



**APPROVED MINUTES of the MEETING of SOPLEY PARISH COUNCIL
held at Sopley Parish Hall on Thursday, 19th February 2026 at 7.30pm**

IN ATTENDANCE: -

- Chair Vines, Cllr McDonnell, Cllr Dunn, Cllr Allen, Cllr Shutler, District Cllr Linford, County Cllr Thierry, Katie Hughes (Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

1. PARISHIONER PARTICIPATION:

- A parishioner reported that a motorbike has been left in Harpway Lane and confirmed that the relevant authorities have been notified.
- He also wished to thank SPC for addressing the recurring pothole issues and acknowledged the recent repairs carried out on Coronation Bridge.
- However, he noted that several potholes in Harpway Lane still require urgent attention — seven of them are described as genuine wheel-breakers. Responsibility is shared between BCP, Hampshire, and Dorset, which continues to complicate reporting and repair times. He questioned why the boundary between County Councils remains such a barrier to action.
- Cllr Allen also mentioned two potholes on West Road, and members reiterated that these should be reported through the usual Hampshire Highways process.
- The parishioner further praised NFDC for the smooth rollout of the new wheelie bins but queried why plastic pots and containers are still excluded from recycling collections.
- He also suggested that improved communication between neighbouring parishes, such as Burton and Bransgore, would be beneficial.

2. APOLOGIES WERE RECEIVED FROM: - Cllr Adaway, Cllr Partridge and Cllr Frampton.

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

4. The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd January 2026 were approved unanimously by Council members and duly signed by the Chair.

5. CURRENT ISSUES & FORWARD PLANNING:

Action List Update (Chair):

- An update on the gate in Court Lane is to be chased with Cllr Partridge.
- Mud at bottom of hall ramp to be remedied by Cllr Shutler next week.
- Annual maintenance of the HG allotments has been completed on 11th February 2026.
- **Missed bin collection (JP):** Nigel is to be copied into the correspondence relating to missed bin collections. Liz Mockridge at NFDC is the contact for bin collection issues. An email will be sent to Nigel regarding the missed collection at members homes in Ringwood Road. **ACTION: Clerk.**
- **NFDC Local Plan – Spatial Options (JA):** All members are asked to review the spatial options and provide comments. A site north of HG is currently being stress-tested. NFDC must identify land for approximately 10,000 homes, and the spatial options have now been published for consultation. Both individuals and SPC are encouraged to submit responses. **ACTION: All members to submit their comments.**
- **Neighbourhood Plan (All):** Cllr McDonnell and County Cllr Michael Thierry strongly recommended progressing a Neighbourhood Plan, noting the potential benefits for the whole community. Jo Herd from Ringwood Town Council was mentioned to assist with NHPs and the approximate costings involved. A working party is already active in Bransgore. CIL funding to finance an NHP was also highlighted as part of the discussion. **ACTION: All members and clerk to research further.**

Draft 19.02.26

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.**

19.02.26		Amount
Supplier to be paid	Invoice no:	
SLCC - Annual Clerk membership	MEM257269-1	£260.00
Staples	3G04599	£113.74
Elancity - warranty	SAJ-UK/2026/03234	£238.80
Grounds maintenance - annual HG invoice	1839	£912.00
		£1,524.54
Supplier already paid		
Adobe	-	£19.97
Katie - defib pads - school/hall (SPH to repay)	receipt in file	£156.56
Cllr Jeremy Allen	receipt in file/woodchip	£10.50
Katie - Vistaprint (SPH to repay)	bingo posters	£30.48
Fallen tree final payment (Shirley Common)		£200.00
Pennon - cemetery water	-	£7.59
PAYE - Feb 2026	-	£1,065.56
Evan elp us - monthly cemetery	inv 26	£400.00
Giff Gaff - clerk mobile		£6.00
		£1,896.66
Credits		
SPH	hall standing order	£150.00
Interest Cil deposit account		£21.13
NFDC Cil historic payment re SID		£2,339.99
HG allotment rent		£310.00
		£2,821.12
To pay out:		£1,524.54
Paid out:		£1,896.66
VAT to claim		£208.40
Funds available:		£79,982.16
Current Account		£30,005.14
Parish Hall Account		£738.75
Shirley Allotments account (ALP)		£4,734.20
SPH Deposit account		£46,767.36
	Total:	£82,245.45
Section 137 -744 electors (£11.60 ph) £8630.40		
Lengthsman - £1421.00 balance remaining.		

