

MEETING OF SHALDEN PARISH COUNCIL held Wednesday 23rd September 2026 at 7:30pm

MINUTES

Present: Cllr Whitcher, Cllr Taylor, Cllr Jones and Cllr Orme (Chair)

Also in attendance: County Councillor Cox , 3 members of public and K Horton (Clerk)

- 1) **Welcome.** Cllr Orme opened meeting.
- 2) **Apologies for Absence.** Received and accepted from Cllr Green.
- 3) **Declarations of Interest.** None made.
- 4) **Approval of Minutes.** To approve the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 13th August 2026. No questions raised and duly signed as record of the meeting
- 5) **Public forum.** *Adjournment of the meeting for 10 mins to allow the residents to raise questions or speak on an agenda item.*
 - Cllr Orme proposed that Members of the public be allowed to speak during the public forum, all Cllrs in agreement.
 - Two members of Herriad Parish Council and one resident of Herriad shared their concerns about speeding in the local area with particular reference to The Avenue and Golden Pot. They were attending the meeting to understand what Shalden PC has done to try and address speeding in the parish and to ask whether the PC would consider whether a coordinated approach would be possible.
 - Cllr Orme shared an overview of what steps Shalden PC has taken to date to address the issue.
- 6) **Report from County Councillor Cox.**
 - a) **Highways.** Assessments were completed historically for changes to the road layout; a roundabout and traffic lights. Both options would require land purchase and in addition to groundworks would cost £1m and £0.5m respectively. Funding is not available.
? Cllr Cox was asked by the Chair why the cost of traffic lights is so much when temporary roadwork lights seem to meet the required standard and don't require access to private land. Cllr Cox committed to asking the Highways team.
Golden Pot. Speed limit is going to be reduced to 40mph in October. Next question was whether linking roads should also be reduced to 40mph: density of homes and fronting development were considered along with accident history and the number of private entrances. Assessment advises it does not feel built up enough and police don't believe a reduced speed limit would be enforceable.
Cllr Cox advised she would be prepared to add her name should the PC decide to a letter to local businesses requesting their support in improving road safety along The Avenue. Item to be added to the next agenda for Cllrs to consider.
 - b) **LGR.** Government has withdrawn decision after judicial review submitted.

7) Report from District Councillor Costigan. No report received.

8) To note the latest information on Local Government Reorganisation and the possible implications for Shalden Parish Council

- On 7 September 2026, Government announced that it had withdrawn its previous decision on local government reorganisation (LGR) for several areas, including Hampshire and the wider Solent area, and will now review that decision following updated legal advice
- Advice from EHDC is that elections at District Council and Parish Council level will be held in May 2027
- Details are updated on Future Hampshire website for interested parties. HALC has resources available for PCs too.
- Thanks noted to Cllr Taylor for attending briefing in the summer.

9) Parish Council Finances/Administration

a) Clerk's report inc

i) Updates post August meeting

- Attended Thanksgiving Service for Cllr Kemp-Gee on behalf of Shalden PC (3rd Sept). Order of Service made available to Cllrs.
- Article in The Villager confirming recent work of PC and upcoming meetings including
- The change in speed limit has been approved for Golden Pot junction. Implementation date is scheduled for Friday 23 October 2026 with related works being completed ahead of this (15th-22nd Oct).
- Tree damage. Details of events share with Hampshire Constabulary, County Cllr Cox, Hampshire Countryside Services and Froyle PC. Hampshire Countryside Services has attended and been in touch with LOs to clear damage on their lands. No further instances to date. Cllrs to consider whether there are significant local trees that would benefit from TPOS.
- Defib at Village Hall. Clerk to follow up on details but currently signed as "Out of Service". Clerk will update website.

ii) Correspondence. Items covered in later agenda items

b) Financial summary for May - August 2026 and in addition:

i) Notification of Payments made under Item 14 of the Financial Regulations since the last meeting

ii) Notification/authorisation of other payments

Approved and signed.

10) Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the year ended 31 March 2026

- a)** To note the conclusion of the external audit and receipt of the external auditor report and certificate (Final Report). Receipt of this documents confirmed and circulated to the Cllrs
- b)** To consider the findings of the Final Report and decide what, if any, action is required.
Final Report was shared. No findings requiring action.
- c)** To confirm the publication dates of the Notice of conclusion along with the certified AGAR (sections 1, 2 and Final Report) . It was proposed and agreed that the Notice of Conclusion be placed on the

Website and noticeboard on that day and be displayed to the end of October. The certified AGAR will be placed on the website.

11) Utilities. To consider a report from the Clerk on the quotes for the next electricity contract and to agree what action will be taken.

- Current fixed term contract is due to end 28th Sept. Four quotes sourced and circulated ahead of the meeting. Two from Octopus (current provider).
- While Octopus is not the financially "best" contract, Clerk recommended that based on their customer service and works that have been carried out, the PC should enter into a 24mnth contract.
- Proposals considered and Cllr Taylor proposed Octopus 24mnths, Cllr Orme seconded and all in agreement.

12) Recreation Ground working group. To receive a verbal report on the progress of refurbishment project and to decide any actions

a) Finances

- Budget for project £31,400
- To date £24,462.58 has been committed (inc full cost of purchase)
- Grants. Cllr Whitcher has secured two grants from two local companies £8,000 and £12,000. Conditions are being clarified so Cllrs will need to confirm their comfort with these in due course.

b) Utilities

- SSE refund cheque received this week. In total £435.16 was paid to SEN for disconnection and reconnection
- Octopus attended site today (Wednesday 23rd Sept) to reinstall the smart meter
- TBC detaching the connection from the septic tank

c) Removal of existing pavilion

- Sold on EBay for £1. Buyer has been in contact with two companies that Clerk obtained transportation quotes from. Unfortunately neither will deliver to the buyer as location is on grass. Cllr Orme has given the buyer a week to identify another company. Buyer is aware that PC need unit moved before month end.
- Disposal companies. David Stanley £2225+vat. Nortons £3990.00 + vat (unit must be empty). NJM Scrap Metal £4-5000
- Working group need to agree when buyer's deadline for action and approve quote for disposal is buyer does not make arrangements.

d) New pavilion

- Remaining 50% balance due to BritCab on confirmation of delivery date

e) Groundworks.

- Requirements obtained from BritCab
- Two quotes obtained for works and circulated to Cllrs. Another quote is also being drawn up from a third company.
- Working group need to recommend which company is engaged.

f) Stakeholders

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- AFC. New contract for 26/27 season not yet drawn up as they confirmed they do not wish to use pitch without facilities
 - Village Hall. Have advised that a backup plan should be made for Fireworks event as currently new unit delivery and utilities can not be confirmed.

13) Tree Warden. Further to the APM, Shalden PC has become aware that there is an assigned Tree Warden in the parish (linked through the Tree Council national scheme). To consider the guidance on a Tree Warden's role and how the Parish Council may wish to engage with the scheme.

It was agreed that Cllr Jones would clarify with the resident whether they wish to continue as a Tree Warden and if so what responsibilities they would be interested in undertaking. Cllr Jones will report back at the next meeting and the PC will decide any action.

14) Next Meeting - Wednesday 18th November at 7:30pm

Meeting closed 8:38pm

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Signed: D Orme, Chair of SPC

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Dated

