



Shaftesbury Town Council

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Interim Town Clerk: Ms Billy Maddock
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To: Members of the Sustainable Shaftesbury Advisory Committee (SuSAC)
Sue Clifford, Mike Cummings, Cllr Lester Dibben, Bernard Ede, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Jen Hirsch, Angela King, Gideon King, Jenny Morisetti (Vice-Chair), John Nelson, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas (Chairman), Lucy Young

A G E N D A

You are summoned to a meeting for the transaction of the business shown on the agenda below. To be held at **5:30pm on Tuesday 24th February 2026** in the Council Chamber, Shaftesbury Town Hall.

Ms Billy Maddock
Interim Town Clerk, 18th February 2026

Public Participation and Introduction of and to STC members: Members of the public will be invited to present their questions, statements or petitions. The period of time designated for public participation shall not exceed twenty minutes. A member of the public shall not speak for more than three minutes.

1. [Apologies – To receive and consider for acceptance](#)
2. [To receive any Declarations of Interest](#)
3. [To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 25th November 2025](#)
4. [To receive an update on Dorset Wildlife Trust and Dorset National Emergency Briefing Campaign](#)
5. [To discuss Funding Proposals](#)
6. [To review the Strategy and Action Plan](#)

Agenda Item No. 1

Apologies – To receive and consider for acceptance

The Council (including committees) should approve (or not) the reason for apologies given by absent councillors. If a council member has not attended a meeting of the council (or its committees) or has not tendered apologies which have been accepted by the council (or committee), for six consecutive months, they are disqualified.

No apologies were received.

Agenda Item No. 2

To receive any Declarations of Interest

Members and Officers are reminded of their obligations to declare interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct – adopted in May 2025. The Interim Clerk will report any dispensation requests received.

Agenda Item No. 3

To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 25th November 2025

When the meeting is approving the draft minutes of a previous meeting as an accurate record, the only issue for the meeting is whether the minutes accurately record the proceedings of the meeting and the resolutions made at them. It is irrelevant if the chairman or other councillors were not present at the meeting to which the draft minutes relate.

If it is necessary for the draft minutes of the previous meeting to be corrected because of inaccuracies, then the amendments to the draft minutes must be approved by resolution (Tharmarajah, 2013, p. 154).

Recommendation

Confirm the accuracy of the Minutes of the Sustainable Shaftesbury Advisory Committee meeting held on the [25th November 2025](#).

Agenda Item No. 4

To receive an update on Dorset Wildlife Trust and Dorset National Emergency Briefing Campaign

Information

A verbal update will be given by the Chair on Dorset Wildlife Trust's Nature Connect North Dorset project.

A Dorset Emergency Briefing group has formed under the leadership of Caz Dennett and Julie-Anne Brooker with support from Dorset Climate Action Network (DCAN) and Dorset Council with the aim of putting on film shows and public talks across Dorset to widen awareness of the climate and ecological emergency, and to coordinate action on mitigation and adaptation.

Agenda Item No. 5

To discuss Funding Proposals

Information

It is proposed to seek approval from Shaftesbury Town Council for the funding of projects listed below to be taken from SuSAC's 2025-2026 budget to further public engagement.

- (1) Reprint of the *Lets Go Wild* leaflet & poster: 2000 copies @ £444.00 (or 1000 copies @ £381.00)
- (2) Community activities on Park Walk for Cuckoo Day, 23 April: £400.00.
- (3) Public showing of the 'Power Station' film at Shaftesbury School on 11 March: Film fee £140.00, school fee £75.00: Total £215.00.
- (4) Public showing of four films on climate change and biodiversity loss at various venues in Shaftesbury April-July in collaboration with Planet Shaftesbury (see [report](#) by Karen Wimhurst): Total £450.00
- (5) Public meeting on 'Community Energy': Room hire fee at SFC in March: £30.00.
- (6) Printing 1250 copies of an updated local food information leaflet, in the same format as two years' ago. Total: £369.00

The above projects amount to a total funding request of £1,908.00.

Recommendation

That the committee recommends to Full Council for the amount of £1,908.00 for the above projects to be taken from EMR Sustainable Shaftesbury.

Agenda Item No. 6

To review the Strategy and Action Plan

Information

Members of the committee are asked to receive and note recommended amendments from working groups to the Sustainable Shaftesbury Vision Statement and Action Plan 2024-2031 together with appendices.

6.1 Vision statement and strategy

Members are to consider and note Lucy Young's amendments to "[The Sustainable Shaftesbury Vision Statement and Masterplan 2024-2031](#)"

6.2 Appendix A Action Plan

Members are to consider recommendations from working groups.

A principal recommendation is to add a 'Progress to date' panel at the end of each subject category to monitor progress.

Note: Actions with the town council's crest next to them are internal actions for the town council and in general SuSAC makes no comment on them except where an individual has done so.

