Approved MINUTES
OF MEETING of SOPLEY PARISH COUNCIL
held at Sopley Parish Hall on
Tuesday, 23rd July 2026 – 7.30 pm

In attendance: Cllr McDonnell (Chair), Cllr Shutler, Cllr Partridge, Cllr Allen and Cllr Dunn. Mrs K. Hughes, Clerk & Cllr Linford, County Cllr Martin Eyre, 4 parishioners were present.

1. **Parishioner Participation: -**

- The Council received an update from residents from Heatherstone Grange regarding the Speed watch initiative for the east end of Derritt Lane. Volunteers have submitted their application and are awaiting confirmation from the authorities The Clerk advised that, in future, a grant application to Sopley Parish Council for a second Speed watch camera should be prepared if the team require additional equipment.

- Members noted several recent safety concerns in the area. A tipper lorry was reported as having been turned over, and a two-vehicle collision occurred at the pinch point during the same week. Cllr Allen reported that vehicle horns had been sounded on multiple occasions. It was also noted that Ringwood operates an active Speed watch team.

- A parishioner submitted a report raising three matters:
  - Road markings near Woolpack, Coronation Bridge junction.
  - Safety at the pinch point by Owls Barn, Derritt Lane.
  - The potential use of average-speed cameras though the Parish.

  The Parishioner's report was read to the meeting. The pinch point has been assessed previously, and additional signage is under consideration. Cllr Eyre advised that motions have been put forward to Hampshire Highways to review and potentially reduce the eligibility criteria for speed-reduction measures in rural villages.

  Concerns were raised regarding overgrown hedges along Derritt Lane. A fault report has been submitted for the road near Owls Barn, and hedge issues will be reported to Hampshire Highways. Members noted that hedge-cutting letters are unenforceable but agreed to write to the relevant landowners. The clerk is to liaise with the Bransgore Parish Clerk regarding "hedge letters".

Residents were encouraged to report hazards, overgrown hedgerows, and road-marking issues via the **"Our Hants"** reporting system. A reminder will be posted on the Council's Facebook page by the Clerk.

- A parishioner reported low-flying aircraft over their property. It was confirmed that these were light training aircraft associated with Bournemouth Airport and that this matter does not fall within the Parish Council's remit and they should be referred to the airport itself.

2. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Sutherland and Cllr Vines. The Clerk confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

3. Declarations of Interest / Requests for Dispensation

The only declaration of interest was from Cllr Linford regarding the skatepark at Bransgore which a Cil bid has been received.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2026 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair. Matters Arising: None.

5. Current Issues & Forward Planning - Action List Update:

- The Council confirmed that refurbishment works at the cemetery are scheduled to commence during August–September 2026 by the appointed contractor.
- The issue of the broken gate in Court Lane remains outstanding. The Clerk will continue to liaise with Hampshire Countrywide regarding repairs.
- Members noted that the MOD concrete posts have been repaired and reinstated to their original condition, although the source of the works is unknown.
- A previous report of fly-tipping in Green Lane will be resolved as the affected section is due to be infilled.
- Remedial works to the hall access ramp are planned for September 2026.
- The Neighbourhood Plan remains ongoing, with no further research or proposals brought forward at this time.

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6. Parish Clerk's Report

- **Supplier Payments:** The schedule of monthly payments, circulated to Council Members prior to the meeting, were reviewed and authorised. **Resolved: All payments were approved by Council Members and duly signed by the Chair and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).**

23.07.26		**Amount**
Supplier to be paid	**Invoice no:**	
Staples - inl	3L86169	£125.71
		£125.71
Supplier already paid		
Katie repay for adobe	-	£19.97
Clerk giff gaff mobile phone	-	£6.00
Evan elp us - cemetery	Inv 47	£400.00
Paye July 2026	-	£1,023.16
HMRC - NI & Tax	-	£320.70
Evan elp us - lengthsman AV/Ripley	48/49	£125.00
Cemetery water - Penon	-	£7.97
DCH pest control - wasp nest cemetery	101	£80.00
		£1,982.80
Credits		
Int on Cil monies		£18.60
Lengthsman		£1,100.00
PWLB		£150.00
t/l Evelyn Burt		£244.00
		£1,512.60
To pay out:		**£125.71**
Paid out:		**£1,982.80**
VAT to claim		**£0.00**
Funds available:		***£81,640.24***
Current Account		**£30,158.47**
Parish Hall Account		**£1,272.00**
Shirley Allotments account (ALP)		**£4,743.94**
SPH Deposit account		**£46,863.54**
	Total:	**£83,037.95**

- **Bank Balances & Reconciliation**: - were confirmed, circulated and resolved as correct and **signed by the Chair and Clerk/RFO.**

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7. Correspondence Received - No items received.

