

Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 8th of January 2026, at the Village Hall, Shotteswell.

Present were: Cllrs Faulkner (Chair), V Ingram (Clerk), M Pearson, B Zammett, D Sadler, (Cllr Zammett left the meeting part way).

Apologies: Cllr Gist (SDC) & Cllr Mills (WCC)

Members of the Public: 11

Declaration of Interest: Cllr Pearson, IRO of Planning Application

Minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Cllr Faulkner and seconded by Cllr Zammett and were agreed subject to the following amendments.
At the last meeting that accounts were proposed by Cllr Zammett and seconded by Cllr Faulkner rather than vice versa. Cllr Sadler stated that the term "Temp" in relation to election costs should be amended to "Casual".

Cllr Sadler requested that his agenda item be moved before the finance section. The Chair agreed.

Matters Arising:

Highways/Trees: A large pot hole reported on Second Turn and had since been repaired. The empty grit bin on Mollington road had been reported. WCC advised replenishment of the salt bins throughout the county was to soon take place following the recent bad weather. Shotteswell has 14 salt bins which is significantly more than neighbouring communities, these have all been provided over the years by the Parish Council. By contrast Warmington has three, Northend and Avon Dassett only two.
The annual tidy up had taken place and once again the contractor carried out the work to a high standard.
A damaged Telephone wire on Mollington Road had been reported to BT.
All the drain covers were cleaned off and a lot of the leaf/mud cleared around the Bus Shelter and the top of Middle Lane by Cllr Ingram.

The passing bay on the Mollington Road is becoming overgrown and needs clearing. The pathway to the telephone & Letter boxes had been cleared, by Cllr Ingram.

Concerns were raised regarding parking on the verge by Cherry Lodge which impairs visibility. It was noted that parking on the Village Green is illegal and parking on the triangular area by the Green is causing damage to kerbing stones and obstructing passing traffic. Advice was to be sought from the County Council on legally permissible deterrent measures.

The application for some trees had been submitted to SDC but the council had not heard back if successful. The Commemorative tree planting for the late Cllr Jan Burgess had taken place and was well attended. The plaque was added with another small gathering the following week to allow additional residents to attend and pay their respects. A hanging branch by White Cottage would be trimmed back by Cllr Faulkner.

Playing Field: Three estimates had been obtained by the Clerk for replacing the fence at the top section of the playing field to make it secure. The successful tender was accepted and the work will proceed as soon as the weather improves. The fencing will run from the footpath gateway and cease at the field boundary. All old fencing will be removed from the site. It was formally proposed that the quote should be accepted by Cllr Zammett Seconded by Cllr Pearson.

Pigeon guards, still to be fixed and the equipment would need cleaning in the spring. The steps leading up to the playing field had been completely replaced, our thanks to Cllr Mills and WCC for funding this project. The original construction plaque was rescued and had been affixed on the bottom riser.

Bus Shelter: Had been cleaned out again by Cllr Ingram, however, the ivy and the wobbly post remain outstanding.

Fly tipping: Reported on the B4100, lay by including a bed and mattress. Items discarded in the brook on the footpath leading to the motorway had been reported and cleared. A large broken pot on Mollington Road was also reported.

Dog Fouling: The contractor reported further incidents of dog fouling in the playing field. The council expressed concerns over the introduction of charges to use Alkerton tip and were concerned that this would lead to additional fly tipping. The Clerk had contacted both Warwickshire County and the District Councillors to see if a reciprocal arrangement could be made for people on the borders of the county which would allow them to use their nearest tip. Oxfordshire County Council had agreed to revisit this in February.

Review of Council Documents: Cllr Sadler suggested adoption of a revised Code of Conduct, the Clerk will consult with the Monitoring Officer as to whether the Council Charter remains included and report back to the next meeting. It was agreed that the Financial regulations document should be amended to state that the precept is "*considered and approved*" rather than considered alone.

Proposal by a Councillor:

A proposal by Cllr Sadler to replace the website was not supported.

A proposal to adopt a government email was discussed, associated costs would be investigated before a decision is made.

Cllr Sadler expressed dissatisfaction with the current website content.

Finance: The budget and precept for the forthcoming financial year was fully discussed (Cllr Zammett left during this item).

The council agreed to recommend maintaining the precept at £6,500, mindful of anticipated increases from the County Council, District Council, Police precept, and potential green bin subscription charges. Proposed by Cllr Faulkner, seconded by Cllr Pearson.

An offer had been received from a resident with extensive banking experience to act as the Internal Auditor.

Cllr Sadler proposed appointing an “external, internal auditor”, this was not supported. It was agreed that the resident with banking experience would undertake the role at no cost to the council.

A proposal by Cllr Sadler to cease printing the Chairman’s Report was not supported. Cllr Pearson suggested that residents who do not wish to receive a copy could notify the council, noting that the report also serves as a useful welcome pack for new residents.

Cllr Sadler asked whether consideration could be given to adopting a Delegation Policy. This would be investigated.

25/03103/LBC Church Farm: LBC regarding the roof

25/02583/Tree application Rose Cottage

25/02892/Tree application Willoughby Cottage

25/02481/FUL Four Winds: Application for Proposed single storey rear extension, first floor side extension over former attached garage, replacement porch and related external alterations to fenestration etc. Installation of boundary fencing below 2 metres.

No objections were raised to these applications.

The County & District Reports had already been made available on the website.

The next meeting was proposed for April 9th 2026

Meeting closed at 8.32pm