(1) **ENERGY ppA3-4** (lead Jenny Morisetti)

The main aim of this section is to promote community energy initiatives within the local community by prioritising street schemes through the creation of street 'energy champions'.

Page A4: Insert SuSAC as the delivering agency in the second 'who to be defined' column against 'improving energy efficiency' and 'promoting information events' (see 'Progress to date' below). Under 'setting up an energy information hub,' add **Ridgeway Energy** to the list of Dorset Greener Homes and DCA support agencies as giving advice to individual households.

On Town Council items Jenny M comments: To meet the first item 'Improving the energy performance of all town council buildings' it should be noted that even small changes - such as making sure that everybody using the town hall closes the blinds and curtains when using rooms at night - can make a difference. On 'Educating staff to commit to sustainable actions' it should also be noted the town were offered Carbon Literacy Training (CLT) before the Dorset COP in November 2025 but did not take up the offer.

ADD 'Progress to date: A public meeting to gauge the level of local interest in energy saving measures was held in 2024 and in 2025 Jenny M attended careers events at Shaftesbury School promoting careers in the green energy sector including in retrofit and renewable energy. Two events in March 2026 are planned to re-engage the wider public with a showing of the film 'Power Station' at Shaftesbury School on 11 March and a follow up public interest meeting at Shaftesbury Football Club later in the month. SuSAC is also in contact with 'People Owned Power' (Howard Johns) who connect with local electricians and installers to enable street-by-street solar installation.

(2) **TRAVEL & TRANSPORT ppA5-6** (lead John Nelson)

The first three items in the Action Plan are STC objectives and are in place. The remaining items are all potential future projects for Shaftesbury to develop a more sustainable Travel and Transport environment. They have been reviewed and they all remain as potential future projects by the local authorities.

Page A5:

Item 4: Consult with Dorset Council to DEVELOP a strategic plan for electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure and Hydrogen power. Consult on the provision of EV charging points with residents.

Item 5: RECOMMEND to Dorset Council:

- Suitable locations for EV charging points by adapting existing street furniture such as lampposts and bollards to incorporate charging devices
- Discounts for electric vehicles in public parking areas

Item 6: REQUEST Dorset Council implement a 20mph speed limit throughout the town centre and within the parish boundary including St James, Enmore Green and all the new housing estates.

Item 7: ENCOURAGE and support public transport provision and use by promoting information about bus links to surrounding towns and railway networks.

Item 8: COLLABORATE with Dorset Council to implement bike and scooter hire stations such as BCP's 'Beryl's Bikes' and PROVIDE more cycle stands in the town centre.

Page A6:

Item 9: SUPPORT alternative solutions for local public transport needs such as cycle taxis (tuk-tuks.)

Item 10: SUPPORT the planned pedestrian priority of the high street by influencing a greener environment for the town centre and its users and restricting bus travel through the high street.

Item 11: SUPPORT Dorset Council to provide information and advice to residents on bus pass and car-share schemes, community away days and healthy/wellbeing events (as antidotes to isolation.)

Add NEW Action:

Item 12: SUPPORT the development of an off-road CYCLEWAY between Shaftesbury and Gillingham via Motcombe to enable cyclists to travel safely to the adjacent locations. A CYCLEWAY will also allow safe access for residents of Shaftesbury and Motcombe to the RAILWAY NETWORK passing through Gillingham.

Progress to date: The Dorset Council Active Travel and Public Transport Implementation Plans approved by Dorset Council in January 2026 have been reviewed to see where they may support the aspirations outlined in the SUSAC Action Plan for travel and transport.

The new Dorset Council Active Travel Delivery Plan (approved by Dorset council (29/01/2026) includes the development of plans during 2026-27:

- To implement 20mph zones in all areas of Shaftesbury where appropriate and it is locally supported
- For the timed restriction of motor traffic on streets adjacent to schools to support Active Travel
- To improve town centre traffic management to improve the public realm.

Active Travel (Walking and cycling) is a major public health initiative so that residents can walk or cycle on short journeys where they feel safe to do so. The new Dorset Council Public Transport Implementation Plan includes plans to improve Public Transport Links by enhance the frequency and reliability of bus services on strategic inter-urban routes such as Blandford-Shaftesbury-Gillingham. Saturday bus services will be extended to enable consistent services throughout the week.

There is also a proposal to develop rural mobility hubs and a pilot for demand-responsive transport (DRT). The pilot will serve the rural areas surrounding Gillingham and Shaftesbury offering flexible transport options to connect residents with key services.

(3) **BIODIVERSITY pp A6-7** (co-leads Jen Hirsch, Mike Cummings, Sue Clifford, Angela King)

[Note: The Biodiversity working group has made an appeal to STC to rethink its proposals for the mowing of roadside grass verges at its meeting on 17 February. To be updated.]

