

Minutes of the Sustainable Shaftesbury Advisory Committee
on Tuesday 24th February 2026 at 5.30pm
Held in the Meeting Room, Shaftesbury Town Hall

Members Summoned and Present: Sue Clifford, Mike Cummings, Cllr Lester Dibben, Bernard Ede (arrived at 6.59pm), Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones (arrived at 5.41pm), Amber Harrison, Angela King, Gideon King, Jennifer Morisetti (Vice Chairman), Christina Strickland (arrived at 5.49pm), Richard Thomas (Chairman) and Lucy Young

Absent: Jen Hirsch and John Nelson

Officers Present: Billy Maddock (Interim Town Clerk)

In attendance: Press (1) (arrived at 5.39pm), Members of the public (0)

[Link to agenda](#)

Public Participation

No members of the public were in attendance.

The meeting commenced at 5.31pm.

SuS45 Apologies

Officer report 0226SuS1 was received and it was **NOTED** to accept apologies from Jen Hirsch and John Nelson.

SuS46 Declarations of Interest

Officer report 0226SuS2 was received. It was **NOTED** that members should declare any interests if they arise.

SuS47 To approve the minutes of the last meeting on 25th November 2025

Officer report 0226SuS3 was received and it was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting on 25th November 2025 with the amendment to page 149 *It was RESOLVED to accept the Vision and Mission statement and to replace the five points currently listed on the website with these.*

Cllr Edwyn-Jones arrived at 5.41pm.

She was welcomed by the chair as the second member of the council formally on SuSAC with Cllr Lester Dibben.

SuS48 To receive an update on Dorset Wildlife Trust and Dorset National Emergency Briefing Campaign

SuS48a Members **NOTED** the verbal update given by the Chair on Dorset Wildlife Trust's Nature Connect North Dorset project.

The Chair reported DWT has been granted £1m of Lottery funding for its Nature Connect North Dorset project. The project is in two phases, starting with a 12-month development phase followed by a 5-year project phase covering North Dorset. Nature Friendly Town (NFT) Shaftesbury is one of the championing projects in the programme. DWT is currently awaiting a start date from the Lottery.

Richard PROPOSED to invite Nicki Brunt and Imogen Davenport of DWT to the 31st March informal meeting on the assumption that the go-ahead has been received by then.

Proposed by Richard Thomas		
Seconded by Jenny Morisetti		
In Favour	7	Sue Clifford, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Angela King, Jennifer Morisetti, Richard Thomas and Lucy Young
Against	0	
Abstentions	3	Mike Cummings, Cllr Lester Dibben and Gideon King
MOTION CARRIED		

SuS48b The Chair reported on the National Emergency Briefing (NEB) event that had taken place at the end of November in Westminster with the latest scientific update on climate change and nature loss. A 50min documentary film on the briefing is to be released on 7th April with plans for the film to be shown throughout the country, including Dorset. It will be one of a series of climate and nature films to be shown in Shaftesbury between April and August.

Jenny updated that Dorset climate activist Laura Baldwin of Portland who had attended the NEB event had produced an online briefing for Dorset town and parish councils through the Dorset Climate & Nature Support group (CNaS). CNaS regularly advises Dorset town and parish councils on the climate and nature emergency situation through monthly online meetings.

The committee **NOTED** the update on local developments from the National Emergency Briefing.

SuS49 To discuss Funding Proposals

Officer report 0226SuS5 was received and noted.

It was **RESOLVED** that the committee recommends to Full Council for the amount of £2,068.00 to be taken from EMR Sustainable Shaftesbury for the funding of the following items.

Christina Strickland arrived at 5.49pm.

(1) Reprint of the *Lets Go Wild* leaflet & poster: 2000 copies @ £444.00

Proposed by Sue Clifford		
Seconded by Angela King		
In Favour	10	Sue Clifford, Mike Cummings, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Angela King, Gideon King, Jennifer Morisetti, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas and Lucy Young
Against	0	
Abstentions	1	Cllr Lester Dibben
MOTION CARRIED		

(2) Community activities on Park Walk for Cuckoo Day, 23 April: £400.00.

Proposed by Angela King		
Seconded by Sue Clifford		

In Favour	10	Sue Clifford, Mike Cummings, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Angela King, Gideon King, Jennifer Morisetti, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas and Lucy Young
Against	0	
Abstentions	1	Cllr Lester Dibben
MOTION CARRIED		

(3) Public showing of the 'Power Station' film at Shaftesbury School on 11 March: Total £375.00.

Proposed by Jenny Morisetti		
Seconded by Richard Thomas		
In Favour	10	Sue Clifford, Mike Cummings, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Angela King, Gideon King, Jennifer Morisetti, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas and Lucy Young
Against	0	
Abstentions	1	Cllr Lester Dibben
MOTION CARRIED		

(4) Public showing of four films on climate change and biodiversity loss at various venues in Shaftesbury April-July in collaboration with Planet Shaftesbury: Total £450.00.

Proposed by Lucy Young		
Seconded by Richard Thomas		
In Favour	10	Sue Clifford, Mike Cummings, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Angela King, Gideon King, Jennifer Morisetti, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas and Lucy Young
Against	0	
Abstentions	1	Cllr Lester Dibben
MOTION CARRIED		

(5) Public meeting on 'Community Energy': Room hire fee at Shaftesbury Football Club in March: £30.00.

