



SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

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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, John Nelson, Cllr Annie Philpott, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas (Chair) and Lucy Young

A G E N D A

You are summoned to a meeting of the Sustainable Shaftesbury Advisory Committee for the transaction of the business shown on the agenda below. To be held at **5.30pm on Tuesday 25th August 2026** in the **Council Chamber, Shaftesbury Town Hall**.

Matthew Harrison

Town Clerk, 19th August 2026

Public Participation: The Chair will invite members of the public 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 Interests and Requests for Dispensation](#)
3. [To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2026](#)
4. [To consider the Terms of Reference](#)
5. [To consider Committee membership](#)
6. [To review Funding for 2026-2027](#)
7. [To receive updates from Working Groups](#)
8. [To discuss the Sustainable Shaftesbury Vision Statement and Masterplan 2024-2031](#)
9. [To review the National Association of Local Councils \(NALC\) Climate Responder of the Year 2026 award application](#)
10. [To discuss Dorset Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2026-2036 consultation](#)
11. [To discuss Dorset Conference of the Parties \(COP\) 2026](#)
12. [To receive an update from the Town Clerk](#)
 - (a) on Mampitts Hub in relation to The Green Wheel Project
 - (b) on two important initiatives by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC)
 - (c) on any other issues

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 received.

Agenda Item No. 2

To receive any Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensation

Members and Officers are reminded of their obligations to declare interests in accordance with the Code of Conduct – re-adopted in May 2026. The Clerk will report any dispensation requests received.

Agenda Item No. 3

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2026

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

To confirm the accuracy of the Minutes of the Sustainable Shaftesbury Advisory Committee meeting held on [4th June 2026](#).

To consider the Terms of Reference

Background

A review of the Terms of Reference and membership to a sub-committee of the council needs to be undertaken on an annual basis.

Information

At the Annual Full Council meeting on 19th May 2026 (FC9) – *It was **RESOLVED** to approve the advisory committee membership for 2026/27 and to adopt the Terms of Reference for each committee noting that these will be considered at a future Full Council meeting.*

Further Information

The Sustainable Shaftesbury Advisory Committee Terms of Reference have been reviewed and a revised version – [Sustainable Shaftesbury Working and Advisory Committee Terms of Reference 2025 \(as amended August 2026\)](#) – was approved at the Full Council meeting on 18th August 2026.

Recommendation

Members are requested to note the revised Terms of Reference.

To consider Committee membership

Information

It is proposed by Richard Thomas, and seconded by Bernard Ede, that resident biologist, Jamie Medley, be appointed to the Sustainable Shaftesbury Working and Advisory Committee.

It is further proposed that Catherine Simmonds becomes a volunteer member of the committee.

Recommendation

Members are requested to recommend to Full Council for Jamie Medley and Catherine Simmonds to join the Sustainable Shaftesbury Working and Advisory Committee.

To review Funding for 2026-2027

Information

The committee will discuss and review funding for 2026-2027.

[A report of spend year to date is provided](#) and will be explained by the Clerk.

Recommendation

Members are requested to consider recommending to Full Council that £5,000 are allocated to Sustainable Shaftesbury in the 2027-28 budget.

To receive updates from Working Groups

Information

Members to receive an update for each working group.

Biodiversity

- Nature Connection North Dorset project
- Open spaces management plans
- The Green Wheel Project – Sue Clifford, Bernard Ede and Angela King will give a verbal report on progress.

The [latest map](#) will also be noted.

Circular Economy

Clean Air and Dark Skies

Food

Energy & Retrofitting

Health & Wellbeing

Local Transport & Footpaths

Planning:

Blackmore Down development

Persimmon Homes development

Waste & Recycling

Water (rivers, streams and ponds)

Worksheds (community worksheds)

Recommendation

That the updates from working groups are received and noted.

To discuss the Sustainable Shaftesbury Vision Statement and Masterplan 2024-2031

Information

The '[Sustainable Shaftesbury Vision Statement and Masterplan 2024-2031](#)' revised document was adopted by Full Council in March 2026 and published in August 2026.

Further Information

- **Nature Friendly Town**

At the Full Council meeting on 16th September 2025 - SuS21a Approve final Nature Friendly Town framework (including pesticides use) – *It was **RESOLVED** to hold a workshop to fully explore the detail and content of the framework.*

Amber Harrison and Jen Hirsch to give a verbal report.

- **Butterfly Friendly Town**

Gillingham Town Council, in partnership with the Butterfly Conservation Society, became the UK's first official Butterfly Friendly Town in February 2026.

