MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SHOSCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 12TH MARCH 2026

Present: Fiona Crockett, Tim Marchant, Ian Cannock (Chair), John Whittock and Jean Fosaceco (Clerk)

Also Present: Members of the public and Fiona Gourley (Ward Councillor)

1. **Apologies**: Tricia Wastvedt and Lisa Coles
2. **Declaration of Interests for this meeting:** None declared
3. **10 Minutes public participation:** The application to register the Apple Tree Inn as an Asset of Community Value has been accepted and a Community Benefits Society is being formed. Many volunteers attended a recent meeting with some offering financial pledges. A bid will be made in due course. The long-term plan is that the pub will become a community hub with the possibility of a shop being considered. It has been confirmed the building's Grade 2 listing will not be an issue. The Society is asking for the Parish Council's support and a financial donation towards upfront costs. They would also ask that the Hall be hired for meetings either free of charge or at a concessionary rate; this will be requested to the Village Hall Management Committee. A business plan will be compiled once a survey and valuation has taken place. Posters and leaflets will be printed and distributed.
4. **Minutes of the last meeting:** All in order

5. Clerk's Report	**ACTION**	**TIMELINE**
As distributed. PROW – BA25/33 which links with by-way BA23/7 leading to BA25/43 are being investigated by B&&NES with regard to heavy duty speeding traffic and fly tipping. Our Ward Councillor offered to also look into this for us. The clerk will email her. The Council agreed unanimously to appoint the clerk as Data Protection Lead.	JF	ASAP
6. Ward Councillor Report		
Our Ward Councillor has no further news on the Cinder Path. She confirmed that Sustran's are still looking at potential footpaths together with Matt McCabe regarding one to the school, and further meetings will take place but a date is yet to be set.		
7. Financial Matters		
ALCA £35.00 x 5 plus £70.00 for training fees (already paid) **Clerk's overtime for additional duties for Assertion 10** – 15 hours-£215.40 gross-£172.40 net & £43.00 HMRC-Proposed JW & seconded FC – All in favour **Additional printing costs for Assertion 10 training/policies etc** £40.00 – Approved **Village Hall Sign –Milsom Metalworks** - £276.00 incl of VAT (already paid) **Dunkley's Payroll** - £50.28 (already paid) **New laptop which is compliant for Windows 11** – up to £600.00 plus Sophos anti-virus protection - £40.00 p.a. Office 365 £85.00 p.a. including Cloud storage was approved – Proposed IC and seconded – TM – all in favour **Money in: VHMC -** £230.00 reimbursement for Village Hall sign **Clerk's proposed salary increase** – 3.34% increase as recommended by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services. Proposed – IC and seconded – JW - This was approved by the Council.	All noted Clerk to purchase	ASAP

8. Planning		
25/04569/FUL – Oak Cottage – B&NES decision to permit **25/04860/VAR Variation of Condition** – Land west of St Julian's Farm – B&NES decision to permit **Draft Planning Format** – Due to a time issue, this will be discussed at the next meeting.	Noted JF	Decisions noted ***Agenda Item
9. Climate, Nature and Sustainability Working Group Nothing to Report	TW	
10. Village Hall and Recreation Field – Report distributed		
Air Heat Source pump – the relocation of this to a safe area is being investigated to mitigate damage or theft. **Loose Cable** – National Grid have investigated the cable and determine it is not secured. However, an electrician will be contacted to confirm this before it is removed. **Provision of Disabled/Accessible toilet/s** - Discussions have taken place but no decision has been taken as yet. **Car park drainage to eradicate the mud slide and potential flooding** – with all the recent rain, as well as the mud slide on the slope at the side of the Hall towards Barn Hill, water was up to the cladding to the rear of the of Hall. A local contractor has dug a temporary trench/channel which has helped but tarmac needs raising. A further trench and/or a soakaway may be required. TM will speak to the VHMC about seeking external advice. **Play Area Inspection –** the last inspection highlighted some minor issues with one regarded as medium risk. We are told by the inspector this should be addressed within the next 5 years but there is no urgency. TM will speak to our local contractor regarding the mole hills on the field and some of the minor problems at the play area including the fence and jet washing some areas.	TM TM/ VHMC TM TM	By the next meeting Ongoing By the next meeting By the next meeting
11. Nomination of the Apple Tree as an Asset of Community Value		
Following the presentation by members of the Community Benefits Society during the 10-minute Public Participation item, detailed discussions took place. The Council are aware that time is of the essence and there is a great deal to be done. It was decided the Parish Council supports the Society and agrees to underwrite up to £400 of reasonable expenditure to expedite the initial process to begin the acquisition of the Apple Tree Inn in order for this to proceed quickly for the benefit of the community. The clerk will contact the Society to inform them.	JF	ASAP
12. Adoption of new policies – IT, Data Protection, Document Retention, Data Breach & Freedom of Information to comply with Assertion 10 requirements – These were unanimously adopted by the Council and will be published on the website by the clerk.	JF	ASAP
13. Sustran's Update– FCr – Report distributed		
A member of the public in attendance expressed his concern about the lack of information passed to residents regarding the proposals submitted last year which were later withdrawn. He wishes to formally request that residents, together with the school and Council, are consulted and involved in any new suggestions from the outset. The clerk will contact Sustran's and ask about updates and a timeline.	JF	ASAP

14.Councillor Reports		
A) **HELAA/Local Plan** – No further updates B) **Public Rights of Way** – BA25/33 which links with by-way BA23/7 leading to BA25/43 are being investigated by B&NES with regard to heavy duty speeding traffic and fly tipping. Our Ward Councillor offered to also look into this for us. There is an issue with access to a footpath in Stoney Littleton which is being looked into. C) **School –** See Sustran's. The Head and Deputy Head are taking part in a Hadrian's Wall Easter Walking Challenge to raise money for school outdoor play equipment. D) **Highways** – A Highways Inspector has visited Single Hill near the Old Chapel to assess the road condition and drainage issues that were reported and agreed repairs will take place. JW has met with and/spoken to a number of B&NES officers and our Ward Councillor Matt McCabe. Road safety in Double Hill is being considered with a 40mph limit potentially being enforced but not until 2027/08; speed data can be obtained via Tom Tom devices which have been provided and SLOW signs have been painted on the road. A request by Highways is that residents report any issues in the parish via Fix My Street initially as this can then be read, logged and actioned as appropriate as well providing the reporter a reference number and updates. The clerk will mention this in the newsletter. E) **Burial Board/Church –** It has been confirmed no precept is required this coming financial year.	JW JF	Ongoing Include in newsletter piece
15. Parish Council Action Plan for 2026		
Deferred until May.		
16. Clerk's Appraisal		
This took place on Thursday 12th February. A formal update was given to the Council together with thanks for all the clerk does.		
Dates of Next Meetings: **18th March – Parish Liaison** **7th May 2026 – Parish Council Annual Meeting** **22nd June – Bathavon Forum** **9th July - Parish Council** **10th September - Parish Council**		