

SHERBORNE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a MEETING of SHERBORNE TOWN COUNCIL held on Monday 20 July 2026 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber at the Manor House, Newland, Sherborne.

Present: S Jeganathan (Mayor), M Crossman, J Griffen, P Jacobs, C Kippax, T Martin, G Patterson, R Legg and J Warburton.

In attendance: Mr S Shield (Town Clerk), Mrs K McMeiken (Civic & HR Officer).

Youth Advisors:

40. PUBLIC SESSION

40.1 Representation from Statutory Bodies

None Present. The latest crime statistics will be circulated once available.

40.2 Representation from Community and Local Organisations

The Chairman of the local Patient Participation Group previously submitted a report, which was circulated to the Members.

40.3 Representations from Members of the Public

Cllr Crossman highlighted disruption on Cheap Street caused by scaffolding, noting that some people using mobility scooters and pushchairs are struggling to access the pavements. Dorset Community Highways Team will be approached to investigate this matter.

Complaints about bins being left outside of various coffee shops have been received from residents recently. Dorset Council have been in touch with various businesses and the situation has now improved.

Cllr Warburton expressed her condolences regarding Anne Widdicombe, noting that the death of anyone who has devoted their life to public service should be marked with a moment of reflection.

It was also reported that Citizens Advice will be making changes to their operating schedule with two days being appointment only and one day for dedicated to drop-ins.

41. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR ANDREWS

No report was made available for the meeting.

42. REPORT FROM DORSET COUNCIL – COUNCILLOR CRABB

A report was received from Cllr Crabb and read out by the Town Clerk

1. First of all, I would like to thank Jon for his dedication to his cabinet role of overseeing Place Services. He has been outstanding with such a challenging portfolio. As no doubt he has just explained, the new Local Transport Plan and Parking Review have been passed by full council with

virtually no opposition. They are excellent pieces of work, and because of that we will see steady improvement of public transport across Dorset.

2. Anti-Social Behaviour at the Corelli Estate. STC continue to work with the Police, Dorset Council and relevant organisations regarding this ongoing problem. Updates will be provided at future meetings.
3. Local Plan development. The government has come up with changes that should make the process more successful. There should be an announcement from Dorset Council soon.
4. Dorset Council land for sale in Sherborne. There are two impending land disposals in Sherborne. The first is South Western Business Park. The other is a small plot of land in Coldharbour of Castle Town Way that is undeveloped and overgrown. This could impact local businesses, but the rents currently charged are at market rates.
5. Kitt Hill and Cornhill junction. The lines have been repainted to improve access to the A30 from Cornhill. The road surface has also been refreshed.
6. Planning Application at Lenthay Road near the Abbey Primary School. I thought, given that many people are anxious about this application, that I should provide an update on this. Highways have stated that an independent road safety audit has been completed. Also, the School Streets Scheme is in operation. The application will be deferred until this is complete.
7. Rights Of Way. I still have yet to meet with Cllr Greene to discuss rights of way. I will get in touch with her once I return from holiday.

43. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs J Andrews, R Crabb, S Greene, and Youth Advisors Phillipa, Lizzie and Rhianna. Cllr Kippax also wanted to note that he would need to leave the meeting early due to another commitment.

44. 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.

45. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 22 APRIL 2026 AND THE STC MEETING HELD ON 22 JUNE 2026.

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

Sherborne Town Council approves and adopts the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 April 2026 (Agenda Item 6).

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

Sherborne Town Council approves and adopts the Minutes of the Sherborne Town Council meeting held on 22 June 2026 (Agenda Item 6i).

46. FINANCE AND RESOURCES

46.1 STC Payment Schedule and Bank Balances

The papers were noted (Agenda Item 7.1), and it was PROPOSED by Cllr Jacobs and SECONDED by Cllr Legg and AGREED unanimously that:

For June 2026, Credit Card Payments of £827.60, BACS Payments of £131,585.23, and Direct Debits amounting to £4,925.32 are approved.

46.2 The Digby Hall and Library Payment Schedule and Bank Balances

The paper was noted (Agenda Item 7.2, 7.2i, 7.2ii and 7.2iii) and it was PROPOSED by Cllr Jacobs and SECONDED by Cllr Griffen and AGREED unanimously that:

The Bank Balances/Reconciliations for The Digby Hall and Library for February, March, April and May 2026 are approved.

