



**Approved MINUTES of the MEETING of SOPLEY PARISH COUNCIL
held at Sopley Parish Hall on Thursday, 20TH November 2025 at 7.30pm**

IN ATTENDANCE: -

- Chair Vines, Cllr Dunn, Cllr McDonnell, Cllr Partridge, Cllr Shutler, Cllr Adaway, Cllr Allen, District Cllr Frampton, County Cllr Thierry, Katie Hughes (Clerk) and 9 members of the public.

The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

1. PARISHIONER PARTICIPATION:

- Road Closure Notice – Priest Lane - a parishioner reported to those present that Priest Lane will be closed at its entrance on Thursday 27th and Friday 28th November for scheduled works by One Network.
- The owner of Sopley Salads will inform his regular customers regarding the roadworks.
- A dip in the road has been reported to Highways towards the Woolpack, outside Moorlands.
- Jacque Lay introduced herself to the meeting as a representative for the grant application submitted for Sopley Parochial Church in item 6 – Parish Clerk Report.

2. APOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED FROM: - Nigel Linford.

3. There were no DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST or any DISPENSATIONS declared.

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 16th October 2025 were **approved unanimously by Council members and duly signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising.**

5. CURRENT ISSUES & FORWARD PLANNING:

ACTION LIST UPDATE (Chair): Currently up to date and nothing outstanding.

- **BCP Call for Sites 2025 – Development Considerations (Cllr McDonnell)**

Cllr McDonnell addressed the meeting and provided the following update regarding the current BCP Call for Sites:

Proposed Areas Identified: Winkton, Burton playing fields, and land surrounding Moorlands College.
Additional Locations: Land at the rear of Wilberforce Green and West Road have also been highlighted.
Potential Concerns: He noted that objections may arise in the future concerning these developments.
Infrastructure Considerations: The impact on roads, medical provision (doctors), and school capacity will require careful assessment.
Boundary Issues: Attention must be given to overlaps and responsibilities between BCP and NFDC.
Timescale - These matters form part of the wider 5-year plan.

- **Neighbourhood Plan for Sopley Parish**

Cllr McDonnell proposed the development and adoption of a Neighbourhood Plan for Sopley Parish. Cllr McDonnell will investigate this further and present findings in February 2026. A previous attempt was made in 2007 by SPC but was shelved; costings will be obtained for future discussions, with a decision to be made by SPC in February 2026. **ACTION: Cllr McDonnell to continue research and review Neighbourhood Plans already adopted by other local parishes.**

6. PARISH CLERK'S REPORT: (Katie Hughes – Clerk)

- Bank Reconciliations for 11th November 2025 have been reviewed, **approved, and duly signed by the Chair.**
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds amounting to £46,484.53 have been received and transferred to the deposit account.
- A grant application for Sopley Church for £500.00, relating to the closed graveyard, was approved. The proposed pathway and clearance of overgrown hedges will benefit the wider community. Cllr Thierry also agreed to donate to Sopley Parochial Church to support the proposed works. **RESOLVED: A grant of £500.00 was unanimously approved by all members.**

- The following schedule of payments had already been circulated by email and were **authorised and approved by all Council Members for payment, duly signed by the Chair and Clerk.**

20/11/2025		Amount
Supplier to be paid	Invoice no:	
Source for business Water HG allotments	6091909722	£146.59
		£146.59
Supplier already paid		
Staples ink	3D91462	£150.77
PAYE	Oct-25	£1,065.56
Pennon Water	cemetery	£7.59
Clerk giff gaff	Mobile phone	£6.00
Adobe	-	£19.97
Evan elp us - cemetery - inv	inv 18 Cemetery	£400.00
Graham Hacker - HSG	Grant	£201.70
Tree Management - Rosehill Drive	6750	£371.26
NFDC - GIS	41079292	£128.75
Evan 'Elp us - inv 19		£150.00
		£2,501.60
Credits		
SPH	hall standing order	£150.00
CIL - Wilberforce	CIL	£46,484.53
VAT reclaim 010725-310825	VAT	£1,130.48
Lin Manners - Deed of Grant 4AB33 - Howie	Cemetery	£132.00
		£47,897.01
To pay out:		£146.59
Paid out:		£2,501.60
VAT to claim		£108.47
Funds available:		£85,354.12
Current Account		£34,089.50
Parish Hall Account		£301.50
Shirley Allotments account (ALP)		£4,724.91
SPH Deposit account		£46,686.30
	Total:	£85,500.71
Section 137 -744 electors (£11.10 ph) £8258.40		
Lengthsman - £1421.00 balance remaining.		

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- An email was received from Willie Manners regarding a possible closure of the layby on the B3347. Cllr Thierry has contacted County Council to state support, as well as Sopley Parish Council members **who approved the proposal unanimously**. All parties agree regarding the layby, which will be closed if accepted by Hampshire Highways.
- An email was received from a parishioner at Heatherstone Grange regarding Derritt Lane and several road issues. The parishioner was invited to attend the meeting in person but was unable to do so. Cllr McDonnell will respond, noting that most issues are historic and have already been addressed, including flooding, potholes, and other related concerns. The Head of Highways has previously met with Cllr McDonnell to discuss these matters on site. It was noted that some of the trees mentioned in her email are on private land, also the laurel hedgerows by the pinchpoint, which are obscuring the signs, should be reported again. However, it was stated that the road markings are visible and need to be adhered to by drivers. A meeting is to be arranged with Cllr McDonnell and the lady, which Cllr Allen will also attend when the date is known.

