**Approved Minutes of MEETING of SOPLEY PARISH COUNCIL held on Sopley Parish Hall on Thursday, 16th April 2026 – 7 pm**

By Mrs. K. Hughes Clerk, PSLCC – Sopley Parish Council

# ApprovedMinutes

Chair Vines, Cllr McDonnell, Cllr Partridge, Cllr Dunn, Cllr Adaway, District Cllr Frampton, District Cllr Linford and County Cllr Thierry, Katie Hughes (Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

**1. PARISHIONER PARTICIPATION.**

- A parishioner requested clarification on the CIL bid process that Sopley Parish Council would be using to assess eligibility and to shortlist the applications received. The Chair, Cllr Vines, confirmed that this is a new process and that further consultation with members will take place over the coming months. Once the process has been finalised, all applicants and parishioners will be informed. There is no confirmed timescale for this at present.
- It was reiterated that CIL funds must be spent within five years of receipt and that the Council will follow the agreed process one decided to ensure all decisions are made correctly and transparently.
- County Cllr Thierry stated The Clerk noted that having an adopted Neighbourhood Plan would have strengthened the parish's position and may have increased the CIL funds available.
- District, Cllr Frampton confirmed that no CIL contribution was received from the Heatherstone Grange development, as the developer's appeal was upheld in the High Court.

approved 21.05.26

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Cllr Allen and Cllr Shutler.**

**The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was quorate.**

**3.** There were no declarations of interest or any dispensations declared.

**4.** The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th March 2026 were **approved unanimously as a correct record by Council members and duly signed by the Chair.**

- Cllr Dunn queried why a report from the previous meeting regarding fly-tipping, the broken fence, and the damaged concrete war posts had not appeared in the minutes. The Clerk confirmed that these matters were recorded under Item 5 at the last meeting and that both issues had been reported to Hampshire Countrywide and the landowner.

5. **CURRENT ISSUES & FORWARD PLANNING:** (All Council Members for discussion/approval).

**ACTION LIST UPDATE:**

- The Clerk was asked to speak with Cllr Shutler regarding the muddy area at the bottom of the ramp at the Parish Hall, asking that the remedial works be extended across the full width of the ramp and not just one section. **Action: Clerk.**

- **Village Signage – (Cllr Dunn)**

  Concerns were raised regarding the volume and placement of signage around the village, including air-conditioning signs at Sopley Garage, signage at Dan Tanners, Wilberforce Green signs, and outdated Parish Hall signage.

- It was noted that some Wilberforce Green signs are obscuring the Highways placed road signs. It was agreed that these should be referred to NFDC for enforcement action. It was agreed that unnecessary signage should be removed and cleared. **Action: Gavin to speak with Sopley Garage regarding their excess signage.**

- A review of 30 mph signage and overall highway signage was requested. Members supported arranging a face-to-face meeting with Highways to discuss required changes. **Action: Chair, Cllr Vines and Cllr Dunn to undertake an initial review; Clerk to arrange a meeting with Highways once the review has been completed by Cllr Vines and Cllr Dunn.**

approved 21.05.26

**Highways Signage**

- Concerns were raised regarding highways roadwork signage left in place following recent roadworks. The Clerk confirmed that she had already reported the abandoned signs by Sopley Forge. These signs are to be included with the review and inventory to be completed as above.

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.

| **16.04.26** | | **Amount** |
|---|---|---|
| **Supplier to be paid** | **Invoice no:** | |
| Annual newsletter - Time2display | 705845 | £735.00 |
| Staples ink | 3H87561 | £101.25 |
| HALC | INV-8217 | £417.00 |
| | | **£1,253.25** |
| **Supplier already paid** | | |
| Adobe | - | £19.97 |
| Currys - SPC laptop | - | £502.98 |
| HMRC - paye tax | | £6.30 |
| Stepping Stones Grant | - | £247.89 |
| Evan elp us - cemetery | inv 36 | £400.00 |
| Pennon - cemetery water | - | £7.59 |
| PAYE - April 2026 | - | £1,065.76 |
| Giff Gaff - clerk mobile | | £6.00 |
| Evan elp us | | £100.00 |
| | | **£2,356.49** |
| **Credits** | | |
| SPH | hall standing order | £150.00 |
| Interest Cil deposit account | | £17.94 |
| HG allotment rent | | £52.00 |
| | | **£219.94** |
| **To pay out:** | | **£1,253.25** |
| **Paid out:** | | **£2,356.49** |
| **VAT to claim** | | **£83.83** |
| **Funds available:** | | ***£73,711.62*** |
| **Current Account** | | **£23,443.55** |
| **Parish Hall Account** | | **£1,030.25** |
| **Shirley Allotments account (ALP)** | | **£4,736.02** |
| **SPH Deposit account** | | **£46,785.30** |
| | **Total:** | **£75,995.12** |
| ***Section 137 -744 electors (£11.60 ph) £8630.40*** | | |
| **Lengthsman - £736.00 balance remaining.** | | |

- The Bank Balances and Reconciliation for 31st March 2026 had been circulated, **checked, confirmed and signed by the Chair and RFO.**

- A parishioner asked where the CIL funds have been banked and whether they should be held in a separate building society account. The Clerk advised she would check and confirm. The Clerk also confirmed that the CIL funds received had been transferred to a separate Deposit Account already held by SPC. **ACTION: Clerk to investigate further.**

- The PWLB loan repayment figure for half of the outstanding loan (used for the building of Festival Hall at Sopley Parish Hall) was received today, 16.04.26, and will be paid in the sum of £3,641.34. This completes SPC's settlement of their half of the outstanding loan. **ACTION: Clerk to pay, approved by all members present.**

7. **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED:** Nothing received.

