

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: James Plant

CLERK: Julia Elliman

Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th April 2026 at Sheet Village Hall

Present. Cllrs. James Plant (in the Chair), Brian Bird, Ric Flatt, Robin Forrest, Liz Hartley, Owen Jonathan, Sue Wood and Craig Stevens

In Attendance. Cllrs. Oppenheimer (County Councillor) and Drew (District Councillor)
Julia Elliman, Clerk

A resident of Mill Lane was present.

26/62 Apologies – None

26/63 Declarations of Pecuniary Interests – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda – none declared.

26/64 Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2026 were approved as a correct record and duly signed.

26/65 Public Comment - None

26/66 County Councillor's Report – Cllr. Oppenheimer's Annual report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and the details noted. He remarked that the work of the Parish Council made an enormous difference and highlighted the intended reform to local government and the opportunities this might bring. He also stated that work at the Pullens Lane / Durford Road crossroads had been given a green light and was in progress. Cllrs. asked how difficult it would be to put in a Pelican Crossing on London Road, to slow traffic and provide safe crossing. He suggested that this would be expensive but that might be the only option. Cllrs. took the opportunity to thank Cllr. Oppenheimer for all his hard work and support to the PC.

The report is appended to the Minutes and will be made available to members of the public via the Parish Council website – www.sheetparishcouncil.gov.uk

26/67 District Councillor's Report

Cllr. Drew reported that the grant window was open and could be used for additional speed cameras and that speeding and noise were raised as critical in his recent door knocking. He mentioned that this should be seen as reducing the speed of the journey not just one area.

Bike noise could not currently be recorded although a new system was being tested in Somerset and he was pushing for Hants police to validate this test. Hampshire Highways (HH) had a statutory duty to keep speed limits at the right level.

He also noted that East Hants was due to lose some parishes to Portsmouth under the Local Government reforms, and he wished to push back on this to support the parishes in question, who were not content. In essence it would limit space for development in our council, as well as potentially limiting bus routes and driving up council tax rates. Those houses already being built in East Hants areas might then become a 'gain' for Portsmouth. He also noted that the migration process itself would be expensive. There was a District Plan in draft which would now need to be paused as there would be a number of plans generated in the Unitary Council.

26/68 Planning – There were no objections.

26/69 Village Green –

- **Horse Chestnut Tree** - Cllr. Forrest noted that a COBRA system had been recommended to keep the HC tree together and stabilise the branches and trunk. This would cost £780. Cllrs. wished to see pictures of the system in action to aid decision making. The other option was a circular steel band. It was also suggested that the gap in the trunk could just be monitored before any decision on action was taken. **Cllr. Forrest** to cost the steel band.
- **Repair of seat** – The Clerk reported that another local company had quoted £8-10k replace the seat, but a further alternative quote had not been found as the specialist machinery needed had limited suitable companies. Cllr. Bird was therefore asked to make a formal quote and undertake the work. **Cllr. Bird**

26/70 Repair of Parish Notice Boards

- Cllr Bird agreed to repair the Noticeboards with an estimated cost of <£500. **Cllr. Bird**

26/71 Finance – Items as per the Agenda:

- April payments were approved
- The March bank reconciliation was not available as a correction needed to be made. It would be made available at the next meeting.
- A new passbook for the Cambridge BS was en route. When received a decision would be made on transfer to an account where the monies would accrue better interest. **Cllr. Stevens / Clerk**
- Cllr. Flatt noted that Sheet was not currently covering the running costs of Sheet Village Hall and hire rates were not increased in FY 24/25 in line with inflation. He presented a review of local Village Hall hire rates and it was agreed that all rates for Sheet Village Hall would be raised in line with these, but with a ‘residents rate’ added. Cllr. Plant wished to review Steep and Buriton charges before the change took place. 1 Jul was proposed for implementation. **Cllr. Flatt / Clerk**
- It was noted that the review of Allotment rates and contract was ongoing. **Cllrs. Plant / Jonathan.**

26/72 Policies and Regulations –

- The Retention Policy was approved. **Clerk**

26/73 IT –

- The current IT system was explained, and it was agreed that Cllr. Stevens and the Clerk would source some IT training to enable them to support the rest of the PC in its use. It was also noted that the current IT support contract would come to an end on the near future, and it was further agreed that a more corporate replacement should be identified. **Cllr. Stevens / Clerk**

26/74 Roads and Traffic –

- Nothing further to report from HH
- A grant was not sought towards a speed test
- Road Safety Report was made by Cllrs. Jonathan and Stevens with the following recommendations and observations:
 - HH needed to be engaged but they appeared reluctant to discuss it, so the PC should continue with its own work in the meantime
 - Camera data could be used to generate average speed reports, two of which had already been sent to the police and could be used to determine the best positioning was for the cameras.
 - It was difficult to reduce the speed limit as the natural traffic speed was used as a determining factor
 - A Pelican Crossing would be considered by HH - possible sites either side of Pullens Lane
 - A notice / flyers telling the public how to report accidents/incidents was needed, possibly including a QR code for ease of access
- It was agreed to talk to the local Community Policewoman about parking enforcement, especially on the corner by the Nursery. **Clerk**

- It was agreed that tree encroachment on School Lane could be dealt with by the Lengthsman if there was capacity, but this would take up a lot of the budget and so self-help might be required.

26/75 Recreation Ground

- It was agreed that no further action on the Playground Inspection Report was needed at this time.

26/76 Mill Lane

- **Sewage** – It was noted that 2.8km of sewage pipe relining was needed from Steep Farm Cottages. Cllr Wood had also written again to Chris Fitzwilliams at Clean Island who had originally identified the issue, to enquire when resolution was likely. Damien Hinds had also been in touch with him.
- **Damage** – No response had been received as yet on the Verge Damage. **Clerk**

26/77 Village Hall –

- The updated quote already agreed and budgeted for the repair of the roof was deemed reasonable, 7
- Minor alterations to storage requirements were noted - work to be completed as approved. **Clerk**

26/78 The Old Billiard Room – No update was available.

26/79 Millennium Field/Dog Waste – No response has yet been received from PTC. **Clerk**

26/80 BT Phone Box – To be progressed noting correspondence suggestion early action was advised to ensure the box was not removed. **Cllrs. Wood / Flatt**

26/81 Lengthsman – Items raised had been identified to Steep Clerk for tasking. **Clerk**

26/82 Allotments – The request for an additional plot (Plot 44) from Radek Bialek (currently Plot 58) was grated on condition the boundaries were maintained. **Clerk**

26/83 Correspondence

- A renewal notice for the Playground Safety Inspection contract was agreed.
- An email (circulated) from East Hants District Council suggested early engagement over the telephone box lest removal be swift after consultation is finished was noted. **Cllrs. Wood / Flatt**

26/84 Annual Parish Assembly 2026 – It was agreed that the meeting would commence with Parish business, continuing with the Guest Speaker in the second half. **Cllr. Plant** would write a report to be included on the website.

26/85 Date of Next Meeting – The next meeting of Sheet Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday, 12th May 2026** at 7.00 p.m. at Sheet Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.56 p.m.

Julia Elliman
Clerk

6th May 2026