8. PLANNING: a monthly update on all applications was reported as below by the Clerk.

20/11/2025						
		CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS				
Date received	App No	Address	Applicant	Application	Current Status	Response by
08/10/2025	CONS/25/0559	Sopley Court, Sopley, Christchurch, BH23 7AY	Mr Alan Pope	Leylandii x 1 Fell	17/11/2025 GRANTED	5th November 2025
06/10/2025	25/10891	LAND ADJACENT HILL VIEW, RINGWOOD ROAD, SOPLEY BH23 7BE	Mr & Mrs Miller	Construction of dwelling	17/11/2025 AWAITING DECISION	31st October 2025
26/09/2025	CONS/25/0538	Smugglers, 8 Sopley, Christchurch, BH23 7AY	Mrs Dunn	Alder x 1 Fell Horse chestnut x 1 fell	17/11/2025 GRANTED	24th October 2025
16/09/2025	25/01003F ULL	ROSEWOOD COTTAGE, DERRITT LANE, BRANSGORE, CHRISTCHURCH, BH23 8AP		Glasshouse	17/11/2025 GRANTED	17th October 2025
11/09/2025	25/10818	AVON VALLEY HOUSE, RINGWOOD ROAD, SOPLEY BH23 7BE	Mr and Mrs Vines	Use of garage as ancillary annexe	29/10/2025 GRANTED STC	10th October 2025
07/08/2025	25/10297	Site: LITTLE NUTLEY, RINGWOOD ROAD, SOPLEY BH23 7BB	Mrs West	Use of land adjacent to Little Nutley ('the Land') as residential garden (Lawful Use Certificate for retaining an existing use or operation) Planning Inspectorate Reference: APP/B1740/X/25/3368772	17/11/2025 AWAITING DECISION	11th September 2025
13/03/2025	25/10184	MIDDLE RIPLEY FARM, NORTH RIPLEY ROAD,	Avon Tyrrell Farms	Listed Building Alteration	17/11/2025 AWAITING DECISION	160725
13/03/2025	25/10183	MIDDLE RIPLEY FARM, NORTH RIPLEY ROAD,	Avon Tyrrell Farms	Change of use of agricultural barns to a single dwelling with ancillary buildings. Repairs to the Listed granary (Barn B) and a new extension (Barn A), landscaping and a revised drainage system.	17/11/2025 AWAITING DECISION	160725

9.

Cllr Allen reported an update on Vernon Dene:

- Vernon Dene is set to appeal the planning decision in March 2026, with a decision from the judge expected within three months. The matter will be handled by the Friends of Vernon Dene committee and SPC will be updated accordingly.

9. FLOODING UPDATE (Cllr McDonnell): Nothing to report.

10. SHIRLEY COMMON (Clerk) – Nothing to report.

11. HEATHERSTONE GRANGE - Allotments update. (Clerk) –

- The quote received from the Grounds maintenance Company for £750 plus VAT for the annual maintenance of the hedges at Heatherstone Grange allotments **was approved** and the Clerk is to instruct them to complete the works. **ACTION: Clerk to accept their quote.**

12. BURIAL BOARD REPORT. (Chairman Vines/Clerk): - nothing to report.

- The Clerk reported that a Deed of grant had been purchased for Mr Archie Howie and his late wife. (4AB32).

13. PARISH HALL COMMITTEE REPORT (KH): -

- Christmas party, 19th December 2025.
- SPH's Bank balance is currently a healthy £13,985.25 to then end of October 2025.

14. PARISH FOOTPATHS & RIGHTS OF WAY ISSUES: (Cllr. Partridge):

- The Clerk confirmed that she had applied to join ACRA (Commons Society).

15. HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ISSUES: (Chair Vines/McDonnell) –

- SID poles are still waiting for the meeting that Cllr McDonnell has requested with the Traffic Management team. So allocated Cil funds already awarded can be claimed before the end of March 2026.

16. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Cllr Thierry) –

- Cllr Thierry gave his apologies for his absence, due to ongoing illness and hospitalisation, but now he can drive again. From May 2026 he reported that he will no longer be a Hampshire County Councillor. He stated that the implications of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) for parishes need to be clarified, including which powers may or may not be available to Parish Councils.
- Wheelie bins were mentioned in that the roll-out had been difficult but was ongoing.
- He reported that Neighbourhood plans, if done well, are highly beneficial. David Ilsley is a specialist for Cllr McDonnell and the Clerks reference. He said that the statutory documents typically cost between £20,000 and £30,000 to produce.

17. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT (Cllr Linford/Frampton) –

- Cllr Frampton reported that the Local Government Reorganisation survey is now open to all and has posted the link on "Spotted Bransgore", along with his answers for people's reference. He selected Public Consultation, Option 1, and wished his concerns about the potential loss of rural distinctiveness to be noted.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

Date of next full council meeting

18th December 2025 at 7.30pm

approved 18.12.25