Page A6: No changes.

Page A7: To second item 'Enhancing STC's wildflower policy' add "SUPPORT for Butterfly Conservation's request to declare Shaftesbury a 'Butterfly and Moth Friendly Town'."

(Note this could also be added to either/or all Appendices B (Biodiversity), D (Allotments), and F (Open spaces management plans).

Progress to date: There has been no progress on the production of management plans for Shaftesbury's publicly managed open spaces and recreation grounds. The two that have been produced - for Castle Hill and St James Park - remain unapproved a year after the final draft.

(4) **LAND MANAGEMENT ppA8-9** including footpaths (*leads Lucy and Joe*)

Page A8:

Item 6: Allotments. Change 'stage' from amber to green and move to top of the list, viz:

Progress to date: An allotments policy was published in 2025 and circulated to Shaftesbury allotment holders and communicated via a joint STC and SuSAC workshop in April 2025. Comprehensive pro-biodiversity managements plans for all open spaces including St James Park and Castle Hill but especially the public spaces and recreation areas on the new developments to the north of Shaftesbury (BarrattsRedrow) and east (Persimmon) are chronically overdue and urgently needed.

(5) **FOOD CONSUMPTION & PRODUCTION ppA10-11** (*lead Lucy*)

Page A10: No comments to first five items as these are specific to STC and not something SuSAC has been engaged with. With reference to the 'red' actions:

Red action 1: Change 'stage' to green (i.e. doing) and 'who tbd' to 'SuSAC and Planet Shaftesbury'.

Red action 2: No changes

Page A11:

Red action 3: Change 'stage' to green (doing) and 'who tbd' to 'Planet Shaftesbury'.

Red action 4: No changes

Add 'Progress to date:

Action 1: Members of SuSAC and Planet Shaftesbury have run and contributed to a series of workshops and events during 2024 and 2025 aimed at furthering the development of a Dorset Local Food Partnership. This culminated in the creation of the [Feeding Dorset Partnership](#) at the end of 2025.

Action 3: Planet Shaftesbury researched and produced a guide to Shaftesbury retail and hospitality sectors' sourcing of local produce for residents and visitors to the town in 2024/5. This included advice on healthy, sustainable diets. This is due to be updated and digitised in 2026.

(6) **HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT pA12** (*leads Mike & Bernie*)

No recommendations.

Progress to date: Little made but in 2025 Dorset Council commissioned the production of the first **Dorset Design Code** (DDC) to enhance the sympathetic design and construction of new builds in Dorset and the first draft is due to be published in March-April 2026. Attempts have been made

to get volume housing developers such as those building to the north and east of Shaftesbury to meet their BNG planning obligations but with minimal apparent progress to date and this clearly requires constant monitoring and scrutinising.

(7) **WASTE REDUCTION Page A13** (No lead member)

No recommendations received.

Page A13: *On the town hall items Jenny M comments:* To the first point - to 'ensure food waste recycling and other waste is segregated' - it should be noted there is no separate provision for food waste in the town hall kitchen. On the point about using recycled or compostable products on council premises, I have switched some of the cleaning items for *Eco* products in the town hall's kitchen and toilet but the town council should ensure that nobody purchases chemical cleaning products and nylon and plastic sponges and cloths. I have bought replacements but I'm not sure they're still in use. Again, toilet paper should be from recycled sources and the paper towels should be switched for a hand dryer as that is more sustainable.

Progress to date: *To be added*

(8) **CIRCULAR ECONOMY pA14** (No lead member)

No recommendations received.

Page A14: *On the town hall items Jenny M comments:* The same point made on pA13 is made here also under 'ensuring that consumables used on council premises are eco-friendly'. Again, there has been no progress on 'Encourage all councillors and staff to undertake carbon literacy training' despite it being offered to them (see comment in 'Energy' pA4).

Progress to date: £30k is understood to be in STC's budget for 2026-27 to replace the former groundsmen's hut at Barton Hill as a combined workshed and storage facility for joint use between the community and the grounds team. Lead member on the worksheds project is Lester Dibben. He reports no response to date from Blackmore Vale Partnership on a joint health & wellbeing project.

As there are currently no leads for Waste, Circular Economy, Water and Air it's proposed existing targets remain in the Action Plan unchanged.

6.3 **To set review dates for Appendices B, C, D and E**

- Appendix B Biodiversity checklist. Last reviewed Feb 2024.
- Appendix C Tree Plan: Last reviewed Oct 2024.
- Appendix D Allotments Policy: Last reviewed Oct 2025.
- Appendix E Wildflower Policy: Last reviewed Feb 2024.

Recommendation

That approval is requested from Shaftesbury Town Council at the Full Council meeting on 17th March 2026 for the recommended amendments from working groups to the Sustainable Shaftesbury Vision Statement and Masterplan 2024-2031 and appendices.