

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHOSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 10TH
SEPTEMBER 2026

Present: Fiona Crockett, Tim Marchant, Ian Cannock (Chair), John Whittock, Tricia Wastvedt, Joe Williams and Jean Fosaceco (Clerk)

Members of the public and our Ward Councillor – Fiona Gourley

- 1. Apologies:** Lisa Coles
- 2. Declaration of Interests for this meeting:** None declared
- 3. 10 Minutes public participation: Building Works St Julian's Road** - Concerns have been raised over the removal of a number of trees and hedges along the boundary overlooking Shoscombe Vale which, together with the impact on visibility towards the houses and gardens below, could have breached conditions put in place on the numerous planning applications and amendments over a number of years. These were imposed in line with B&NES environmental protection policies. It was also suggested these strong, mature trees were removed, some from an adjoining field, after the March deadline. It was acknowledged young saplings would be planted, however, these would take many years to mature. The clerk will contact planning and Jane Brewer, arboriculture officer, to report these concerns and request that they also ensure no ridge line/roof height conditions have been breached.

Walk, Wheel Cycle – Alban Luffman has passed on the updated proposals to B&NES; our Ward Councillor, Fiona Gourley, will let the Council know further details on B&NES' involvement and consultation. The clerk will submit a collated compilation of residents' comments when received and will also contact Matt McCabe, Ward Councillor and Nick Helps, B&NES for updates on the consultation process

Double Hill Speed Restrictions – Following receipt of the draft Local Plan, it has been noted that requested speed restrictions along Double Hill have not been included despite a meeting having taken place with Highways, Ward Councillors and residents where these safety issues were raised. Residents are actively encouraged to submit comments on the Plan from 14th September and by the deadline of the end of October. There have also been suggestions of PC funded speed awareness initiatives.

- 4. Minutes of the last meeting:** All in order

5. Clerk's Report	ACTION	TIMELINE
As distributed		
6. Ward Councillor Report		
Our Ward Councillor, Fiona Gourley, reported on the consultation period of the Local Plan – commences 14 th September with a deadline for comments by the end of October, and actively encourages both parish councils and residents to submit comments. The parish will then be entitled to speak to a planning inspector about any objections. Although the Plan does not specifically list Shoscombe, there will be an impact on the village with regard to traffic and the school from the proposed development in Peasedown st John. The Council has decided to hold a closed extraordinary meeting on Thursday 1 st October to discuss our response to the Local Plan and comments received regarding		

Sustrans/Walk, Wheel, Cycle. The clerk will contact the Village Hall to make the booking. Details on the Park and Ride consultation exercise will be included in the next village newsletter. A meeting will take place with the Rural Housing Enabler on the 1 st October attended by Ward Councillors to which councillors will be invited.	JF	By newsletter deadline
7. Financial Matters		
Evenkeel Fire Risk Report – The invoice for £300 was paid. VHMC – Financial Report (as distributed). The clerk will query the dates for this report and request details on capital held. CIL Funds – to be discussed at a later date It was agreed a replacement of the fence around the play area would take place at a cost £2,970.00 plus VAT Money Received: VAT Refund - £584.27	All noted JF	 ASAP
8. Planning		
Local Plan update – as discussed under Item 6. Consultation period 14 th September until the 26th October. Residents and parish councils are actively encouraged to respond with comments. Concerns regarding building works at the site in St Julian's Road – as discussed under Public Participation. Clerk to report these to both planning and B&NES arboriculture officer.	Parish Council Clerk	By comments deadline ASAP
9. Climate, Nature and Sustainability Working Group		
Report distributed. It has been stressed and confirmed that any initiatives considered by the Community Energy Network that could take advantage of cheaper energy would be community agreed and are in the very early stages with no decisions made as yet A workshop will be held on Monday, 21 September 2026 at the Hive in Peasedown St John at 6.30pm. A number of organisations would be involved in this such as WECA and B&NES among others. TW will be looking into approaching other members of the village with a view to them becoming part of the Working Group.	TW	Ongoing
10. Village Hall and Recreation Field – Report distributed		
A draft Shoscombe Village Hall Safety and Governance Handbook was distributed by TM. It was agreed that all trustees were collectively responsible for the Hall. It was suggested a small working group is set up. Accessible/disabled toilet facilities – it has been agreed additional handrails will be installed in the toilets and discussions are taking place regarding the possible widening of the doors. Research will be undertaken to clarify what 'reasonable' compliance listed officially under the equalities commission signifies. A professional opinion will be sought to assess what is reasonably practicable for the Hall building.	TW/JWi	ASAP

It should be made clear to Hirers that they have a responsibility for safety as well. • Drainage – arrangements for this to be addressed are also under discussion. • Fire Risk Report – following receipt of the report TM created a Significant Findings Report which was distributed together with the Safety and Governance Handbook. Consideration was given as to who is responsible for H&S, fire safety installations etc – it was agreed the trustees as a corporate body are. TM will compile an email to the VHMC regarding the fire safety issues and he also suggested creating an online working group to discuss these points. He will contact Bristol Fire Alarm Systems to arrange for a quote. Additional Fire Exit signs could be displayed. It was agreed the fire safety issues will take priority with a Fire Safety Policy being created and a Fire Action Plan for Hirers being displayed in the foyer and the kitchen. • Play Area fencing – a new fence will be installed potentially with a gate opening the opposite way to allow for the improvement for self-closing. • Tree planting will be discussed at the November meeting***Agenda Item • A meeting with Dick Whittington from WERN could take place in the near future • VHMC Accounts – the clerk will ask for a more up to date accounting statement together with details on capital held. • PC/Village Hall Risk Assessment – a review of this will be discussed at the November PC meeting***Agenda Item •	TM JF JF JF JF	ASAP By next meeting *** Agenda ASAP **Agenda
11. Walk/Ride/Cycle - Sustrans's Update – FCr – Report distributed		
As discussed under Public Participation. The clerk will submit a collated compilation of residents' comments when received and will also contact Matt McCabe, Ward Councillor and Nick Helps, B&NES for updates on the consultation process and the safer route to school from the Village Hall to the Cinder Path.	JF	ASAP
12 .Councillor Reports		
A) HELAA/Local Plan – discussed under Item 6 B) PROW – JWi met with Eddie Procter, our PROW officer with B&NES and discussed hedging. The PC were told improvements to the Cinder Path could take place in the next 12 to 24 months. The clerk has contacted the PROW B&NES officer and asked that the path be scraped and the overhanging trees/branches be addressed to assist with access for children and parents walking to school. TW mentioned the footpath between Rag Hill and Braysdown Lane being very overgrown. JWi reported that problems with footpaths can now be reported on Fix My Street and this information will be included in the newsletter. C) School – Report distributed.	JF	By newsletter deadline

D) Highways. – Discussed under Public Participation. A meeting took place between Ward Councillors, residents and B&NES Highways regarding Double Hill. However, their concerns and requests for speed restrictions have not been taken into account in the Draft Local Plan. Residents and the council are actively encouraged to comment on the Plan between 14th September and the end of October. There have also been suggestions of PC funded speed awareness initiatives. E) Burial Board/Church – Report distributed.		
13. Shoscombe Benefits Society		
It has been reported that insufficient funds were raised towards the purchase of the Apple Tree Inn. Share money has been returned. The PC acknowledges how much hard work went into this initiative.		
Dates of Next Meetings: 1st October – Extraordinary closed meeting 21st October – Parish Liaison 12th November – Parish Council 14th January 2027 – Parish Council 11th March 2027 – Parish Council		