

Shobrooke Parish Council Meeting

Draft Minutes from the meeting of Shobrooke Parish Council held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 8th July 2026 at 7:30pm

In attendance:	Cllr Balkwill (chair)	Cllr Furse (vice-chair)
	Cllr Leeming	Cllr Jones
	Cllr. Brett	Cllr. McGregor
	MDC Tuffin	MDC Jenkins
	Clerk: Mrs. Clarke	0 member of the public

1/07/26 The Chairwoman welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Keable and Cllr Collier.

Co-option of New Parish Councillors was moved to the start of the meeting: The chair welcomed two new councillors, Derrick Brett who was formally proposed by the chair and seconded by Cllr. Leeming. Followed by Ailsa McGregor, who was proposed by the chair and seconded by the vice chair.

02/07/26 There were no declarations of Interest and There was no public participation

03/07/26 The minutes from the meeting held on 13th May 2026 were approved after a brief discussion where it was noted that an earlier issue regarding play park dates had been addressed.

04/07/26 Reports were received from MDDC Councillors Tuffin, Jenkins and DC Cllr Keable

Councillor Tuffin Report: 04/07/25 Reports from MDDC Councillors Tuffin (will be available online)

Key topics included the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment for the new Mid Devon Local Plan, strong recycling performance statistics for Mid Devon, and the availability of Strategic Sustainability Grants. Questions were raised About the Sustainability Grant: to improve heating efficiency; councillor Tuffin encouraged them to consult the grant's eligibility criteria. The council discussed potential national changes to recycling policies and the effectiveness of Mid Devon's current collection system, referring to the government proposals for households to receive payments or deposits for returning certain recyclable materials such as plastic and glass bottles. Questions were raised about how these changes might affect Mid Devon's current collection arrangements. Cllr. Jenkins mentioned the electronic version/ QR code to be included in the parish publication, which can be used to obtain the relevant information from the district council. **Devon County Councillor Keables** report will be available online.

05/07/26 Parish council - Matters arising:

05.01 Bins-War Memorial side. The council agreed to submit a request for the installation of a standard litter bin near the war memorial.

05.02 Allotment Posts & grant. The clerk will notify allotment representatives that a quotation for a suitable repair to fence posts has been obtained. The request was for three posts, councillors noted that one of them is on the allotment boundary rather than alongside the permissive footpath. As that is part of the allotment's stock fencing, that responsibility rests with the landowner not the parish council. The councils quotation will be to replace the posts situated at either end of the permissive footpath. A previously authorised £50 grant for permissive footpath maintenance was confirmed and has subsequently been paid.

05.03 Housing - Councillors discussed concerns raised by residents regarding antisocial behaviour and the number of vacant district council owned properties in the village. It was confirmed that the parish council has no direct role in housing management but has acknowledged residents' concerns and they have expressed a desire for housing policies that support young families.

05.04 The Publication Scheme Policy - was approved.

06/07/26 Mid Devon District Council

There were no new Planning Applications: Planning Decisions were noted by Councillors: approval of solar panels at White Farm and a self-build dwelling at Oakley Farm. No Planning Appeals/Enforcement issues.

07/07/25 The Co-option was moved to the start of the meeting.

08/07/26 Finance The council reviewed and approved the payment schedule, including invoices from the Mid Devon Handyman service, HMRC, PAYE. **Financial Report and Bank Balances:** The clerk presented the financial report and bank reconciliation, noting the current balances: Current Account £5,714.39; Reserve Account £8,928.64.

09/07/26 Roads and Footpaths.

09.01 Roads, Speeding and Highway Maintenance: The council discussed concerns about speeding traffic and vegetation obscuring speed limit signs. Reports were given that local roadworks might be completed ahead of schedule. The council agreed to investigate options for cutting back obstructing hedges and discussed the possibility of restarting a Community Speedwatch scheme.

09.02 The council discussed the ongoing issues surrounding a proposed public footpath diversion. Councillors expressed concern at the lack of proper consultation by the county council the clerk will continue to seek clarification on the status of the proposal. Clarification on whether any statutory notices correctly displayed for the footpath diversion.

10/07/26 Play Park

10.07 The council reviewed the inspection report and discussed the need to remove the slide and consider potential funding for a replacement. Councillors discussed the Section 106 funding. The council identified unsafe climbing equipment in the "Traverse Forest" area that requires removal.

Volunteer Maintenance Work. The council agreed to wait until after the summer holidays to schedule further maintenance. Recent maintenance work was carried out at the play park over the weekend. Despite several hours of work some tasks remain unfinished and will need to be completed during another working session. The clerk will contact Councillor Steve Keable to inquire about a slide that DCC might have in storage.

11/07/26 Clerks Report: The clerk provided an update on correspondence received and the new requirement of the Register of Interests to be filed.

12/07/26 Miscellaneous matters/ correspondence included in the clerks report.

13/07/26 Minor Matters and Items for Future Agenda: The council received an updates from the NHW co-ordinator regarding Neighbourhood Watch activities and various village maintenance issues which included overgrown vegetation, blocked drains, and defective street lights. Councillors discussed future training opportunities and the need for ongoing maintenance of village assets.

14/07/26 Date of next meeting: 9th September 2026