8. **ROAD SAFETY ISSUE IN Sopley Parish – Derritt Lane.**

- In the absence of Cllr Allen, Cllr McDonnell requested an update on the ongoing concerns regarding vehicle speeds on Derritt Lane, including matters relating to Community Speed Watch and proposals to reduce the current 40 mph limit.

- A parishioner reported the following: noting continued expressions of support from residents for a reduction in the speed limit. NFDC were reported to be aware of the issues.

- It was noted that the previously discussed van equipped with a camera has not yet been actioned. The MP has acknowledged the concerns, but no further progress has been made. Hampshire Highways have been made aware of the matter, though the response to date has been disappointing. It was agreed that the Police will be approached in due course.

- Cllr MCDonnell confirmed that there was no significant update at this stage. It was noted that the primary issue is not vehicles travelling above 40 mph, but rather the frequency of vehicles travelling at 30 mph or above in an area where pedestrian activity is high.

- **SPC agreed to support the proposal to reduce the speed limit from 40 mph to 30 mph.** Members noted that children crossing Derritt Lane will present a significant safety concern, with approximately 50 children living on either side of the road eventually and school bus pick-up points located along the lane. *A safe crossing point was considered essential*.

- **SPC members agreed** that when there is a suitable location assessed and pole available on Derritt Lane that the Sopley Parish Council owned SID would be made available for their use.

approved 21.05.26

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

| 16.04.26 | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS** | | | |
| **Date received** | **App No** | **Address** | **Application** | **Current Status** | **Response by** |
| 14.04.26 | 26/10351 | LAND ADJACENT HILL VIEW, RINGWOOD ROAD, SOPLEY BH23 7BE | Construction of dwelling (resubmission of 25/10891) | **14/04/2026 sent to Cllrs.** | 08.05.26 |
| 12.03.26 | 26/10246 | MEADOW COTTAGE, 22 MARRYAT WAY, BRANSGORE, SOPLEY BH23 8FG | Single-storey side extension | **17/03/2026 Par 1 submitted by KH.** | 10th April 2026 |
| | | | | | |
| 07.08.25 | 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 |

- Cllr McDonnell requested printed plans for reference of no: 26/10351- Land Adjacent to Hill View from the Clerk. **ACTION: Clerk.**

- Members discussed the process for future planning applications, noting that the Planning Committee (full council) could meet the week before a Council meeting and discuss before consultee comments are submitted to NFDC by the clerk.

- District Cllr Frampton requested that the SPC members make themselves familiar with Policy ENV3, which provides the framework against which applications are assessed.

- It was agreed that a Planning Committee will be formally considered at the ACM to be held on 21st May 2026 and if required a lead would be put in place for this committee.

**10. FLOODING UPDATE: (Cllr McDonnell):**

- It was reported that the roads and drains are scheduled to be swept, and the fencing currently in place will be removed. Members noted that four issues in the local area of the one-way system are intended to be completed under a single road closure:

  The "big dip" at Moorlands
  Rebuilding of the bridge
  Works to the section of road with the excessive potholes outside No. 25.
  Project to use CCTV cameras to inspect drainage and gulleys under Mill Lane.

- Highways have confirmed that issues on Derritt Lane between Harpway Lane and West Road, are being dealt with by Enforcement and the landowners.

**11. WYATT HOMES – CIL FUNDING AND REQUESTS: -**

- Members received an update on the bids listed in Appendix 1 of the Cil bid list.
- A new grant application was received from the Friends of Sopley School for £2,600 towards the purchase of tepees.
- A further grant application was received for the purchase of a new defibrillator cabinet (not the defibrillator unit) for Bransgore Scouts, Burnt House Lane. It was confirmed that they are indeed in Sopley Parish.
- Members discussed the next steps and agreed to arrange a meeting to review eligibility for the final grant applications.

**12. SHIRLEY COMMON (Clerk):** Nothing to report.

**13. HEATHERSTONE GRANGE allotments: (Clerk):** Nothing to report.

**14. BURIAL BOARD REPORT:(Chairman Vines/Clerk):** Interment of ashes Mrs Sheilah Joyce Barrow, 6th May 2026, 11am – 4i6.

**15. PARISH HALL COMMITTEE REPORT: (Clerk):**

- Upcoming events, Community Night and Litter Pick, next week Race Night.

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

- It was noted that the pavements down from Cemetery to the one-way need clearing using the residue Lengthsmans funds from the 2025-2026 year. The Clerk confirmed that the one-way system was due to be strimmed next week. **ACTION: Clerk to instruct Lengthsman.**
- Cllr Dunn raised the issue of the stile near the Clockhouse, Sopley and it was impassable carrying her 3 dogs. It was commented that the stile is not fit for purpose and a gate was suggested. The Clerk commented that the gate had been locked due to the landowners' gates being left open by pedestrians in the past. **ACTION: Clerk to speak with landowners.**

approved 21.05.26

**17. HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ISSUES: (Chair Vines/Cllr McDonnell):** Nothing further.

**18. COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT: (Cllr Thierry):** County Cllr Thierry commented that speeding was an across county problem.

**19. DISTRICT COUNCILLOR REPORT: (Cllr Linford/Cllr Frampton):** Nothing further to add to this meeting, car parking charges were mentioned, and District Cllr Linford requested the bank account details from the Clerk.

Date of next full council meeting

Thursday, 21st May 2026 Annual Council Meeting, 7.30 pm
Decision on refreshments advertised as cheese and wine… Chair confirmed he will sort the refreshments with the clerk.