



Minutes of a meeting of Great Shefford Parish Council held on Monday 7th April 2025 at 7.30pm at Great Shefford Village Hall

Present: Councillor Louisa Freeman (Chairman)
Councillors Miranda Armstrong, Tony Coard, Piers Storey, Carol Turner
and Eunice Tweedie

In attendance: Mel Taylor (Parish Clerk)
3 x members of public

2025-04/01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.
District Councillor Clive Hooker had advised that he was unable to attend.

2025-04/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

2025-04/03 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED to take as read and confirm as accurate the Minutes of the meeting held on
3rd March 2025.

Minute Reference 025-03/04 Open Forum

It was noted that the Environment Agency were invited to attend this meeting,
but no response had been received. The Clerk to pursue for attendance at the
May meeting.

Councillor Armstrong joined the meeting

2025-04/04 OPEN FORUM

i. The following question was raised by a member of the public:

A resident requested permission to site a set of goal posts on the
recreation ground, that were no longer of use to his family. The goals
were smaller than the goalposts currently installed at the recreation
ground, therefore more suitable for younger children, as aimed at
under 13's.

RESOLVED to grant permission for the goalposts to be sited at the recreation ground,
north of the current goalposts.

Councillors thanked the resident and he left the meeting

ii. **Report from District Councillor**

There was no report from Councillor Hooker.

2025-04/05 TRAFFIC CALMING AND SPEED AWARENESS

It was noted that West Berkshire Council had agreed that a Members' Bid grant received for a replacement Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) could be used to replace an alternative VAS in the village. Therefore, the new VAS would be installed on the Wantage Road, replacing the current faulty VAS. It had been hoped that the faulty VAS could be repaired and reinstalled at Hungerford Hill, however, following inspection, it had been confirmed to be beyond repair. Therefore, a replacement for the VAS removed from Hungerford Hill due to fault, had been placed on West Berkshire Council's replacement programme, awaiting funding.

Councillor Tweedie advised that an enquiry had been submitted to Thames Valley Police as to whether the Parish Council could establish its own speed awareness group, and a response was awaited.

It was agreed that data should continue to be collected from speed monitoring sessions, as this was vital to support any future potential traffic calming measures. The Clerk to establish that data was being recorded by the Speed Awareness Group.

2025-04/06 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Updates on new planning applications and decisions since the last meeting were noted, as per appendix I to these minutes.

2025-04/07 FINANCE

- i. There were no payments presented for approval.
- ii. It was noted that attempts to communicate with SSE regarding the incorrect contract charges were ongoing with no response received to date, despite multiple correspondence.

2025-04/08 VILLAGE MATTERS**i. Village Events**

Councillor Turner reported that volunteer turnout for the last community litter pick on 6th April had been low, and advised that, in general, litter in the village appeared to have reduced. The next community litter picks would be held on Sunday 1st June 2025, 3rd August 2025 and 5th October 2025.

ii. Village Communications – website, Facebook and coordinated communications

It was agreed to check with the author of the parish e-newsletter whether this could be uploaded to the website.

It was agreed to continue to share information via existing social media channels rather than establishing the Council's own page.

2025-04/08 VILLAGE MATTERS continued**iii. Update on the Asset of Community Value (ACV) application for The Great Shefford**

It was reported at the last meeting that a new ACV application had been submitted. Councillor Freeman advised that this application had subsequently been withdrawn, as The Great Shefford had recently been sold and the new owner would not have sufficient time to respond to the application. The application could be re-submitted in the future.

It was announced that [Councillor] Miranda Armstrong was the new owner of the pub and Councillors thanked Miranda for bringing the pub back into village hands.

iv. Future Councillor 'Meet & Greet'

The next opportunity was the Annual Parish Meeting on 12th May 2025, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

2025-04/09 FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME AND SAGLUV (Sewage Action Group for the Lambourn Upper Valley)

Councillor Freeman reported that the projected completion date was still the end of May 2025. Additional lining had been completed and surveys conducted. It had been unseasonably dry, but things were being monitored.

A visit to Shefford Sewage Works was scheduled for 25th April and Councillor Coard would be attending.

2025-04/10 COUNCILLORS' BUSINESS

- i.** Councillor Storey advised that several residents had commented on an unauthorised encampment. Councillor Storey had liaised with Sovereign, as land owner, who had confirmed they were in communication with West Berkshire Council. Residents were advised to report concerns to Sovereign if they wished.
- ii.** Councillor Storey reported that syringe bags had been found in the alleyway by the pub bridge. This was the second occurrence. It was agreed to report to the Neighbourhood Police Team.
- iii.** Councillor Turner reminded Councillors that Councillor Freeman would be stepping down as Chairman at the next meeting and a new Chairman was required.
- iv.** Councillors Storey and Tweedie both announced that they would be looking to step down from the Council at some point, due to other commitments.

2025-04/11 MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

Nothing at this time.

2025-04/12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 12th May 2025 at **8.30pm** (following the Annual Parish Meeting at 7.30pm).

Subsequent meeting dates 2025: 2nd June, 7th July, 8th September, 6th October and 3rd November.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.42pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Appendix I

Application No.	Address	Details	Status (at time of meeting)	GSPC response
24/00892/LBC	Shefford House Newbury Road	New internal lined opening to first floor	Approved	Nil
24/01903/HOUSE	Rowan House Wantage Road	Proposed single-storey side and rear extension with associated alterations and proposed detached car port	Awaiting decision	Nil
24/02156/FUL	East Shefford House	Part retrospective installation of solar panel	Awaiting Decision	Nil
24/02716/HOUSE	Shefford House Newbury Road	Relocation of swimming pool	Approved	Nil
25/00567/FUL	Land East of The Old Post House Newbury Road Shefford Woodlands	Erection of an Agricultural Barn with storage	Awaiting decision	Nil
25/00672/NONMAT	3 The Old Railway Station Station Road	Revised windows and door configuration on north and west elevations	Awaiting decision	Nil