



BRIGHTWELL-CUM-SOTWELL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting duly convened on 17th February 2026 @ 7.30pm in the

Stewart Room, West End, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell

Draft Minutes Approved at Meeting 24/3/2026

Present: Cllrs. J Davys (Chair), G Gilgrass, D Fisher, R Nielsen, Karen Sherman, J Debney, M Freeman,
In attendance: J Gray (Clerk), James Barlow (OCC (Observer) G. Ritucci (Observer) + 1

1)	Receive Apologies: Cllr Janet Harding & Cllr. C Hollebhone, Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson - ACCEPTED
2)	To Confirm and sign a true record of the last meeting of Parish Council 20/1/26 – Agreed by all
3)	To Vote & Co-opt New Council Member: Matt Freeman
4)	New Council Member to Sign Declaration of Office Book – Signed and Witnessed by all
5)	Declaration of Interests; NIL
6)	Public Participation: S Scott SMS Planning re Planning Application P25/S4056/FUL A full explanation was provided by S Scott and documents presented for the planning application at the land adjoining Pumping Station, Sotwell Street. Amendments have been made to enhance the approval of the application and it was agreed that this was now a better design. Cllr, J Debney had not fully reviewed the request and will further consider the application on 18/2/26 to for comments to the SODC.
7)	Reports:
a)	<p>County Council: Cllr J Barlow in attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr. Barlow provided his report by email before the meeting for all Council to review. • Comments were made by Cllr. K Sherman concerning the A4130 Barriers along Calvin Thomas Way and what was happening regarding a more permanent fixture to the current barriers in place; these are continually causing problems with movement and damaged ones abandoned on the roadside. Cllr Barlow stated that he is continuing to chase this up and will advise us when he has any further information. • Potholes: Further conversations regarding what is happening with repairs: advised by Cllr Barlow that an increase in funding is being made available for more crews to deal with the potholes. He also commented that we need to continue to use FixMyStreet to report potholes. We were advised that we can also email Andrew Gant and Senior Highways to make a complaint • Street Lighting: Cllr. J Debney wished to minute that he was VERY disappointed with the reply received from the OCC as he felt it was one-sided and did not reflect full picture with no reference from the conservation office regarding the neighbourhood plan: Cllr. Debney will be writing a further letter to them with the support of Cllr. Barlow.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sires Hill: speed limit – request for it to be lowered to 20mph as well as considering the weight limit and removal of hedges. Cllr. Barlow will speak with Highways and District Council Planning regarding this request.
B)	<p>District Council Report: Cllr Anne-Marie Simpson not in attendance apologies sent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report was emailed and passed to all Parish Councillors for review.
C)	<p>Clerks Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk updated that Scofell had been advised their tender had been accepted; will contact them to add Millennium Wood onto the schedule as the quote for cutting footpath 3 times a year was approved unanimously by all Parish Councillors • Clerk advised that a letter had been received regarding the dangerous wall on the Croft Path and that the home owners are currently dealing with the repair • The letter sent regarding Farthing Corner to S Crawford: reply received; diarised for May to chase • The letter to planning enforcement regarding the building at The Highlands has been sent and we await a response • Clerk advised that 'All' Policies need review as per AGAR due; agreed that 2 policies a month will be reviewed and re adopted when all amendments (where necessary) are made and approved; starting Feb 2026 • Updated Parish Councillor Responsibilities; Clerk to put onto Website • Clerk advised that grant for the Cobb Wall had been approved and that the applicants have been advised • Clerk advised that the first set of information had been sent to Jane Olds Internal Auditor in January
d)	<p>Planning: Nil to report: Other than Cllr. J Debney to comment on P25/4056/FUL (as above in public participation)</p>
8)	<p>Agree February Payments & Payments made between meetings – All Agreed for payment</p>
9).	<p>Late Invoice Arrow Fencing – Macney Lane/Kings Meadow Fence - £1518.00 Approved for payment by all Councillors</p>
10)	<p>Pavillion Update: Cllr. R Nielsen</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter received from SODC on 3/2/26 stating that the issues related to the building have been dropped. • The Eco team decided that there were NO bats • Eco team still have a few concerns regarding the water running from the car park going into the stream & the hedge along the lane (? Trimming issues)
11)	<p>Village Halle Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr. Gilgrass updated the Councillors that a meeting took place on the 29/1/26; this was very well attended with a number of new people stepping forward to assist with the Village Hall/plans going forward • Letter has been sent to the Developer at Site B explaining how the Village Hall would be of use to the new house development; hopeful that they will consider supporting the fund raising • Charity Auction being arranged with the help of Cllr. K Sherman; Auction of Promises for further fund raising
12)	<p>Tennis Courts – Fencing/Recreation Ground foot path including Arrow Quote & any questions for discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quote received from Arrow Fencing to widen the bridge at Macney Lane @ cost of £315.00 plus VAT to make this safe for residents; Cllr. Gilgrass will contact the Farmer to ask for their approval to carry out this work for safety; Approved by all Councillors to be carried out when we have confirmation we can go ahead with the work by the Farmer • Quote received from Arrow Fencing for Tennis Court @ Kings Meadow to fit a new corner post @ cost £350.00 plus VAT Approved by all Councillors by to hold until a decision is made regarding the Fence (Cllr. Gilgrass to discuss with Tony Windsor (Tennis Courts) and Sports Courts.
13)	<p>Calvin Thomas Way – Barriers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As discussed with Cllr J Barlow above
14)	<p>Defibrillator Cabinet – Village Hall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk advised that there was a fault with current cabinet and obtained 2 prices to a) repair or b) replace. • Proposed by Cllr. J Davys and Seconded by Cllr. G Gilgrass to replace at a cost of £491.94 – unanimously agree by all other Councillors • Clerk to place order for this

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J. Davys 24/3/26



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15)	Quote Scofell: Millennium Wood Footpath <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approved unanimously
16)	Citizens Advice – request for funding <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Request was sent to all Councillor's before meeting; Long consultation at the meeting and after a proposal and second insufficient votes from other Councillors so request not passed.• Clerk to contact CAB to advise unsuccessful application
17)	Replacement Laptop: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clerk's Laptop screen faulty and cost was extreme to repair• Request for replacement was made to all Councillors; Cllr J. Harding, in her absence, sent an email approving this replacement from budgeted funds• Proposed by Cllr. J Davys Seconded by Cllr K Sherman – unanimous from all other councillors• Clerk to source from Curry's with help of Cllr. M Freeman
18)	Potholes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussed at point 7a

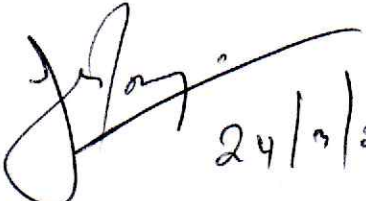
It was agreed that the next meeting of the Council would take place on **17th February 2026 @ The Stewart Room, Village Hall, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell**

There being no further business the meeting was **declared closed at 9.02 pm**

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