

SHERBORNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of an EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of SHERBORNE TOWN COUNCIL held on Thursday 23 April 2026 at 6.00 pm in the Digby Hall, Hound Street, Sherborne.

Present: Cllr J Warburton (Mayor), Cllrs R Crabb, M Crossman, S Greene, J Griffen, P Jacobs, S Jeganathan, C Kippax, R Legg and T Martin.

In attendance: Mr S Shield (Town Clerk), Mrs S Woodford (Assistant Town Clerk)

Youth Advisors: None present

126. PUBLIC SESSION

126.1 Representation from Statutory Bodies

None present

126.2 Representation from Community and Local Organisations

None present

126.3 Representations from Members of the Public

None present

127. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Andrews and Patterson.

128. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION REQUESTS

Councillors were reminded of their obligations to declare their interests in the following items and to indicate the action they will be taking when the item is considered in accordance with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Model Code of Conduct, prepared to comply with the requirements of Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011.

128.1 Cllr Martin declared an interest in Item 6b – grant funding for the Sherborne Summer Festival.

128.2 Cllr Crabb declared an interest in Item 8 – for all planning applications.

129. MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

The Town Clerk gave a brief verbal report in support of the written report within the agenda, suggesting Members consider and confirm the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the 2026/2027 term. The Mayoral Advisory Panel had previously discussed the forthcoming Mayoral year, noting that both Cllr Green and Cllr Andrews have again deferred for 26/27. Members had noted the recommended order of succession for future years, but it was agreed that this would be discussed at a later meeting. Members were satisfied that due process had been undertaken for 2026/27 and therefore recommended to the council that Cllr Jeganathan become Mayor and Cllr Crabb Deputy Mayor for 2026/27.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Warburton and SECONDED by Cllr Crabb and AGREED unanimously that:

Sherborne Town Council noted the contents of the report and approve the formal election of Mayor Elect and Deputy Mayor Elect for 2026/27: -

Town Mayor Elect

Cllr Jeganathan be elected Town Mayor Elect for the ensuing year.

Deputy Town Mayor Elect

Cllr Crabb be elected Deputy Town Mayor Elect for the ensuing year.

130. TOWN COUNCIL POLICIES – SCATTERING OF ASHES IN PARKS AND GREEN OPEN SPACES

The Town Clerk had revised the proposed policy on the scattering of ashes in parks and open green spaces. Working with the Facilities Officer, he based the proposed draft on policies adopted by other councils with similar facilities. The policy is intended to address common issues, it will be reviewed annually, and its content will be revised as necessary to reflect changing circumstances. Cllr Legg suggested that a definition is included that excludes the Sherborne Cemetery from this policy, as that is subject to a separate Town Council policy. Also to exclude the area adjacent to Sherborne Abbey, this area forms part of a closed churchyard and although it is maintained by the Town Council, the Council do not own it. A few minor changes were also suggested and noted.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Crossman and SECONDED by Cllr Martin and AGREED (one abstention and 9 in favour) that:

Sherborne Town Council approve the policy relating to the Scattering of Ashes in Parks and Open Green Spaces, subject to the changes as detailed above.

131. GRANT FUNDING APPLICATIONS

a) Sherborne Summer Festival

Cllr Martin left the room at 6.20 pm for the duration of 122.a) but returned at the Members request to answer some questions, before again leaving the room for the resolution.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Griffin and SECONDED by Cllr Kippax and AGREED (1 abstention and 9 in favour) that:

Sherborne Town Council approves a grant amounting to £2,000 towards the Sherborne Summer Festival to assist with necessary equipment and facilities to enable the event to run as safely and smoothly as possible.

Cllr Martin returned to the meeting.

b) Sherborne Art Club

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Kippax and SECONDED by Cllr Crabb and AGREED (1 abstention and 9 in favour) that:

Sherborne Town Council approves a grant amounting to £1,000 towards the Sherborne Art Club to assist with the Summer Exhibition.

c) Sherborne Good Neighbours

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Griffin and SECONDED by Cllr Greene and AGREED unanimously that:

Sherborne Town Council approves a grant amounting to £500 towards the Sherborne Good Neighbours to assist with the cost of insurance and DBS checks.

d) The Green Shed

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Warburton and SECONDED by Cllr Crossman and AGREED unanimously that:

Sherborne Town Council approves a grant amounting to £260 towards the Green Shed to assist with refreshments at the launch and official opening.

132. COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PILOT

Members had received a report on the proposal for Community Transport Pilot Schemes, asking them to consider two new proposed schemes. STC, in partnership with Ealing Community Trust (ECT) is proposing to launch two schemes for an initial six-month period costing approximately £6,370. The first pilot will be the 'Sherborne Town Connector' and will provide access to four key locations in town at a daily cost of approximately £120. The second one will be a 'Rural Village Link' supporting villages to the East of Sherborne with a daily cost of approximately £125. It is intended that the schemes are funded from the Sustainable Prize Funding along with a grant from Dorset Council, together with some contributions from the rural parishes. The importance of good communications was stressed as publicity is essential. Users of the bus will be expected to pay in cash, although bus passes should be acceptable also.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Warburton and SECONDED by Cllr Martin and AGREED unanimously that:

- i) **Members note the content of the report.**
- ii) **Approve £3,840 of funding towards both community transport pilots, £750 for quality publicity, along with a contingency fund of £500 from the Sustainable Prize Funding.**
- iii) **That the Town Clerk, in conjunction with ECT, finalises the days of operation for each pilot through consultation with residents, parish councils and relevant stakeholders. Confirms the routing and stop locations based on the needs assessment and community feedback. Launches a targeted communications campaign to raise awareness and encourage the use of the pilot transport schemes.**

133. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Cllr Crabb left the meeting at 6.35 pm following his declaration of interest in planning applications

a) **P/OUT/2025/07170**

Land at Lenthay Road, Sherborne DT9 6AQ

Erection of up to 37no. dwellings (outline application to determine access only)

The Town Council **OBJECTS** and the reasons are given below:

Although it has no objection in principle to the development of 37 new homes, Sherborne Town Council objects strongly to this application on the following grounds:

1. Lenthay Road is a no-through road leading to the local Abbey Primary School. The entrance to the proposed development is beyond the Primary School. This will cause many problems with safe and secure access to the school. The potential increase in traffic volume, both during construction and when completed, would add to the already high pollution levels in the area.
2. The Abbey Primary school has become subject to a 'Safer Schools Streets' scheme with a TRO set up to close the road at specific times. This is meant to help with safety at pick-up and drop-off times and reduce congestion and pollution etc. It would mean that access to this proposed development during those times would be entirely restricted, so emergency service vehicles or the public in general would be unable to enter or leave the new development for the duration of the closure.
3. The Town Council suggests that this application is premature, although this area is included within the local plan and is intended for development, the infrastructure is not yet in place and an alternative access to Bradford Road is not likely to be constructed for some time, so access is dependent on Lenthay Road. It should be noted that the Town Council objected to any further access to Lenthay Road from development to the West when responding to the local plan consultation.
4. It was also noted that if a link to this new development from Bradford Road is ultimately in place and there is also access to Lenthay Road, then this could become a 'rat-run' between the two built-up areas, again passing the school.
5. The Town Council would wish to see a Construction Management Plan in place before any work is commenced, as construction traffic would be disruptive and polluting. The capacity of the existing road is limited so a transport assessment would also be necessary.
6. In conclusion the Town Council considers this development premature and unacceptable due to its proximity to the school, the disruption of the Safer School Streets scheme, potential pollution and the general impact on Lenthay Road.

b) P/HOU/2026/01833

21 Ashbourne Richmond Road Sherborne DT9 3HL

Erect a single-storey garage and erect a front porch. Replace the existing front (street-facing) garden fence with railings.

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Legg and SECONDED by Cllr Kippax and AGREED unanimously that:

Sherborne Town Council supports this application.

c) P/HOU/2026/01993

41 Acreman Street, Sherborne DT9 3NY

Erect replacement garden gate

d) P/LBC/2026/01831 – Listed building consent

41 Acreman Street, Sherborne DT9 3NY

Erect replacement garden gate

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Crossman and SECONDED by Cllr Martin and AGREED unanimously that:

Sherborne Town Council supports this application

e) **P/TRC/2026/02085**

9 Pageant Drive, Sherborne, DT9 3LP

G1 Conifer x 25 - Fell G2 Conifer x 25, Ash, Yew & Apple - Fell T1 Cherry – Fell

Members supported the felling of the conifers but were concerned about the other trees and suggested that the Dorset Council Tree Officer visit the site and feed-back his views before any decision is made.

Cllr Crabb returned to the meeting.

134. EXEMPT

That in accordance with Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960), the Public and Press be excluded from the meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed, within the meaning of Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

134.1 Staffing Issues

The Town Clerk and the Staffing Portfolio Holder have been in correspondence regarding a staffing query. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Kippax will report back to the June meeting, having studied the issue and consulted where necessary.

The meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

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Town Mayor