It is proposed by Richard Thomas, and seconded by Bernard Ede, that members should consider if they wish to recommend to Full Council that Shaftesbury declares itself to be a Butterfly Friendly Town in support of the Nature Friendly Town, Orchard Town and Green Wheel initiatives, the council's biodiversity, wildflower and allotment policies, Dorset CPRE's 'On the Edge' campaign, Dorset Wildlife Trust's 'Nature Connection North Dorset' project, the National Trust's restore nature campaign, Cranborne Chase National Landscape's and RSPB's nature recovery strategies, Dorset and Wilts LNR strategies, and NALC's Climate Responder Award 2026.

Recommendation

Members are to consider

- (1) recommending to Full Council the adoption of the Nature Friendly Town document as Appendix F to the Vision Statement and Masterplan 2024-2031
- (2) recommending to Full Council that Shaftesbury declares itself to be a Butterfly Friendly Town

To review the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Climate Responder of the Year 2026 award application

Information

At SuSAC's meeting on 4th June 2026 (SuS08) – it was **RESOLVED** for the committee to put forward a formal proposal to Shaftesbury Town Council, for consideration at the next Full Council meeting on 16th June 2026, to enter Shaftesbury in the 'Climate Responder of the Year 2026' award subject to further research by Jen Hirsch on the application process.

Further Information

As no further information was received, it was not possible for this item to be voted on at the Full Council meeting on 16th June 2026.

Recommendation

As nominations can be submitted by members of the public, the committee are to review the application submitted to the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) by SuSAC.

To discuss Dorset Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2026-2036 consultation

Information

The consultation deadline for Dorset Council's Right of Way Improvement Plan 2026-2036 is Monday 12th October 2026.

John Nelson will give a verbal report to the committee.

Recommendation

Members are to consider if they wish to request support from Full Council for the proposal to extend the North Dorset Trailway system throughout North Dorset to include the proposed Shaftesbury to Gillingham Trailway.

To discuss Dorset Conference of the Parties (COP) 2026

Information

Members will consider Sustainable Shaftesbury Advisory Committee's support to deliver a workshop and/or exhibit on the Green Wheel Project/Nature Friendly Town at Dorset COP 26.

The event is to be held at Kingston Maurward College in Dorchester on Saturday 14th November 2026.

Further Information

An exhibition fee would be payable being £12.50 for a 3ft display table or £25 for a 6ft table in an optional display area.

Richard Thomas to give a verbal report at the meeting.

Recommendation

That the committee decides if they wish to deliver a workshop and/or exhibit on the Green Wheel Project/Nature Friendly Town at Dorset COP 26 taking funds from budget line Reserves & Projects – Sustainable Shaftesbury.

To receive an update from the Town Clerk

Report Content/Detail

Reports provided within this item are to be received; they provide updates on decisions already made by the Council and the subsequent actions taken.

12(a) Mampitts Hub

At the meeting of the Mampitts Advisory Committee on the 14th July 2026, the items below were minuted (MAC17) and members will put forward questions to the Town Clerk in relation to those items as follows:

- i. *"the project has secured 420 trees from the Woodland Trust and the team are still exploring other funding options."*
- ii. *"Dorset Council will retain ownership of the Hub and land for an initial period before it transfers to Shaftesbury Town Council".*
- iii. *"Before transfer can occur a series of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) must be agreed. These are expected to measure the success of the Hub and potentially the green space. It was agreed to wait for guidance from Dorset Council before developing proposed KPIs."*
- iv. *"Several landscaping considerations were discussed, including wildflower planting and management of open spaces. The preservation and potential seed collection from existing teasels already growing on site was suggested and the Town Clerk will propose this to Sustainable Shaftesbury for practical assistance."*
- v. *"The Committee stressed the importance of proactive communication with residents"*

12(b) National Association of Local Councils (NALC)

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) have implemented two important initiatives for town and parish councils working to combat climate change and nature loss, and members have requested an update from the Town Clerk on:

- i. Shaftesbury Town Council's response to NALC's survey of the 2,850 parish and town councils currently leading and managing neighbourhood plans in England including Shaftesbury Town Council whose latest Neighbourhood Plan was adopted by Dorset Council in July 2026. The survey is gathering evidence on the status of neighbourhood plans, councils' future intentions, the challenges they face, and the impact of the withdrawal of government support funding. The findings will help inform policy work and engagement with government on the future of neighbourhood planning. The survey closes on 25th September 2026.
- ii. Shaftesbury Town Council's response to the government's [survey on the legal protections for public recreational green spaces](#).

The survey is intended to help inform a review of how parks, playing fields and other valued green spaces are protected, providing an opportunity for councils to share their experience and help shape future policy affecting local communities.

12(c) **Any Other Issues**

Updates required for any other issues will be raised with the Town Clerk at the meeting.

Recommendation

That the reports are received and noted.