



**Approved MINUTES of the MEETING of SOPLEY PARISH COUNCIL
held at Sopley Parish Hall on Thursday, 18th December 2025 at 7.30pm**

IN ATTENDANCE: -

- Chair Vines, Cllr McDonnell, Cllr Partridge, Cllr Adaway, Cllr Allen, District Cllr Linford, Katie Hughes (Clerk) and 7 members of the public.

The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

1. PARISHIONER PARTICIPATION:

No matters were raised.

- 2. APOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED FROM:** - Graham Hacker and David Forbes of HG. Cllr Dunn, Cllr Shutler and District Cllr Frampton.

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

- 4. The minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2025 were approved unanimously by Council members and duly signed by the Chair.** One matter was arising and that was the inclusion of Moorlands in the new development plans locally this was incorrect.

5. CURRENT ISSUES & FORWARD PLANNING:

ACTION LIST UPDATE (Chair):

The annual maintenance of the hedges at Heatherstone Grange allotments: - it was resolved that the Clerk had instructed the contractor and works would be carried out in the New Year.

Neighbourhood plan: deferred for investigations until the scheduled February meeting for input by all SPC members.

SID sites and poles: Cllr McDonnell is liaising with Traffic Management regarding approved locations and possible poles for installation. Clerk is to confirm with the TM team of the selected location in Derriitt Lane as opposite the Green Barn.

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

- 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.**

18.12.25		Amount
Supplier to be paid	Invoice no:	
New Forest Sawmill (fallen tree Shirley Common)	3183	£360.00
		£360.00
Supplier already paid		
Adobe	-	£19.97
Pennon - cemetery water	-	£7.59
Evan elp us	inv 23	£150.00
PAYE - Dec 2025	-	£1,065.56
Bank charge		£8.50
Sopley Church - grant	-	£500.00
Evan elp us - monthly cemetery	inv 22	£400.00
Amazon ink - Katie		£72.47
Giff Gaff - clerk mobile		£6.00
Southwest Water	HG allot water	£146.59
		£2,376.68
Credits		
SPH	hall standing order	£150.00
Interest Cil deposit account		£13.86
Allotments	2026 rent	£156.00
		£319.86
To pay out:		£360.00
Paid out:		£2,376.68
VAT to claim		£60.00
Funds available:		£82,830.97
Current Account		£31,738.90
Parish Hall Account		£447.25
Shirley Allotments account (ALP)		£4,729.65
SPH Deposit account		£46,722.42
	Total:	£83,190.97
Section 137 -744 electors (£11.10 ph)		
£8258.40		
Lengthsman - £1421.00 balance remaining.		

- Bank Reconciliations for 16th December 2025 were reviewed, **approved, and duly signed by the Chair.**
- **The Allotments for Labouring Poor annual return** for financial period ending 31.03.25 has been submitted.
- **The draft budget for the financial year 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027 was circulated, reviewed, and unanimously approved by all members, and duly signed by the Chair.**
- **The precept for the same period was set at £37,800.00, remaining unchanged from the previous year, and was also unanimously approved and signed by the Chair.**

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- A letter from Charlotte Coltman requesting financial assistance from Sopley Parish Council was received. **RESOLVED:** After careful consideration, it was unanimously decided that no assistance would be provided, as concerns were raised regarding the authenticity of the request.

8. ROAD SAFETY ISSUE IN SOPLEY PARISH – (email received from HG RESIDENT: (BM/JA)

Discussions were held with Sopley Parish Council and members of the public: -

- The Council discussed road safety concerns, agreeing that the 30-mph speed limit sign should be moved closer to the Sopley end of Heatherstone Grange. Highways will be consulted, and it was suggested that a speed awareness team could be formed and operate a handheld speed camera at key entrances, especially due to the new Wilberforce Green estate.
- Accident statistics for Derritt Lane will be requested, with support from District Councillor's and liaison by David Stopforth. WPC Tracey is to be contacted and to be asked to request a speed camera van, and signage improvements were recommended. Hedge reduction and pothole repairs were also noted as being reported repeatedly to HH.
- Flooding on Derritt Lane was reported. Wyatt Homes have carried out some works near the bridge following severe flooding in November 2023. A meeting with relevant parties will address repairs and responsibilities. Councillor Allen suggested a new "Welcome to Sopley" sign once development is complete, as current signage is incorrectly placed.