- Bank Reconciliations for 12th February 2026 were reviewed, **approved, and duly signed by the Chair.**
- **RESOLVED: The Clerk will buy new defib pads for Sopley School's defibrillator.**
- PWLB – early repayment: Cllr McDonnell proposed that as SPC surplus funds that their half of the PWLB loan should be paid off. **RESOLVED: Clerk to obtain repayment figure and settle the account before year end. Agreed unanimously by all members present.**

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:

- An email from a parishioner in Derritt Lane was noted as being received objecting to a possible future planning application for a solar farm in Derritt Lane.

8. ROAD SAFETY ISSUE IN SOPLEY PARISH – Derritt Lane

- HG Residents Update: No speeding incidents have been reported this month. There will be no further update until David Stopforth has returned. No new information has been received regarding Speed watch activity.
- Cllr Allen – Development Involvement: Questions are still being raised and further research is required. Any relevant interests will need to be declared once Cllr Allen's position is clarified.

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

19.02.26					
		CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS			
Date received	App No	Address	Application	Current Status	Response by
27/01/2026	TPO/26/0032	Plot 11, Council Owned Land, Marryat Way, Bransgore, BH23 8FG	Oak 1 x fell and oak x 1 reduce	27/01/2026 sent to Cllrs.	
06/10/2025	25/10891	LAND ADJACENT HILL VIEW, RINGWOOD ROAD, SOPLEY BH23 7BE	Construction of dwelling	13/02/2026 REFUSED	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

10. FLOODING UPDATE (Cllr McDonnell):

- On-site meetings have been held with HH and HCC are aware that the landowners have riparian responsibilities.
- Work continues to be pushed forward regarding blocked gullies and drains, with Rodger from Hampshire Highways involved. Updates are being chased due to the lack of visible progress this week. Parishioners have reported the planned job has been cancelled.

11. SHIRLEY COMMON (Clerk) - Nothing to update.

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

- All allotment payments for 2026 have been made. No plots are currently vacant.
- Annual hedge maintenance - completed on 11th February 2026 by Grounds Management Company.

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

- The Clerk reported that there is an Interment of t/l Maria Helen Cake on 19th February 2026 – 4g1.

14. PARISH HALL COMMITTEE REPORT (KH):

- **Bingo – 27 February:** Event confirmed, tickets are still available.
- **Access Ramp:** The ramp is currently being addressed and Cllr Shutler is to remedy the situation asap.
- **Table Tennis Equipment:** Table tennis bats have been purchased and the committee are arranging a social event for their use soon.

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

- Cllr Allen reported that the footpath at the side of FONFA Museum requires strimming along the lane. Lengths man to be instructed and Cllr Allen to send the Clerk a map to pinpoint the area.

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

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

- Next Meeting: Parishioners will be invited to attend and present their CIL funding requests. This will allow the parish as a whole to understand the proposals and discuss priorities.

18. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT (Cllr Thierry)

- Hampshire Highways: The Assistant Director, Tim Lawton, will be contacted tomorrow to progress the outstanding matters.
- County elections will take place on Thursday 7 May as part of the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) timetable.
- HCC Financial Position: It was noted that Hampshire County Council is facing significant financial pressures. Cllr Thierry commented that HCC may be unable to meet the level of service delivery expected by central government.

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

- He reported concerns have been raised regarding ongoing underfunding and the perception that services remain set in their ways.
- Cllr Linford mentioned that Community Payback, Steve Groves would contact the Clerk in relation to potential Community Payback support.
- Cllr Linford said he had some funds to distribute and offered to pay for the Sopley School replacement defib pads required. Clerk to send the invoice to Cllr Linford.

Meeting closed at 20.52 pm

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