

SHOBROOKE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held at the Village Hall on Wednesday 9th September 2026 at 7:30 pm

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

01/09/25 Welcome and Apologies for absence

The Chair opened the Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Leeming.

02/09/26 Declaration of Interest

Councillors were reminded to update their Register of Interests (ROI) as required. No personal or disclosable pecuniary interests were declared in respect of items on the agenda.

03/09/26 Approval of previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2026 were reviewed and were formally agreed and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

04/09/26 Reports from DCC Councillor Keeble, MDDC Councillors Jenkins and Tuffin

Cllr Keeble presented his circulated report, highlighting positive news stories over recent months. He provided a detailed update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), noting it is effectively paused and likely to be replaced by a mayoral authority for Devon.

Discussions regarding council funding, service pressures, and empty properties within Mid Devon. Cllr Tuffin (MDDC) explained that empty properties have to meet stricter legal minimum standards and compliance with Awaab's Law regarding damp. One property on School Close was raised by councillors. Cllr. Tuffin will investigate. The council explored community volunteering options to assist with minor grounds maintenance at vacant properties, subject to insurance and risk assessments. The district council report items were also reviewed.

05/09/26 Parish council - Matters arising

05.01 Parking of vehicles in a field: Vehicles parked in a field appeared to indicate unauthorised business activity. Following discussion and differing perspectives councillor Leeming will look into this.

05.02 Community Emergency Plan: The council already has a plan located in the public house.

05.03 Data Matrix Mapping update: Work on data matrix mapping is progressing steadily alongside regular schedules

05.04 Updates from previous meetings - Two licensed Speed Watch volunteers operate within the parish, coordinating with neighbouring parishes and conducting active morning sessions at designated safe locations.

05.05 Policy update - Investment Policy: The standard investment policy covering reserve accounts and interest was reviewed and noted ahead of formal approval.

06/09/26 Mid Devon District Council

06.01 No new planning applications and 06.03 no new planning appeals

06.02 Planning Decisions: Ref. 26/00953/PNAG (Prior Approval wasn't required, concerning movable solar panels).

07/09/26 Finance

07.01 Payments: The council approved payments for HMS, HMRC, PAYE, and A. Jones.

07.02 Receipts: Parish Council receipts of £3.92 interest for August were noted.

07.03 Balances: End of August bank balances were reported as: Current Account £4,494.15; Reserve Account £8,936.23.

07.04 Bank Reconciliations: Bank reconciliations for July and August 2026 were presented and signed off.

08/09/26 Roads and Footpaths

08.01 Approval of the footpath diversion: The completed documentation for the footpath diversion was formally approved by the council following public consultation. Insurance considerations regarding volunteer and councillor maintenance work were discussed and remain under review with DCC.

08.02 Latest update on the road warden scheme: Cllr Keable outlined parish road warden initiatives and collaborative training programmes. Members raised concerns regarding contract management and liaison officer vacancies within Devon County Council's highways contractor arrangements.

09/09/26 Play Park - Maintenance day date to be set

The annual play park maintenance day is scheduled for Saturday, 3rd October, starting at 9:30 am (postponed if raining), ahead of the ROSPA inspection in December. Tasks include washing down and painting equipment, basketball posts, and goal posts. Safety measures such as wet paint signs and barriers will be implemented.

10/09/26 Clerk's Report and correspondence received

Correspondence was received regarding agricultural dung spreading, it was noted agricultural spreading is a rural practice during seasonal windows, coordinated with weather forecasts, and cleared by natural rainfall. The gully cleaner, only one is available in Devon and DCC schedule it. Bus stops were also discussed.

11/09/26 Minor Matters and Items for Future Agenda

Minor matters discussed included village hall venue hire invoices, arrangements for Remembrance Sunday wreath-laying on 8th November (with Cllr Jones agreeing to coordinate this), and local screenings of 'The National Emergency Briefing' film on the 4th October at Thorverton.

12/09/26 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Shobrooke Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, 11th November 2026 at 7:30 pm at the Village Hall. Due to planning applications and interim meeting is being held on the 7th October 2026