Proposed by Jennifer Morisetti		
Seconded by Richard Thomas		
In Favour	10	Sue Clifford, Mike Cummings, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Angela King, Gideon King, Jennifer Morisetti, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas and Lucy Young
Against	0	
Abstentions	1	Cllr Lester Dibben
MOTION CARRIED		

(6) Printing 1250 copies of an updated local food information leaflet: Total: £369.00

Proposed by Lucy Young		
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Seconded by Jenny Morisetti		
In Favour	10	Sue Clifford, Mike Cummings, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Angela King, Gideon King, Jennifer Morisetti, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas and Lucy Young
Against	0	
Abstentions	1	Cllr Lester Dibben
MOTION CARRIED		

In answer to a question, the Interim Town Clerk reported that, if all funding requests were granted by Full Council on 17th March, a balance of £270.50 would show on the SuSAC account for 2025-26.

SuS50 To review the Strategy and Action Plan

Officer report 0226SuS6 was received and noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to request approval from Full Council for the recommended amendments from working groups to the Sustainable Shaftesbury Vision Statement and Masterplan 2024-2031 and appendices.

1. Amendments were accepted in [The Sustainable Shaftesbury Vision Statement and Masterplan 2024-2031](#)

Proposed by Lucy Young		
Seconded by Richard Thomas		
In Favour	10	Sue Clifford, Mike Cummings, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Angela King, Gideon King, Jennifer Morisetti, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas and Lucy Young
Against	0	
Abstentions	1	Cllr Lester Dibben
MOTION CARRIED		

2. Amendments were accepted to Appendix A Action Plan Energy Section

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.

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 SuSAC 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.

Proposed by Jenny Morisetti		
Seconded by Richard Thomas		
In Favour	9	Sue Clifford, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Angela King, Gideon King, Jennifer Morisetti, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas and Lucy Young
Against	0	
Abstentions	2	Mike Cummings and Cllr Lester Dibben
MOTION CARRIED		

3. Amendments were accepted to Appendix A Action Plan Travel and Transport Section

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.

Proposed by Richard Thomas		
Seconded by Christinas Strickland		
In Favour	8	Sue Clifford, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Angela King, Jennifer Morisetti, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas and Lucy Young
Against	0	
Abstentions	3	Mike Cummings, Cllr Lester Dibben and Gideon King
MOTION CARRIED		

4. Amendments were accepted to Appendix A Action Plan Biodiversity Section

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 to date.

Proposed by Richard Thomas		
Seconded by Gideon King		
In Favour	10	Sue Clifford, Mike Cummings, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Angela King, Gideon King, Jennifer Morisetti, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas and Lucy Young
Against	0	
Abstentions	1	Cllr Lester Dibben
MOTION CARRIED		

Bernard Ede arrived at 6.59pm.

5. Amendments were accepted to Appendix A Action Plan Land Management Section

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.

Proposed by Lucy Young		
Seconded by Richard Thomas		
In Favour	11	Sue Clifford, Mike Cummings, Bernard Ede, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Angela King, Gideon King, Jennifer Morisetti, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas and Lucy Young
Against	0	
Abstentions	1	Cllr Lester Dibben
MOTION CARRIED		

6. Amendments were accepted to Appendix A Action Food Consumption and Production Section

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.

Proposed by Lucy Young		
Seconded by Richard Thomas		
In Favour	11	Sue Clifford, Mike Cummings, Bernard Ede, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Angela King, Gideon King, Jennifer Morisetti, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas and Lucy Young
Against	0	
Abstentions	1	Cllr Lester Dibben
MOTION CARRIED		

7. Amendments were accepted to Appendix A Action Housing and Development Section

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.

Proposed by Richard Thomas		
Seconded by Bernard Ede		
In Favour	10	Sue Clifford, Bernard Ede, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Angela King, Gideon King, Jennifer Morisetti, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas and Lucy Young
Against	0	
Abstentions	2	Mike Cummings and Cllr Lester Dibben
MOTION CARRIED		

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

- Appendix B Biodiversity checklist. Review Feb 2027

Proposed by Mike Cummings		
Seconded by Gideon King		
In Favour	11	Sue Clifford, Mike Cummings, Bernard Ede, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Angela King, Gideon King, Jennifer Morisetti, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas and Lucy Young
Against	0	
Abstentions	1	Cllr Lester Dibben
MOTION CARRIED		

- Appendix C Tree Plan: Review October 2027

Proposed by Sue Clifford		
Seconded by Lucy Young		
In Favour	11	Sue Clifford, Mike Cummings, Bernard Ede, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Angela King, Gideon King, Jennifer Morisetti, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas and Lucy Young
Against	0	
Abstentions	1	Cllr Lester Dibben
MOTION CARRIED		

- Appendix D Allotments Policy: Review October 2027

Proposed by Lucy Young		
Seconded by Gideon King		
In Favour	11	Sue Clifford, Mike Cummings, Bernard Ede, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Angela King, Gideon King, Jennifer Morisetti, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas and Lucy Young
Against	0	
Abstentions	1	Cllr Lester Dibben
MOTION CARRIED		

- Appendix E Wildflower Policy: Review February 2027

Proposed by Gideon King		
Seconded by Mike Cummings		
In Favour	11	Sue Clifford, Mike Cummings, Bernard Ede, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Angela King, Gideon King, Jennifer Morisetti, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas and Lucy Young
Against	0	
Abstentions	1	Cllr Lester Dibben
MOTION CARRIED		

The next informal meeting has been scheduled for 31st March 2026 with the next formal meeting on 26th May 2026. Dates of formal meetings to the end of 2026 are shown on the Shaftesbury Town Council website.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 7.09pm.

Post Meeting Note: The NEB film “The People’s Emergency Briefing” is scheduled to be shown at Shaftesbury town hall on Monday 27th April.

These minutes were adopted on **enter date**, under minute reference **enter ref.**, as a true record of the decisions taken and are duly signed below by the chair of that meeting.