who attend 18-80
 - You don't need to be a professional singer
 - The rehearsals are free, but a charitable donation is requested

5. **Questions/Representations from parishioners**

Resident questioned whether planning permission had been sought for sign on the old skittle alley.

Action:- MS to investigate

The meeting concluded at 21.35

Date of Next Sherston Parish Meeting Thursday 3rd June 2027