

SHEPHERDSWELL GREEN SPACES GROUP MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 30 MARCH 2026

1. Attendees

Nigel Baker (Chair), Denise Baker, Lynne Ring, Aidan Softley, Julia Harper, David Cox (Finance Officer), James Perfect, Sindy Denyer, Sue Taber, Kat McArdle (Vice Chair), Carole White, Luca Jones (Secretary)

2. Apologies

Julia Harper, Bomber Fagg, Barry Crush

3. Extraordinary item – Joel Tarr/Bike Track

Joel presented his outline ideas to the Group including rough costings for a bike track in Meadow View, followed by discussion with members of the Group. It was agreed that Kat and Joel would continue to work up a more detailed and costed proposal before returning to a future SGSG. It was suggested that local community interest and support for this initiative needed to be evidenced as part of any paper.

4. Minutes of last meeting

Agreed as a true record.

5. Matters Arising

Grounds Maintenance Contract is now out for tender applications, with closing date of 20 April. All suggested additions from SGSG were included in the final version of the tender document.

Parish Council has awarded £375 to SGSG for re-seeding of all goalmouths and anti-climb paint for the new container. JP confirmed that the Spartans FC season has now ended, and plans will be made to complete these works over the next few weeks.

6. Progress Reports

PLAY AREA: NB has prepared a final report for presentation to the Parish Council and circulated to SGSG members. Following a message from PC Chair, it is now clear that the project will need to be considered alongside other projects/priorities as part of the Council's longer term financial planning; without guaranteed financial support, it will be impossible for SGSG to seek additional external funding and therefore the project will not proceed. The group agreed that the report will be submitted to the PC for consideration, discussion and decision at the earliest opportunity. No further action will be taken by SGSG until this decision is made.

EXTENSION: The Working Group has not met since November – still awaiting revisions to drawings, which will then allow for more accurate costings to be gathered and a paper written for the PC's consideration. AS confirmed that the existing footings will still be viable if the project proceeds, but all drainage would have to be investigated with cameras and cleared of vegetation as necessary. He also confirmed that anticipated project costs will be in excess of £100,000

7. METRO Bank Account

Discussed the need for the Group's two bank accounts in light of the bank's decision to introduce a monthly service charge. Agreed that the 'Group 2' account will be used to service the forthcoming Summer Fete in early July and then be closed. All future SGSG business will utilise 'Group 1' account. Was noted that profits from Summer Fete will be used to support SGSG's plans for the Play Area.

DC explained his desire to utilise the 'SumUp' app, an on-line payment system which would allow for in-person contactless card payments at the Fete via mobile phones. More details can be found at www.sumup.com There are no costs to SGSG, but all transactions are subject to a 1.6% charge. Concerns were raised about any process for reimbursement should human error occur; it was agreed that up to 5 terminals would be authorised, but only ONE person (DC) would have access to any code required to enable any reimbursements should errors occur. All three bank account signatories [NB, DC, LJ] signed necessary paperwork to allow this to progress.

8. Draft agenda for AGM:

NB outlined proposed agenda for AGM on Monday 18 May. All agreed. Invitation for members of the public to attend will be included in April's Parish Magazine, and a further notice will be circulated through the Shepherdsweil News Facebook pages.

9. Any Other Business

NB asked members of the Group to give some thought to other small scale projects that we could consider if our two big projects fail to progress. This will be a future agenda item.

10. Date of Next Meetings

(All 7:00pm at the Village Hall)

Monday 18 May, incorporating AGM

Monday 13 July