

**Annual Parish Meeting
SherborneParish Council, Gloucestershire**

**27th May 2026, 19:00
Sherborne Social Club and Village Hall**

Internal notes / minutes

Parish Councillors in attendance: Y Blankley (YB), C Humphries (CH), T Whiffen (TW), A Woolley (AW), H Greyson-Gaito (HGG), S Challis (SC) and E Richardson (ER).

All councillors introduced themselves.

War memorial

- 2026 is the centenary of the memorial being built.
- Parish Council (PC) is responsible for the maintenance of it.
- A resident in the village has kindly put together a proposal for work to be done on it.
- The PC is looking at funding for this work. This is likely to include a combination of grants from the War Memorial Trust (and National Lottery Funding) and donations from within the village.
- It was agreed that sponsorship as a form of fundraising would be considered.
- It was suggested that, once the works have been completed, an event to commemorate the fallen would be held.
- Sherborne Archives have the original subscription list for the funds raised to build the Memorial. They also have a description of the original unveiling of it.
- Concern was raised about children playing on the Memorial. YB has spoken with the school headmistress who has agreed to engage the children in learning about the fallen soldiers listed on the memorial.
- A member of Sherborne Archives highlighted that they had regularly offered sessions on the history of the village to the school but that these had not yet been taken up.
- ACTION – ER to raise this with the school

National Trust (NT) engagement

- PC – NT meetings
 - TW, AW and CH meet with Andrew Danson (Project Manager, Big Nature, Better Access) bi-monthly. Minutes of these meetings are published on the Sherborne Parish Council website (<https://sherborneparish.org>)
- PC engagement with Dame Hilary McGrady
 - YB has sent emails and letters and has received a response from the local manager
- NT drop in sessions
 - These are held quarterly and anyone can attend.
 - The next one will take place on 15th June.
- Written Q & A
 - Residents can email questions to clerk@sherborneparish.org.
 - These emails are collated by the Council and submitted anonymously to Andrew Danson.
 - The written responses provided by Andrew are published on the Sherborne Parish Council website (<https://sherborneparish.org/national-trust/monthly-nt-updates>)
- NT newsletter

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- This is distributed quarterly primarily via email or as a paper copy which is available in the shop
- Walk & talk
 - Two are planned for this summer.
 - Dates TBC
- Volunteer days
 - Dates TBC
- Volunteering opportunities
 - NT are looking for volunteer cattle checkers for their belted Galloway cattle when they come to the village

Trees

- Each of the Ancestor Oak trees has been planted
- There are a further 50 oak saplings which are planned to be planted on old farm in conjunction with the Sandy Hill Mob farm.

Gardens Trust

- A delegation from Gardens Trust met with AW and others in the village
- It is understood that they were not happy with what they saw of the state of the landscape on the estate.

Wetland / Broadwaters

- The NT convened an internal senior management meeting regarding the wetland / broadwaters on 5th May.
- Prior to the meeting an email and briefing pack was emailed to the local Regional Manager as well as members of the South West and National NT team.
- It is understood that the conclusion of the 5th May meeting was that, considering budget restrictions, the wetlands project would not be pursued and funding for any vegetation clearance works on the Broadwaters had been withdrawn. Some vegetation clearance might be considered in the future if funding becomes available.
- It was agreed that PC would continue to engage NT on this subject.
- It was also agreed that the PC would continue to collaborate with Highways and NT to maintain the drainage infrastructure along the roads to divert silt away from the broadwaters.

Section 21 notice

- An attendee raised concern that a section 21 eviction notice had been served on a longstanding resident of the village.
- It was suggested that individuals could write to Sir Geoffrey Clifton Brown MP in support of those concerned.
- The Parish Council agreed to meet and discuss how best to support, within the remit of the Parish Council, those involved.

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- This should not be interpreted as legal commentary on the tenancy arrangement or the validity of any notice served.

Empty Houses

- There is more incentive for Cotswold District Council to serve enforcement orders to NT for the houses remaining empty. This is because, it is understood that any empty houses brought back into use will count towards meeting their housing targets set by the central government.

Emergency Plan

- Major Dan Khan provided a brief outline of how the emergency plan created in Sherborne was being used as a template for other rural villages in the country.

Burglaries have been reported in the village.

Village events

- Cricket match
 - 28th June 2026
 - Sherborne House
- The Sherborne Archive exhibit
 - 31st May 2026
 - Sherborne Social Club and Village Hall
- The Sherborne Archive Heritage Days event
 - 20th Sept 2026
 - Lodge Park

Meeting closed at 20:30