

Shobrooke Parish Council Meeting

Minutes from the meeting of Shobrooke Parish Council held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 9th July 2025 at 7:30pm

In attendance: Cllr Jones (Chair) Cllr Furse (Vice Chair)
 Cllr Collier DCC Keable
 Clerk: Mrs. Clarke. MDDC Jenkins
 2 Members of the public

Public Participation:- Two members of the public attended and voiced their concerns about matter in relation to Shute/Efford which can be seen in 05.01 below.

01/07/25 The chair opened the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr Balkwill, Cllr Leeming, Cllr Tuffin

02/07/25 There were no declarations of Interest

03/07/25 The Minutes of the last meeting held on the 19th June 2025 were agreed and signed as true record.

04/07/25 Council noted that vacancies remain and reiterated the call for potential candidates. Councillors were encouraged to approach suitable individuals.

05/07/25 Parish Council – Matters Arising

05.01 Shute Traffic – Residents of Shute and Efford raised concerns over persistent and increasing traffic issues, especially speeding by agricultural and commuter vehicles through the villages. Issues have worsened post-COVID and include dangerous driving, near-misses, and vehicle collisions (including one involving a drink-driver). “20 is Plenty” signs previously installed were removed, possibly due to complaints or interference. Concerns were raised about Highways restrictions on unofficial signage. The Council plan to install new wooden posts and “20 is Plenty” signs where feasible, avoiding Highways-owned fixtures.

Devon County Cllr Keable will follow up with Steve Tucker on monitoring options and SCARF processes.

Mention was made of Sandford and Crediton already carrying out speed watch and that highways only follow up after accidents.

05.02 Path in the Allotments – Handrail, Post, Mowing. The council agreed to issue a £50 grant to Shobrooke Allotments and contact DCC and our Footpaths wardens for assistance with gate repair funding.

05.03 Policy Amendments: Code of Conduct and IT Policy. Updated policies were accepted. Clerk to upload revised Code of Conduct (2020 LGA model) and new IT Policy. Council will review one policy per month from here on in.

06/07/25 Planning

06.01 Planning Applications/Decision. 25/00347/OUT – Oakley Farm: Approval granted for an agricultural worker’s self-build dwelling. Conditions include ecological measures such as bat and bird boxes. Concerns were raised regarding the trend of luxury agricultural dwellings. Clerk to contact MDDC Planning for follow ups on planning matters.

07/07/25 Reports from MDDC and DCC Councillors, Cllr Keable (DCC), provided a full report which will be online. Cllr Tuffin (MDDC) provided updates on council finances, highways maintenance backlog, SEND provision, consultations on Devon’s local government future, and Mid Devon initiatives including grant schemes, EVs, leisure centre upgrades, and a new online portal.

08/07/25 Finance - The payments, balances and receipts were approved and noted as per the agenda schedule.

09/07/25 Roads and Footpaths - Bridge rails at Lower Coombe Cottages reported broken since 2020/21. Clerk to raise this with DCC. Other items: potholes deteriorating again. Overgrowth and footpath gate repair also discussed under earlier items and will need referring to the P3 team.

10/07/25 Play Park - Sovereign confirmed old swings must be dismantled prior to installation. HMS agreed to remove these. The Council are awaiting an installation date. Gardener to complete additional clearance behind fence. Sovereign equipment will be subject to biannual inspection under new agreement.

11/07/25 Clerk’s Report - Relevant matters were addressed throughout the meeting.

12/07/25 Miscellaneous Matters / Correspondence - Neighbourhood Watch: No current updates. Emergency Access – An incident locally that requiring forced entry was noted. The Council highlighted importance of key access for vulnerable residents.

A parishioner wanted to report the broken bridge rails at Lower Coombe Cottages, apparently this was raised with Cllr Leeming in the past. They have been broken since 2020 or 21 and there is nothing to stop somebody falling in, especially when the water is over the top and you can't see the edge, the parishioner was concerned that young children in the Cottages could fall in and drown.

The Brooke: Unauthorised vehicles and containers observed. Possible scrapyard development. Bus Stop Maintenance has been carried out: Over 100 staples removed. Notice board posting protocols were discussed to prevent a reoccurrence of this.

Airband Wi-Fi Installation: Pending. Village Map: External map is faded. Clerk to source replacement via MDDC. Heating Grant: A contractor visit scheduled for the 22nd July to assess/discuss any upgrade options.

13/07/25 Minor Matters and Items for Future Agenda. Proposal for the Parish Council to lay a wreath on Remembrance Sunday. To be confirmed at September meeting. Clerk to liaise with John Lee.

The chair will contact Hi-line to commend them for their recent work locally with thanks for keeping everyone updated.

14/07/25 Date of Next Meeting -Wednesday 10th September 2025 at 7:30pm, Shobrooke Village Hall.

Signed.....

Dated.....