



**Approved MINUTES of the MEETING of SOPLEY PARISH COUNCIL
held at Sopley Parish Hall on Thursday, 22nd January 2026 at 7.30pm**

IN ATTENDANCE: -

- Chair Cllr McDonnell, Cllr Dunn, Cllr Partridge, Cllr Allen, Cllr Shutler, District Cllr Linford, District Cllr Frampton, Katie Hughes (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

1. PARISHIONER PARTICIPATION:

No matters were raised.

2. APOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED FROM: - Chair Vines and Cllr Adaway.

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

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2025 were approved unanimously by Council members and duly signed by the Chair.

5. CURRENT ISSUES & FORWARD PLANNING:

Action List Update (Chair):

- The situation regarding installation of Sid poles at approved locations is ongoing.
- Elm trees have been planted in Bransgore, and Shirley Common; photographs will be provided in due course by Cllr Allen the project lead.

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.**

22.01.26		Amount
Supplier to be paid	Invoice no:	
ICO	ZB510450	£52.00
		£52.00
Supplier already paid		
Adobe	-	£19.97
Evan elp us - HG/cemetery layby	25	£75.00
Jacques De Villier	-	£180.00
Norton - anti virus	-	£99.99
Bank charges	-	£4.25
HALC	inv 7770	£64.20
Pennon - cemetery water	-	£7.59
PAYE - Jan 2026	-	£1,065.56
Evan elp us - monthly cemetery	inv 24	£400.00
Giff Gaff - clerk mobile		£6.00
		£1,922.56
Credits		
SPH	hall standing order	£150.00
Interest Cil deposit account		£23.81
HG allotment rent		£208.00
		£381.81
To pay out:		£52.00
Paid out:		£1,922.56
VAT to claim		£10.70
Funds available:		£81,076.82
Current Account		£29,650.53
Parish Hall Account		£593.00
Shirley Allotments account (ALP)		£4,732.06
SPH Deposit account		£46,746.23
	Total:	£81,128.82
Section 137 -744 electors (£11.10 ph)		
£8258.40		
Lengthsman - £1421.00 balance remaining.		

- Bank Reconciliations for 12th January 2026 were reviewed, **approved, and duly signed by the Chair.**
- **The Clerk reported that the precept request for the 2026–2027 financial year has been submitted to NFDC totalling £37,800.00.**
- The Clerk has been asked to obtain a settlement figure for the outstanding Public Works Loan Board (PWLB) it was proposed that SPC may clear their half of the outstanding amount for £3,750.00 saving money in the long term of public funds.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- The Clerk reported that a proposal had been received from Sopley Village WI to install a poppy display on the triangle (Harrison Memorial Garden) at the bottom of Priest Lane for Remembrance Sunday, 8 November 2026. It was suggested that the British Legion “Tommy” figure could be incorporated into the display, and that a refreshments event in the Parish Hall might also be arranged. Further details will be provided once availability has been confirmed and discussions have taken place with the Parish Hall Committee. **RESOLVED: The Council approved the display unanimously.**

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

- An email complaint has been sent to Sarah Barnes and Sophie Tagg. Cllr McD met with Peter today to discuss the condition of Derritt Lane and potential future improvements. It was confirmed that the development boundary extends only to the treeline, and that the adjacent field remains in the ownership of a separate landowner, not Wyatt Homes. Roger from Highways has advised that the developers are required to reinstate the road to its original condition once works are completed, in accordance with the development plan (Section 278). Cllr Frampton stated that the original planning application would have included a traffic management plan.
- Cllr Allen reported that there has been no progress reported to him on Speed watch (David Stopforth) and no update regarding the request to reduce the speed limit from 40mph to 30mph that he had been made aware of. The speed limit change he believes would be actioned after any Speed watch action on Derritt Lane.

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

22.01.26					
		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)	19/01/2026 awaiting decision	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)	19/01/2026 awaiting decision	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	06/01/2026 GRANTED STC	19th December 2025
06/10/2025	25/10891	LAND ADJACENT HILL VIEW, RINGWOOD ROAD, SOPLEY BH23 7BE	Construction of dwelling	19/01/2026 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	19/01/2026 AWAITING DECISION	11th September 2025
13/03/2025	25/10184	MIDDLE RIPLEY FARM, NORTH RIPLEY ROAD,	Listed Building Alteration	19/01/2026 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.	19/01/2026 AWAITING DECISION	160725

- It was decided that the future possible application for a solar farm by the Tyrrells Estate and their attendance at the next scheduled meeting in February would not be required. It was suggested that if they wish to hold a public exhibition regarding this potential planning matter, that is entirely their choice. However, attending meetings at this stage would create a prejudicial issue for SPC.

10. FLOODING UPDATE (Cllr McDonnell):

- Bridge flooding works (bottom of Priest Lane) are scheduled to be fully resolved by the end of February 2026, requiring a full road closure.
- Opposite the Woolpack (Lakeside), the ditches require clearing and the matter has been escalated to Wessex Water. A jetting team for outside Moorlands College are being arranged to clear the pipes.
- Mill Lane – Bridge House required sandbags recently due to a possible pipe collapse. Multiple issues have now been identified, and the entire area will be CCTV-mapped in due course.
- Woolpack Pub – the external drains are blocked and are due to be cleared. The Landlady is managing this.
- 25 Sopley – the recurring pothole on the bend remains outstanding, with no confirmed start date for repairs.
- Sinking road (opposite Moorlands College) – a permanent repair is planned. Subsidence now affects more than half the width of the carriageway. A full road closure will be required, but no start date has been provided.
- NFDC – mud on the pavements has been reported. NFDC will attend to clear it, though no date has yet been confirmed.

11. SHIRLEY COMMON (Clerk) –

- The fallen tree at the rear of 82 Rosehill Drive has caused additional damage amounting to £320.00. We propose splitting the cost with the homeowner to avoid the need for an insurance claim. Clerk to liaise with homeowner.

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

- Most annual rents have now been settled; however, one allotment remains available.
- The Clerk is still awaiting on a start date from contractor for the allotment annual hedge maintenance.

13. BURIAL BOARD REPORT. (Chairman Vines/Clerk): No update required.

14. PARISH HALL COMMITTEE REPORT (KH):

- Update on the mud at the bottom of the ramp. It has been suggested that reinforced plastic with grip holes is required. **ACTION:** Cllr Shutler will inspect the area and provide a quote to the Hall Committee.
- The heating also needs addressing, as the hall is too cold for the groups attending. Clerk to speak with hall manager.
- The Clerk reported that a full list of event dates for SPH will be available very soon with the 1st event being Bingo on 27th February 2026.

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

- The Gate on Court Lane which accesses the Avon Valley footpath was reported as needing attention: **ACTION: Cllr Partridge to attend, take photos and report back.**

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

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

- The Clerk and Chair will organise an open session inviting community groups to present their project proposals for the £46,484.53 funding received from the Wyatt Homes development. During the meeting, Cllr McDonnell also advised that bids should first be submitted via the main CIL funding portal on the NFDC website, where the primary funding pot is available.

18. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Cllr Thierry) – No report available.

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

- The District Councillors referred to the ongoing wheelie-bin rollout, the progress of the Local Government Reorganisation, and the postponement of Mayoral responsibilities until 2027.

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Date of next full council meeting – 19th February 2026 at 7.30pm

Approved Minutes 22.01.26