

Sherborne Parish PC – Monthly Meeting Minutes

Held at Sherborne Social Club, 20th April 2026

Councillors in attendance: Y Blankley (YB), C Humphries (CH), T Whiffen (TW), A Woolley (AW), H Greyson-Gaito (HGG)

Apologies: S Challis (SC), E Richardson (ER)

1. Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes from the Parish Council meetings in February and March 2026 were approved by a majority although it was noted that Item 3 in the March Minutes was wrongly titled '*Sherborne's Walk / Lake Shorelines Working Group*'. It should have read '*Lady Sherborne's Walk Working Group*'.

2. Actions / matters arising from previous meetings

Parish Council to write letter to Thames Water with neighbouring parishes

- Outstanding – see further discussion below

Improvement of publishing agendas and minutes in a timely fashion

- All outstanding minutes have been published on the Parish Council website and the agenda has been pinned to the notice boards in the village.
- It was agreed that minutes would be published on the website following approval by the Parish Council at the next meeting. Where a meeting is missed or there are delays in the circulation of the draft minutes, the PC will discuss whether draft minutes will be published on the website (clearly indicated as draft).

TW and AW to clarify working group purpose at NT/PC meeting

- See further discussion below

YB to receive and review speed data from Highways

- YB waiting on response from Highways

YB to contact police to explore monitoring options

- YB will contact police this week

ER to clarify permissions process for verge planting and engagement with Anna Field

- ER absent from this meeting so no update

YB to monitor response from CDC to empty properties report

- YB submitted report but waiting on response from CDC
- It is understood that bringing empty houses into use can be counted towards the local Councils' housing targets and, therefore, there are incentives for CDC to issue enforcement orders to landlords (NT in this case) to bring empty houses into use.

YB to finalise arrangements for Emergency Planning meeting

- YB, AW and SC attended Emergency Planning meeting. Positive feedback was received from attendees.

YB to monitor publication of Neighbourhood Plan Light guidance

- Outstanding - This isn't expected to be published until May 2026

ER to engage with the school and PTA

- ER absent from meeting so no update
- YB have spoken with the school about children climbing on the war memorial.

Stakeholder engagement

The Gardens Trust

- A meeting between the Parish Council and The Gardens Trust will take place on Tues 28th April.
- The meeting will start with a presentation by Roger Davies in the Sherborne Social Club and will continue with a walk through the village to show the attendees from The Gardens Trust the Broadwaters. The walk will not go onto National Trust land.
- PC unsure if National Trust will attend this meeting.
- PC will invite The Gardens Trust to continue to monitor any further development plans for Sherborne and to engage directly with the NT.

Gloucestershire Highways engagement

- Discussions are ongoing and there is no update

National Trust

Broadwaters

- An internal NT meeting to review the situation around the Broadwaters is arranged for 5th May 2026.
- The PC agreed to send a further letter to Jonny Loose (NT General Manager) outlining concerns over lack of meaningful engagement and highlighting the PC's suggestions of positive engagement going forward.
 - ACTION - TW to finalise and send this letter
- The PC agreed to copy the letter and associated briefing pack to other NT stakeholders for awareness. The briefing pack is to include the PC's objection to the planning application, an updated history of the Broadwaters and the positive route forward which has been suggested by the PC.
 - ACTION – TW to finalise and send this letter and briefing pack

Solar Farm

- See <https://sherborneparish.org/news/electrifying-news-update> for more information.
- AW and CH attended the drop in session run by the NT
- It is understood the scheme is much the same as it was before Christmas.
- Anyone wanting to join the scheme would need to sign up to Octopus Energy.
- NT are aiming to submit the planning application in the summer and be on site this time next year.
- It has been highlighted to the NT that mobile signal is low in the village and this could stop people from being able to have smart meters and therefore being able to sign up to the energy club.
- Similarly, it has been highlighted to the NT that many people in the village have storage heaters and, therefore, rely heavily on cheap overnight tariffs.
- The NT were also asked about whether the village would be able to access the electricity generated by the solar farm if the National Grid went down.
 - ACTION – AW to draft a summary of the scheme to publish on the PC website

- ACTION – TW to arrange meeting with NT to raise any local issues such as the above points

Working group with NT

- TW and AW spoke with Andrew Danson (NT Project Manager) at the most recent NT/PC meeting about the working group.
- Andrew Danson had reservations about the terms of reference document but did suggest that Community Liaison Meetings could be established as NT holds these elsewhere in the UK.
- TW and AW supported the idea of Community Liaison Meetings but the specifics of the meetings are still to be confirmed.
- It is anticipated that these meetings would be quarterly and would be attended by a mixture of representatives from NT, PC and various individuals from the village and surrounding community.
- It is hoped that these meetings could have a broad focus including topics such as Lady Sherborne's Walk and the Broadwaters among others
- It is also hoped that these meetings would genuinely consider the larger 'village changing' schemes (e.g. Policy EN18, and the more recent wetlands planning application) which tend to be excluded from the more regular NT/PC updates.
 - ACTION – AW and TW to agree Terms of Reference with the NT for a Community Liaison Group and to recruit a wide range of people in the village to attend meetings.

River Windrush pollution

- AW attended the Windrush Catchment Partnership meeting.
- Thames Water did not attend this meeting.
- It is understood that the upgrade to the sewage plant in Bourton is aiming to be complete by Spring 2026 although this has been pushed back from 2023.
 - ACTION – YB to liaise with Roger Davies to draft a letter to Thames Water highlighting the issues which will be countersigned by neighbouring PCs. This letter also to be sent to Emma Hardy (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Water and Flooding)

AOB

Litter

- AW highlighted the amount of litter in the village.
- NT will not organise a litter picking volunteering day. However, it is understood that they would provide bin bags etc. for it.
 - ACTION – AW to organise a litter picking volunteer event for the summer

War Memorial

- It is the 100th anniversary of the war memorial this year
- ACTION – HGG to identify list of funding sources to cover the costs of repairs to the war memorial

Warm hub

- The PC thought the idea of a warm hub in the village was a good one.
- Assess interest in its use at the annual parish meeting in May

Next Parish Council meeting Monday 18th May 2026 at 18:00