

Shobrooke Parish Council Meeting

Minutes from the meeting of Shobrooke Parish Council held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 11th March 2026 at 7:30pm

In attendance: Cllr Furse (Chair) Cllr Jones
Cllr Leeming Cllr Balkwill
DCC Keable Clerk: Mrs. Clarke
1 member of the public

01/03/26 The Chair welcomed everyone to the March Parish Council meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Collier, MDC Tuffin, MDC Jenkins

02/03/26 There was no Public participation.

03/03/26 There were no declarations of Interest

04/03/26 Minutes of the last meeting held on the 14th January 2026 were agreed and signed as a true record.

05/03/26 Reports were received from DCC Cllr Keable:

DCC Councillor Keable delivered a detailed report focusing on the new County Council budget, the first of the new administration. Key highlights included the restoration of library funding and a £500,000 capital fund for new books. The report also covered the wider financial context of central government grant cuts and the resulting pressures on council tax. Cllr Keable expresses hope that the highways budget contains some positive developments, and he notes that an extra half-million pounds is being allocated to monitoring the highways contract to ensure better supervision of contractors.

Pot holes: if damage occurs after seven days without repair a claim against MDDC may succeed, but if it occurs within seven days, the claim fails, and if a pothole is repaired but washes out and is not reported again, it can escape liability altogether. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) budget was also discussed.

06/03/26 Parish council - Matters arising:

06.01 Disabled parking/access The Council discussed a complaint regarding a new disabled parking bay. It was noted that the resident must hold a disabled badge for the bay to have been created. The bay is a public highway and not private parking and does not come under the parish councils jurisdiction.

06.02 Property adjacent to the village hall, two existing garages may be useful to the village hall. Entry and exit safety on to the road was also discussed, the clerk to follow up the previous request to MDDC

06.03 Updates on previous minutes. The Council discussed salt bins, noting that most had been refilled following successful online reporting. Two parish-owned bins were not on the county's refill list, as the parish council own them, Cllr Jones had refilled them with six bags of salt each. The clerk has submitted comments on a survey by MDDC regarding the caravan policy they are establishing. There may be some new funding for a salt spreader, DCC Keable will keep us informed.

06.04 Assertion 10 Regulation The Clerk explained the new Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) Accessibility Regulations 2018. Due to a "disproportionate burden" which would increase the precept costs by a minimum of £700-£900 to cover all the previous documents from 2018 onwards, the Council resolved to comply with the regulations for all new documents going forward. The resolution was proposed by: Cllr Balkwill and seconded by: Cllr Leeming.

The Clerk reported that the website's accessibility score was now 9.7 out of 10 within the compliance limit. The Council will rely on an accessibility statement and the "disproportionate burden" clause for older PDFs while offering to provide accessible versions upon request.

07/03/26 Mid Devon District Council

07.03 Planning Applications: No new planning applications for consideration.

07.02 Planning Decisions was noted: 26/00792/CLU Certificate of Lawfulness

07.03 Planning Appeals/Enforcement: None

08/03/26 Co-option A parishioner expressed interest in joining the Council. The Chair proposed that the formal signing of the co-option paperwork will take place at the next meeting.

09/03/26 Finance

09.01 The following payments were approved

Name	Detail	Amount £
Ionos	Website	£9.00
Clerks PAYE	Wages	

09.02 Parish Council Balances and receipts were noted:

Current Account: £1041.79

Reserve Account: £9223.29

Receipts: £4.17 Interest

09.03 The Bank Reconciliation was approved

10/03/26 Roads and Footpaths.

10.01 A parishioner has shown an interest in becoming the new footpath warden. The chair will follow this up.

10.02 Deferred-Drainage works on the A3072 Road from Coffin tree Cross to Cadbury Cross will take place in the new financial year. The Clerk noted a contradiction in reports: while some information suggested a deferral, a more recent notice indicated drainage works would proceed from 9th to 20th March.

11/03/26 Play Park

11.01 Mr. Jacobs has provided the update on the park equipment. The council wishes to extend their thanks for the time he takes to complete these. Further work is needed in the play park in the nature area far end of the play park, which has become overgrown, and one councillor proposed a voluntary community day to tackle brambles and vegetation, suggesting the council could supply pasties or similar refreshments to encourage participation. Due to active nests, any major clearance must be delayed until around August or September, after the main nesting period, although "bushwhacking" may still be allowed. The willow trees will also need trimming. The latest inspection report has flagged dog fouling in the nature area for the first time, and councillors debate whether this is actually from dogs or foxes or badgers, noting that badgers live near the sewage works. A couple of dogs running loose have been seen in the park with six or seven children and a few adults by a councillor who did not recognise them as local residents. It was concluded that these dogs may have been responsible for the fouling.

The report highlights that the goalposts and basketball net posts need rubbing down and repainting, which could be part of the proposed volunteer day. At the next meeting a date will be fixed and this put in the parish newsletter which is due around mid-June, this would be a good way to raise awareness and attract volunteers. Email notification would also be used.

12/03/26 Clerks Report: The Clerk provided a list of matters from MDDC. There is an upcoming Section 106 funding presentation, and that the organisers have invited councils to propose topics; Cllr Balkwill suggests asking for CIL to be included.

13/03/26 Miscellaneous matters/ correspondence . The Council discussed replacing the expiring defibrillator pads and new ones are to be ordered. The Clerk also flagged a mandatory meeting for all Mid Devon clerks on 29th April. A request for a contribution towards the friendly club, was discussed and the matter is being followed up by the clerk as any donation needs to a named recipient/treasurer. Defibrillator maintenance, weekly checks, and sharing responsibilities will pass from Cllr Jones at a later stage to Cllr Balkwill and the clerk where required.

Internet in the village hall. The council has already agreed to pay for installation costs. The village hall committee is to fund the ongoing monthly rental. The clerk recalls hearing about village hall grants becoming available in the next couple of weeks, specifically for projects like this and has subsequently forwarded on the relevant details.

14/03/26 Minor Matters and Items for Future Agenda: Speaker for the parishioner meeting will be Mr. Richard Clear from [Read Easy UK](#) . The organisation that helps adults learn to read.

15/03/26 Date of next meeting: Wednesday 13th May 2026 starting at 7pm. APM and AGM

16/03/26 The Chair closed the meeting at: 20.55pm

Signed.....

Dated.....