

Sherborne Parish Council - Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

Held at Sherborne Social Club, Monday 19th May 2025

Councillors in attendance: Y Blankley (YB), T Whiffen (TW), S Challis (SC), Hannah Greyson-Gaito (HGC), C Humphries (CH), E Richardson (ER), O Portman Clerk (OP)

Councillors absent: NA

1. APM

Verge Management - Presentation of the recent verge management survey undertaken by the Parish Council given by ER. Presentation showed the village was split in favour of wild flower verges/meadows where safe and practicable, and also cut short and managed where safety and aesthetics were important.

Anna Field a respected ecologist has offered to advise the PC on where and which species of wild flowers will thrive in each of the designated zones. Meeting date to be advised. The PC will advise on next steps once all information is gathered.

Questions from attendees

2. Highways

State of the pot-holed roads - a meeting with Highways in the village had meant that there had been some improvement in the road situation whilst acknowledging that there is still a great deal of work to be done. It was acknowledged that this is not just an issue here in Sherborne but across the UK.

Roadside Grip clearance raised as an additional issue raised.

YB informed the attendees that the criteria for pot holes to be fixed is deeper than a golf ball and larger than a dinner plate. All damage to road service which fits this criteria should be reported using fix my street. YB encouraged everyone to report the issues using the above criteria.

Village signs - YB was able to inform the attendees that new signs were to be erected in the first two weeks of June.

An attendee asked whether there was an option of relocating the 30mph signs towards Farmington and also beyond Waterloo bridge.

Attendees have noted an increase in traffic causing concern, especially heavy goods vehicles and articulated lorries which are struggling to get through the tight lanes and narrow road through the village.

A question of weight limit on Waterloo Bridge was raised. YB informed the attendees that highways had confirmed at their last meeting there was no weight limit on the bridge.

3. EN18

Attendees made a request for updates on EN18 as there had not been too much information since the proposal was uncovered.

SC informed the attendees that we as a PC remain committed to pushing the CDC and the NT to fulfil their obligations in respect of progressing the promised working group which would enable the PC to feed into the terms of reference for EN18 in the long term NT and CDC plans for the village.

The date for the first working group meeting was cancelled by the CDC at very late notice, citing a change of focus to new build housing in order to fulfil their new homes targets for the government.

The PC are completely committed to engaging with all parties and to encouraging the NT to move forward with the working group proactively.

4. PC Website and communications

There was a query raised regarding ease of use of the PC website and that we as a PC were not publishing minutes and agendas as fast as some attendees would like.

There was a request that we publish unapproved minutes on the website.

YB said we the PC would discuss. YB explained that the PC had been without a clerk for a year and this had caused issues in relation to administration.

YB pointed out the heavy PC workload with EN18, Verge Survey and highways and that the PC are volunteers most with full time work commitments.

Website Functionality: Concerns raised regarding access to complete website for mobile users, e.g. NT Q&A page (this is covered by "ease of use" comment, but think we should be more specific).

5. NT

TW gave an update on progress with the NT regarding the Broadwater and the Countryside management Plan. TW informed the attendees that the CPM was due soon but had been substantially delayed. TW updated the attendees with information on the Broadwater project and that there was to be a presentation over two sessions.

Please see TW update on the NT meetings with the PC.

6. Emergency Plan.

YB informed the attendees that an Emergency Plan for the village was being prepared.

The premise was explained and there is a potential benefit that this Emergency Plan would be used as a template for every village in the country.

The first Meeting was successful, a second with wider scope to be arranged if it reaches progression stage.

6. Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan

An attendee proposed that the PC look at adopting a neighbourhood/local plan.

This might be an aid when it comes to EN18 and the Emergency Plan.

There was a vote within the meeting as to whether a neighbourhood/local plan would be supported by the community.

Let the record show that the vote was passed by a large majority.

The PC agreed to investigate the proposition regarding the feasibility of Sherborne having a neighbourhood plan.

SC requested that all attendees please sign up to the PC website so all interested parties will receive updates.

All attendees were thanked for their time and the meeting was closed.

Sherborne Parish Council - Annual General Meeting

Held at Sherborne Social Club, Monday 19th May 2025

Councillors in attendance: Y Blankley (YB), T Whiffen (TW), S Challis (SC), Hannah Greyson-Gaito (HGC), C Humphries (CH), O Portman Clerk (OP)

Councillors absent: ER was unable to attend this portion of the meeting

1. Annual Audit

SC went through the proposed annual audit, explaining rationale. SC went through costs vs revenue taking the PCs financial liabilities into account. SC confirmed the financial health of the PCs accounts and that all checks and balances had been completed and that Sherborne PC was fiscally responsible.

A vote was taken to accept the audit. Let the record show the vote was passed.

2 Election of Councillors to office.

YB was proposed and seconded as chair.

A vote was taken. Let the record show YB was re-elected.

TW was proposed and seconded as vice chair

A vote was taken. Let the record show TW was re-elected.

SC was proposed and seconded as Treasurer.

A vote was taken. Let the record show SC was re-elected.

Sherborne Parish Council- Parish Council meeting May

Held at Sherborne Social Club, Monday 19th May 2025

Councillors in attendance: Y Blankley (YB), T Whiffen (TW), S Challis (SC), Hannah Greyson-Gaito (HGC), C Humphries (CH), O Portman Clerk (OP)

Councillors absent: ER was unable to attend this portion of the meeting

1. March minutes proposed

March minutes were approved by majority.