46.3 Budget to Actual

A copy of the Budget to Actual was noted (Agenda Item 7.3), and it was PROPOSED by Cllr Jacobs and SECONDED by Cllr Warburton, and AGREED unanimously that:

Sherborne Town Council notes the Budget to Actual for the period of April to June 2026.

Cllr Jacobs wanted to note and commend the RFO for his work on this.

46.4 Sustainable Project for Digby Hall and Cemetery

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

Sherborne Town Council approves the introduction of Solar PV for the Digby Hall and Cemetery Mess Hut, LED lighting for the Cemetery Mess Hut and a Vehicle Charging point for Sherborne Cemetery for the amount of £18,863.33 plus VAT.

This project has been 50% match-funded by Low Carbon Dorset who considered three quotations during this project.

46.5 Terrace Playing Fields Children's Play Area

To consider the report (Agenda item 7.5) from the Town Clerk in relation to the purchase of new childrens play equipment at this location.

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

Sherborne Town Council approves the purchase of new children's play equipment for the Terrace Playing Fields Childrens Play Area for the amount of £20,500 plus VAT.

Three quotations were received for consideration for this new play equipment.

46.6 Grant Funding Applications

- 46.6i Sherborne Steam and Waterwheel Museum: To consider an application from Sherborne Steam and Waterwheel Museum amounting to £216.00 for the purchase of advertising banners.

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

Sherborne Town Council approves the Grant Funding application of £216.00 for the purchase of advertising banners for Sherborne Steam and Waterwheel Museum.

Cllr Kippax left the meeting having declared he had another commitment.

47. STANDING ORDERS

To APPROVE the Standing Orders in line with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

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

Sherborne Town Council approves the Standing Order in line with the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

48. TOWN MAYOR, TOWN CLERK WORKING GROUPS AND PORTFOLIOS

The High Sheriff of Dorset is undertaking a walk throughout Dorset of all areas that are impacted by County Lines. Helena Conibear DL will be walking to Sherborne where our Mayor will join her on that leg of the walk. The High Sheriff will spend time in the town over the lunchtime period meeting with various young people and relevant organisations before hopefully helping to officially open the new Ninja Warrior play equipment at the Blackberry Lane site.

49. PLANNING

- a) P/LBC/2026/03273

34 Cheap Street, Sherborne DT9 3PX Replace 2 No. 1st floor vertical sliding box sash windows to the front elevation. Existing windows are beyond repair.

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

Sherborne Town Council supports this application.

- b) P/HOU/2026/03424

11 St Swithin's Close, Sherborne DT9 3DW Erect a two-storey side extension (Demolish existing single-storey extension).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Crossman and SECONDED by Cllr Legg and AGREED (5 for, 3 abstentions and 1 against) that:

Sherborne Town Council supports this application.

- c) P/HOU/2026/03425 High Meadows Bradford Road Sherborne DT9 6BS Erect first-floor extension and rear two-storey extension

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

Sherborne Town Council supports this application.

- d) P/LBC/2026/03590 Bursary Sherborne School Abbey Road Sherborne DT9 3LF Repair and minor alterations to the library roof.

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

Sherborne Town Council supports this application.

- e) P/HOU/2026/03628
2 Highmore Road, Sherborne DT9 4BT: Erect a single-storey rear extension (demolish existing conservatory).

It was PROPOSED by Cllr Jacobs and SECONDED by Cllr Patterson and AGREED unanimously that:

Sherborne Town Council supports this application.

- f) P/TRC/2026/03724
The Old Coach House, South Street, Sherborne DT9 3LZ: G1 Birch x 3 - Reduce in height 2 - 2.5m down to previous cut points; prune to shape; T1 Acacia - Fell to ground level

50. EXEMPT BUSINESS

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

The public and press may be excluded from the meeting because publicity might be prejudicial to the public interest, as per the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

50.1 Mervyn Smith Community Champion Award 2026

Members of the Council discussed candidates for this year's award and agreed that members would submit their nominations to the Town Clerk, who would then arrange a poll to select the successful nominee for 2026.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

.....
Town Mayor