8. Road Safety – Derritt Lane – Already discussed during public participation.

9. Planning Update

- Monthly planning list had been circulated before the meeting.
- No objection comment to be submitted re application 26/10679 by the Clerk.

23.07.26					
		CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS			
Date received	**App No**	**Address**	**Application**	**Current Status**	**Response by**
20/07/2026	26/10679	LAND SOUTH OF, DERRITT LANE, BRANSGORE BH23 8AT	Advertisement Consent Display – 1 No. non illuminated stack sign for a temporary period of 1 year. Removal of approved sign C on 25/11047 (Application for Advertisement Consent)	**20/07/2026 sent to Cllrs**	14th August 2026
14.04.26	26/10351	LAND ADJACENT HILL VIEW, RINGWOOD ROAD, SOPLEY BH23 7BE	Construction of dwelling (resubmission of 25/10891)	**20/07/2026 Granted stc**	
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	**20/07/2026 refused**	11th September 2025

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10. Flooding Update (Cllr McDonnell)

- There was not a lot to report. It was noted that the bridge pipes at Fordwater Cottage are blocked, and several drains that are not connected have been reported. The contractor intends to CCTV the pipe network and may need to excavate again depending on the findings.
- The Environment Agency continues to investigate measures to reduce surge flows from Ringwood down to Coronation Bridge, Sopley. Officers have taken measurements of the bridge capacity.
- Members were informed that a leaky-dam system, designed to slow and partially hold back water while allowing controlled release, could be positioned along the route from Ringwood down to Sopley could help manage surge conditions. Investigations are ongoing.

11. Wyatt Homes – CIL Funding and Requests –

- A copy of the CIL bid applications received will be circulated to all members ahead of the September meeting, where the applications will be reviewed and discussed in further detail.

12. Shirley Common - Nothing to report.

13. Heatherstone Grange Allotments –

- Hedges were reported as needing trimming but not before 1st September 2026.

14. Burial Board Report:-

- Memorial applications were received for Sheilah Barrow and Marie Cake and approved.
- Members received confirmation that the cemetery refurbishment will proceed using the £10,000.00 CIL allocation awarded by NFDC (main CIL fund). Three quotations were noted:

Quote x - GM: £13,400.00 + VAT

Quote y - DS: £8,950.00 + VAT

Quote z - OD: £9,640.00 + VAT

These have been considered as part of the procurement and decision-making process, and it **was approved and agreed for the Clerk to instruct quote y.**

15. Parish Hall Committee Report: -

- The Clerk advertised the family BBQ due to be held on 25th July and Sopley Festival on 23rd August 2026.

16. Parish Footpaths & Rights of Way –

- Cllr Partridge reported that currently everything is overgrown, dead and dusty. Cllr Allen reported the Fonfa path was cut by Hampshire Countrywide.

17. Highways & Traffic Management – nothing further to report.

18. County Councillor Report (Cllr Eyre) –

- Wessex Water have confirmed that they will be carrying out works on Brickyard Road between 5–9 October 2026 to dig out and re-line the drains.

- He stated he has a grant budget of £5000 if any groups would like to apply and to ask the Clerk as she accessed the process previously.

19. District Councillor Report (Cllr Linford)

- Cllr Linford advised that he may be able to support funding for high-visibility vests for Heatherstone Grange residents, as raised during Public Participation.
- He reported that the Cluster Group meeting for Burton, Bransgore and Sopley Parish Councils will take place on 18th August 2026. The Clerk holds the meeting details.
- It was noted that Wyatt Homes may offer their play area to Sopley Parish Council as part of future proposals. Members acknowledged that any such offer would require consideration of ongoing running and maintenance costs.
- Cllr Linford further advised that continued concerns regarding glass recycling provision should be directed to Jeffrey Blunden, and any additional correspondence may help to improve this service.

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Meeting closed 9.00pm

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 24th September 2026 at 7.30pm

Approved - Signed and dated _____(Chair) 24.09.26