PC Actions Post Meeting.

OP to send minutes to SC to publish on the PC website.

2. Planning update

The planning appeal for Brook House was still pending with CDC at this time. The Parish Council takes a neutral stance on this and is neither for nor against either party.

PC Actions Post Meeting.

PC councillors to look on planning portal for further information

3. Neighbourhood Plan/Local Plan

The Neighbourhood/Local plan proposed in the Annual Parish meeting by an attendee, was discussed by the council.

It was decided that more information was required in order to have a better understanding of requirements and feasibility of the proposal.

Information was to be sought from relevant authorities prior to YB meeting with stakeholders to discuss and prior to establishing Neighbourhood Plan working group.

PC Actions Post Meeting.

HGC to gather information on the Neighbourhood Plan.

SC to contact CDC for further information

4. CDC Update

Highways - As discussed in the APM, YB confirmed to the PC that the village signs, instead of being delivered in 2026, were to be delivered early in the second week of June 25. The PC discussed the points brought up in the APM by the attendees such as traffic volume, increased HGV use of the narrow lanes, moving the speed limit signs to encourage drivers to slow down, Speed Indicator device (SID)to encourage people to watch their speed was also discussed. The PC have been investigating costs involved with these devices(SID), and have been trying to gather information for CDC and GCC to aid the PCs decision.

PC Actions Post Meeting.

YB to continue to contact GCC & CDC to discuss all points above.

YB to contact Highways.

YB to contact GCC Councillor Dom Morris for help regarding this and other issues.

YB to apply urgent and important criteria to serious road and pavement disrepair with Highways. Urgent is to be dealt with first then YB to move to less urgent but necessary repairs.

5. NT Correspondence

PC met with the NT: Minutes from the meeting are in Appendix 1 below.

PC discussed the CMP and the delays in the publication.

PC discussed the potential Broadwater project and the upcoming Brook management update.

Saturday 7th June 10.30am

Wednesday 11th June 6pm.

The PC has received a request that everyone attend one of these sessions only to avoid overcrowding and to ensure as many villagers as possible get to hear the presentation.

TW also informed the PC that there was an open drop in session with Andrew Danson (NT) on Monday 17th June from 5pm-7pm at the NT offices.

National Trust Newsletter.

TW informed the PC that the previously mothballed National Trust newsletter will be reinstated in a mainly digital format. To receive the newsletter people need to express interest by emailing:

sherbornenews@nationaltrust.org.uk

Equally if someone requires a printed copy due to no digital access they should contact the NT office and they may be able to facilitate this.

This and more information is available in the March NT Monthly Brief.

PC discussed the need to encourage villagers and interested parties to subscribe to the PC website so that they will get the updates as soon as they are published.

PC Actions Post Meeting.

As many members of the PC as possible to attend the Brook project meeting.

SC to look at rejoining Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Council

6. AOB

The PC discussed the queries raised in the APM about the PC website. Apparently a user was having difficulty as the website did not fit on a mobile screen only on a laptop. There was a request that agendas were to be posted in a timely manner. And minutes should be posted as quickly as possible.

The PC discussed this and agreed to a procedure. As OP has taken the role as clerk and that this was her first meeting there will and should be a period of adjustment. The aim of the parish council is that the people of the village receive the information in a timely manner and as up to date and accurate as possible.

PC Actions Post Meeting.

SC to update website to accommodate people viewing the information on a mobile phone
OP to post minutes to the Parish Councillors for amendments as soon as possible after the meeting

The PC expressed gratitude that so many people turned up to the APM.

Next meeting

16th June 2025 at Sherborne Social Club.

Appendix 1:

1. National Trust Correspondence:

Meeting Date: 12.5.25

Attendees

- **NT Representatives:** Andrew Danson and Simon Nicholas
- **PC Representatives:** Cecelia Humphries and Tom Whiffen

An overview of the key points from the meeting is provided below. Further details are available in the [May NT Monthly Brief](#).

Key Discussion Points

- **CDC Meeting & Policy EN-18 Commitment:** Although the CDC has postponed the Policy EN-18 update meeting and no new timeframe has been confirmed, NT remains committed to Policy EN-18 and its broader goal to “end unequal access to nature.”
- **“Big Nature, Better Access”:** The nature-focused aspects of the project continue as planned. However, progress on access-related elements will be slower due to delays associated with the EN-18 update. NT will continue to share updates through the NT Monthly Brief.

Questions can also be submitted via:

- Parish Council email: clerk@sherborneparish.org
- Directly to Andrew Danson: andrew.danson@nationaltrust.org.uk

- **Turbine House Access:**

Updates on public access plans for the Turbine House will be shared with residents when available.

- **Conservation Management Plan (CMP):** The CMP is still in its final stages and is expected to be published in June.
- **BNG credits (Biodiversity Net Gain):** Land at Sherborne Farm, intended for grassland reversion, is being considered for BNG credit generation. If successful, this would be the first use of NT-owned land in the UK for the BNG scheme.
- NT team have cleared the Grips in Ragged Copse.
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- **Village Newsletter:** NT will release the reinstated village newsletter in May.
- Sign up for the digital edition: sherbornenews@nationaltrust.org.uk
- Hard copies will also be made available locally.