

SHEET PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRPERSON: James Plant

CLERK: Julia Elliman

Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th March 2026 at Sheet Village Hall

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

In Attendance. Cllrs. Nick Drew (District Councillor)
Julia Elliman, Clerk

Dominic Martin, Liberal Democrat candidate for the East Hampshire seat, was present.

26/39 Apologies – Apologies had been received from Cllr. Owen Jonathan.

26/40 Declarations of Pecuniary Interests – Councillors were reminded of their responsibility to declare any pecuniary interest on any item on the agenda – none declared.

26/41 Minutes – The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th February 2026 were approved as a correct record and duly signed.

26/42 Public Comment

The Chair welcomed Dominic Martin and raised the issue of local government reorganisation. He noted that the Council was navigating considerable uncertainty around this issue and its impact on the Parish Council's future role and structure, The lack of detailed information available remains a challenge.

Dominic noted that he plans to visit parishes to understand local concerns and capture grassroots views amid political and administrative changes. He also noted the need for better communication about parish council relevance post-reforms and the concerns of residents.

26/43 County Councillor's Report – Cllr. Oppenheimer's monthly report had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting and the details noted. 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

26/44 District Councillor's Report

Nick reported on ongoing infrastructure projects, including the slow speed of delivery of works on Pullens Lane. He noted that there would be a demonstration at the Pullens lane/Durford Road junction on Sat 14th Mar, which he suggested supporting to raise more focus on other work needed.

He also noted:

- The East Hampshire council tax rose by **£5 for Group D properties**, though relief programs remain for those in need.
- Fiscal discipline led to spending **£200k less than budgeted last year**, freeing funds for current projects.
- Community grant applications open end of April, with emphasis on timely submission and targeted use.
- Spring Clean Month launched to tackle litter, particularly from visitors impacting the national park.
- The Parish council noted it was supporting litter picking events, with plans to provide **about 20 litter pickers** for volunteers. Safety concerns were raised about litter picking on open roads, emphasizing proper insurance and high-visibility gear.
- The issue of abandoned road signs was raised

- The lack of proper discussion on planning enforcement over the width of the access lane to the new development off Pullens lane was noted.

26/45 Planning – There were no planning applications to consider.

26/46 Village Green –

- **Horse Chestnut Tree** - Cllr. Forrest had reviewed the report from the 2023 Survey, which recommended an annual survey with an estimated cost of £250+VAT. Approval was given. **Cllr. Forrest**
- **Repair of seat** – Cllr. Bird submitted a quote to replace the seat around the tree of but noted that other quotes were difficult to find due to the type of specialist machinery needed. It was agreed that a list of tradespeople used by local councils would be compiled and further quotes sought. **Cllrs. and Clerk**

26/47 Finance – Items as per the Agenda:

- February payments were approved.
- The February bank reconciliation was approved
- The change of signatories for the Cambridge Bank Account was approved but issues noted with effecting those changes.
- It was agreed that Reserves would not be reallocated at present due to uncertainty over increased funds needed for the remainder of the Village Hall roof refurbishment and works on the OBR.
- It was agreed that hire rates for the Village Hall would be reviewed to make Hire more cost effective. **Cllr Flatt**
- The contract for Allotment hire would be reviewed to bring Terms and Conditions up to date, including possible charges for water and maintenance as well as polytunnels and other factors. Tilmore Road contract to be reviewed for comparison. **Cllrs. Plant/Jonathon.**

26/48 Policies and Regulations

All the Policies under review as per the Agenda were agreed, with the following comments:

- The asset register includes new items like speed indicator devices. To be reviewed. **Cllr. Plant**
- Insurance coverage for village assets, including the OBR and community equipment, is under formal review. Coordination with Zurich insurer and legal advisors is ongoing to ensure full coverage and risk management. **Cllr. Plant**
- Concerns were raised about adequacy of rebuilding cost valuations, especially given recent construction cost rises. To be reviewed. **Cllr. Plant & Clerk**
- A new IT/email policy is in draft **Cllrs. Plant/Stevens**

26/49 Roads and Traffic – To be updated on Cllrs. Owen and Steven's return

26/50 Recreation Ground

- Concerns were raised over Hybrid Move's request to use the Recreation ground for Fitness Classes due to disruption to the Scout Association, existing users and residents. Safeguarding risk was also raised. They would be offered the Millenium Field for consideration as an alternative. **Clerk**
- The Playground Survey was noted and would be reviewed for any required action. **Clerk**

26/51 Mill Lane

- **Sewage** – Chris Fitzwilliams (Clean Island) hadn't responded but the Southern Water report went direct to PC not to S Water. Cllr. Wood had asked the number of residents who had reported action for GU 32.
- **Damage** - It was agreed to write to the waste MD at S. Water to request that waste trucks enter Mill Lane from the old A3 and to repair damage in due course. Use of logs on the verge was also raised and the Lengthsman would be considered for verge repairs. **Clerk**

26/52 Village Hall –

- The quote already agreed and budgeted for the repair of the roof would be updated to reflect price increases and returned to the PC for approval. **Clerk**
- Minor alterations to storage requirements were noted - work to be completed as approved. **Clerk**

26/53 The Old Billiard Room – No update was available but it was agreed a meeting would be organised with the architect on Cllr Jonathan's return. The closing date for SDNPA CIL funding was noted (Item 16).

26/54 Millennium Field/Dog Waste– No response has yet been received from PTC.

26/55 BT Phone Box – The council expressed an interest in the adoption of the telephone box on the green but it was noted that there was a 90 day period before application could be made. To be progressed. **Cllrs. Wood/Flatt**

26/56 Lengthsman – A number of items were identified:

- Camellia petals which were making the pavement slippery and unsafe and that consideration could be given to the use of the Lengthsman although technically the responsibility of the pub.
- Sapling covers on the Millennium Field needed to be collected.
- Should prioritise mud clearance from roads.
- The issue of ash trees leaning over the road near the Church was raised but

26/57 Allotments – The contractor clearing the plot by the gate would be contacted and also asked to quote for clearance of other plots in need of work. **Clerk**

26/58 Annual Parish Assembly 2026 – Louise Barnettson was confirmed as the speaker for the APA on Thu 14th May 26.

26/59 Correspondence

- A renewal notice for the Playground Safety Inspection contract has been received.
- An email (circulated) from East Hants District Council suggested early engagement over the telephone box lest removal be swift after consultation is finished.

26/60 Confidential Items – NSTR

26/61 Date of Next Meeting – The next meeting of Sheet Parish Council will be held on **Tuesday, 14th April 2026** at 7.00 p.m. at Sheet Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.54 p.m.