



SHERSTON PARISH ANNUAL MEETING 2026

Introduction

It's the time of the year to take stock, to celebrate the highs and reflect on the lows, as well as taking the time to thank the significant number of individuals and organisations who devote their time and effort to help make our village the one we are all so proud of.

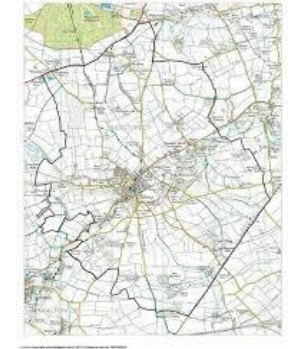


Agenda

- 1. MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH MEETING**
- 2. COUNCIL REPORT**
- 3. REPORT FROM WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR**
- 4. REPORTS FROM PARISH ASSOCIATIONS**
- 5. QUESTIONS / REPRESENTATIONS SUBMITTED FROM PARISHIONERS**
- 6. CLOSE**

What have we been up to this year – Big Ticket Items

- **Tolsey Surgery New Build** – funding approved to lease a new build on 25 year term – thanks extended to Martin Smith and Roz Savage
- **Sopworth Road Development** – Section 106 to be signed imminently which helps secure land for surgery build.
- **Neighbourhood Plan Review - MS**
- **Footpath Group** - revitalising Grove Wood. Rotating 8 year maintenance plan agreed / phase 5 completed in January 2026
- **Highways** – 20mph implemented, SID's installed, speedwatch team monitoring speeds and working with local police
- **New Website Launched** – feedback appreciated



- **Lime down** – written comments submitted and presentations made at 1st Inspectorate hearing – Chippenham. 2nd submission submitted and presentation scheduled for 2nd hearing 30th June in Swindon
- **North Building Future** addressed
- **Parking in the High Street** – outcome
- **Precept** – Parish Council finances in a good place, accruing for future anticipated spends – 0% increase on a Band D property this year.

GOALS FOR LAST YEAR	STATUS
Obtain funding commitment from Integrated Care Board (ICB) to lease New Surgery	Green
Address concerns regarding school crossing fully	Yellow
Finalise the future of the North Building	Green
Box off parking issues in the High Street	Green
Introduce 20mph speed limits in key village locations	Green
Attract additional councillors and resident volunteers	Yellow
Increase transparency and flow of information to residents	Yellow
Work with resident representatives to assess sports needs/requirements and develop plan for sportsfield	Red
Launch new Website – single point of contact for Sherston Village	Green

Initiatives Supported/Grants Awarded - £



- **Sherston Magna (Church) - £2,000.00 – maintenance and costs**
- **Sherston Village Hall - £600.00 – To pay towards cost of heat pumps.**
- **Greenfingers After School Gardening - £500.00 – Materials to build a shelter/outdoor classroom.**
- **Sherston Art Festival - £500.00 - To pay costs of printing - leaflets, posters, tickets etc.**
- **Resident Coffee Morning (held in Church) - £87.25 – coffee morning for residents funded by profit from recycling**
- **Sherston Magna (Church) – £5,000.00 (SOSCIC) – maintenance and cost towards church roof, etc.**

Tolsey Surgery

UPDATE IN 2025

- Surgery deemed unfit for purpose 10+ years ago
- Difficulty retaining and attracting staff
- 3500+ patients registered
- Sopworth Road Developer committed to land arrangement and building surgery
- Fit for purpose new Surgery design agreed between Developers and GP's – on the shelf!
- Circa 2 years left on current building lease
- ICB – Integrated Care Board still not come to a decision about renting the proposed new building despite regular chasing by Councillors & MP's



UPDATE 2026.....

- Initial blocker removed – ICB approved lease costs

NEXT STEPS – this is where the real work starts!

- we need a building design/architect
- we need to negotiate finances with both Developer and Wiltshire Council
- We need planning permission
- We need to tender for a builder
- we need to agree who will own and manage

Most of all.... we need a PROJECT MANAGER!

Wiltshire Council Report – Cllr Martin Smith

Highways

- Resurfaced Knockdown Road, Court Street, The Tartars, approach road to Willesley
- Gulleys and culverts on Pinchmore Lane, Pinkney cleared to mitigate flood risk
- Natural Flood Management survey being organised
- Terrible winter weather for potholes: Wiltshire Highways fixed over 6,000 during the first 3 months of the year
- Extra £5M of Wiltshire money allocated to preventative road maintenance, over and above DfT grant of £33M

Speeding

- 20 mph speed limit agreed for Willesley
- New speed limit policy will make it easier to get 20 mph limits in residential areas
- Local Highways and Footpath Improvement Groups funding retained and extra funding for larger projects
- SID's delivering benefits
- Police speed monitoring planned

Lime Down

- Spoke against the Lime Down Solar project at the Open Forum hearing in Chippenham

Goals for 2026

- Tolsey Surgery
- Conclude Neighbourhood Plan Review
- The future of the North Building – funding to reconfigure fully as a recreational facility
- Sports Development Group – identifying someone to own and drive a strategy supported by the PC
- Lime Down
- School Crossing – do we need to do more?
- Attracting new Councillors
- Attracting and engaging volunteers from the local community to help



- Sopworth Road Development
- Extension of Recreational Ground Railings
- New signage Thompsons Hill/Forlorn

Organisations Speaking

Church

Scouts

Gardening Club

Village Hall

Drama Club

Football Club

Theatre Group

Thank you!

- **Current and past Councillors** - for their efforts in the last year to support the Parish Council to service the local community.
- **Jayne Curtis**
- **Tolsey** – Simon Watson and his team, Cllr Martin Smith, Roz Savage MP for their commitment and support in obtaining a commitment from the ICB to lease a new surgery build

Parish Organisations – to name but a few....

- **The Cliffhanger team** - for consistently producing the quality monthly publication on behalf of the Parish Council
- **SOSCIC** - (The Old School Committee) for managing a well regarded and well used facility within the village and their very kind annual donations
- **Village Hall Committee** – for managing a facility supporting numerous activities and offerings such as Yoga, Badminton, Artisan retailers
- **Boules Committee** – for organising a fantastic weekend of Boules attracting a significant number of visitors to the village each year
- **Allotments** – continue to thrive with a waiting list for plots.
- **Footpath & Highways Group** – local farmers, residents and councillors for turning up and putting their backs into maintaining Grove Wood
- **Gardening Club** - for the wonderful planters around the Village
- **Living Churchyard Group** - for establishing and tending to the Churchyard and encouraging greater biodiversity
- **Speedwatch Team**
- **Neighbourhood planning Team**
- **Sustainable Sherston** – tree planting and preservation, community orchard, wild flowers, after-school club..... Apple Day

Summary

- We are servicing a growing number of residents 1300 (voting) and their requirements
- We manage and operate in excess of 80 assets
- More is being asked of us at a local level
- We are 'getting stuff done'

We need more help

We need to attract and retain Councillors as well as encouraging more volunteers from the Community to help out

What should we be doing?

We need to improve how we engage with you. We really would like you to work with us 'tell us what you would like us to be doing and spending your money on'. Contact can be made via clerk@sherston.org.uk

Volunteering is at the very core of being a human. No one has made it through life without someone else's help." – Heather French Henry.



Thank you