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

18.12.25					
		CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS			
Date received	App No	Address	Application	Current Status	Response by
11/12/2025	25/11045	MOORLANDS COLLEGE SOPLEY PARK, SALISBURY ROAD, SOPLEY BH23 7AT	x3no. Replacement Doors and x6no. replacement windows (Prior Approval Application)	11/12/2025 sent to Cllrs	09.01.25
10/12/2025	25/11047	LAND SOUTH OF, DERRITT LANE, BRANSGORE BH23 8AT	Display 1 x V Shaped advertisement board, 2 no. internally illuminated totem displays and 10 no. flags (Retrospective)	10/12/2025 sent to Cllrs	09.01.25
25/11/2025	CONS/25/0673	Graveyard, St Michael And All Angels Church, Mill Lane, Sopley	Mixed Trees & Shrubs - Fell	16/12/2025 approval sent by email	23.12.25
24/11/2025	25/11035	11 ARNWOOD DRIVE, BRANSGORE BH23 8FH	Fenestration alterations to include new patio doors; side window & stone cil lintel to first floor window	16/12/2025 par 3 sent	19th December 2025
06/10/2025	25/10891	LAND ADJACENT HILL VIEW, RINGWOOD ROAD, SOPLEY BH23 7BE	Construction of dwelling	17/11/2025 AWAITING DECISION	31st October 2025
07/08/2025	25/10297	Site: LITTLE NUTLEY, RINGWOOD ROAD, SOPLEY BH23 7BB	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,	Listed Building Alteration	17/11/2025 AWAITING DECISION	160725
13/03/2025	25/10183	MIDDLE RIPLEY FARM, NORTH RIPLEY ROAD,	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.	16/12/2025 AWAITING DECISION	160725

10. FLOODING UPDATE (Cllr McDonnell):

- Cllr McDonnell reported that work at the bottom of Priest Lane has been prioritised due to tree roots affecting the drains and causing widespread water discharge and flooding into the road at the entrance to Priest Lane by the small bridge. New pipework is required in the New Year, 2026.

11. SHIRLEY COMMON (Clerk) –

- The fallen tree at the rear of 82 Rosehill Drive was removed by New Forest Sawmill, following the recommendation of Cllr Shutler.
- Elm trees will be collected for planting at Shirley Common and Thatcher's Triangle on 13th January 2026. **ACTION: Cllr Allen will act as project manager for this initiative**

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

- The Clerk reported that all Invoices for 2026 at the new £52 rate have been sent and plot 9 has now become vacant.

13. BURIAL BOARD REPORT. (Chairman Vines/Clerk):

- The Clerk reported that SPC had been successful in securing their CIL bid for £10,000. The application was for the installation of a new central path and path edging, removal of a hedge, replacement of fencing, and removal of the rear spoil pile in the cemetery located on Ringwood Road, Sopley.

14. PARISH HALL COMMITTEE REPORT (KH): -

- The clerk mentioned the Christmas party being held on 19th December 2025.
- The Clerk reported that SPH's bank balance is currently a healthy £13,985.25 at the end of November 2025.

15. PARISH FOOTPATHS & RIGHTS OF WAY ISSUES: (Cllr. Partridge): None.

16. HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ISSUES: (Chair Vines/McDonnell) – Nothing to add.

17. WYATT HOMES – CIL FUNDING REQUESTS UPDATE: (Clerk)

- The Clerk reported that a request had been received from FONFA to repaint their museum building, at Heatherstone Grange with quotes of £7,400 and £11,785.29. The Clerk will maintain a list for future discussions.
- Cllr Partridge confirmed that details of projects eligible for the CIL funding received by SPC have been circulated to council members, with particular attention drawn to the constraints of CIL funding.

18. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Cllr Thierry) – None available.

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

Cllr Linford reported the following:-

- The possibility of 16-year-olds gaining the right to vote was discussed.
- LGR option 1 remains unchanged, in line with previous recommendations.
- The introduction of a mayoral system has been postponed until 2028.
- Expressions of interest in NFDC assets were invited.
- There are currently no plans for Clockhouse Farm

Meeting closed at 8.30pm

Date of next full council meeting - 22nd January 2026 at 7.30pm