SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

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To: **Members of the Sustainable Shaftesbury Working and Advisory Committee (SuSAC)** –

Sue Clifford, Mike Cummings, Bernard Ede, Cllr Virginia Edwyn-Jones, Amber Harrison, Jen Hirsch, Angela King, Gideon King, Jamie Medley, Jenny Morisetti, John Nelson, Cllr Annie Philpott, Catherine Simmonds, Christina Strickland, Richard Thomas (Chair) and Lucy Young

AGENDA

You are summoned to a meeting of the Sustainable Shaftesbury Working and Advisory Committee for the transaction of the business shown on the agenda below. To be held at **5.30pm on Tuesday 24th November 2026** in the **Council Chamber, Shaftesbury Town Hall**.



Matthew Harrison
Town Clerk, 18th November 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 25th August 2026
4. To receive an update from the Town Clerk
5. To receive and consider updates on Dorset COP (Conference of the Parties)
6. To consider recommendations to Full Council
7. To receive updates from working groups
8. To consider a request from the town council to plant trees at Mampitts Hub, as per the planting plan approved with the planning permission

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.

Cllr Lester Dibben informed the Chairman of this Committee of his resignation.

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 25th August 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 Working and Advisory Committee meeting held on 25th August 2026.

Agenda Item No. 4

To receive an update from the Town Clerk

Information

To receive a verbal report from the Town Clerk following a meeting held with the grounds contactor and representatives from SuSAC.

The update to include:

- Open Spaces Management Plans
- the transfer of open spaces from Dorset Council to STC, and the landscaping of the Mampitts Hub area
- a coordinated plan for all the 'showcase' roundabouts
- a review of tree works consultation, and any other land management consultation matters of relevance including works to the habitat at Gold Hill agreed by STC on 17 November

Recommendation

To note the update.

Agenda Item No. 5

To receive and consider updates on Dorset COP (Conference of the Parties)

Information

To receive verbal reports on Dorset COP 26 from SuSAC attendees (Jamie, Amber, Jen, Joe and Richard) and any follow-up required to Dorset Council's climate and nature policy initiatives including support for participation by SuSAC in:

- Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy delivery action groups
- Dorset adaptation and resilience action groups
- DC's Community Conversations consultation and action groups

Recommendation

To support recommendations from Dorset COP 26.

(1) To resolve to recommend to Full Council that the town council develops a Climate Emergency Response Action Plan (CERP)* as facilitated by DAPTC.

**CERP is a local resilience framework developed alongside Dorset Prepared (the Dorset Local Resilience Forum) and led by DAPTC that guides town and parish councils and community groups on how to prepare for and respond to local emergencies such as flooding, severe weather, power cuts, or public health crises.*

(2) To resolve to recommend to Full Council that the town council resolves to join the national call for an early televised national emergency briefing by the Government as requested by the National Emergency Briefing (NEB) campaign.
The campaign is asking all councils to pass a motion calling for a televised national briefing or debate on climate change. Information can be found on this NEB resource pack (page 4)

Agenda Item No. 6

To consider recommendations to Full Council

Recommendations from SuSAC

(1) Funding

The committee requests that the town council allocates £6,200 from EMR Sustainable Shaftesbury to fulfil the joint SuSAC/STC-National Trust Green Wheel feasibility study v4 document, including payment for a project manager from December 2026-October 2027 approved at the informal SuSAC meeting on 27 October.

Officer comments:

In October 2025 and November 2025 SuSAC and Full Council respectively agreed to ringfence £2,000 for the Green Wheel digital mapping exercise with Darwin Ecology and the National Trust. This work was never undertaken. A local resident and member of SuSAC, with a doctorate in molecular biology, has been recommended to undertake the Green Wheel work. STC's Financial Regulations state that three estimates should be obtained for values between £500 and £3,000 + VAT and three fixed price quotes for values over £3,000 + VAT. Before entering into any agreement with external organisations, including the National Trust, consideration must be given to legal costs, contractual arrangements, officer capacity, and any additional associated costs.

(2) Glyphosate:

The committee requests that the town council requests to Dorset Council that in accordance with STC's nature recovery policies and DC's own Local Nature Recovery Strategy delivery plan, Glyphosate may no longer be used anywhere within the parish boundary of Shaftesbury with immediate effect.

(3) The eastern development SUDS system:

The committee requests that the town council organises a meeting with Persimmon Homes and Dorset Council to resolve the proper and effective management of the SUDS system in accordance with the agreed permissions and consider its future management by Dorset Rangers to meet the requirements of its policies in the Sustainable Shaftesbury Strategy & Masterplan 2024-31 including Nature Friendly Town Shaftesbury, Orchard Town Shaftesbury and the Shaftesbury Green Wheel project.

(4) Office for Environmental Protection call for evidence:

The committee requests that the town council agrees a response to the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP)* call for evidence of examples of regulatory and practical blockers delaying nature recovery measures in England. This provides an opportunity for STC to raise the issues of how developers have traduced planning law in Shaftesbury and how the LPA has failed to ensure planning conditions have been adhered to resulting in reduced rather than enhanced biodiversity in development areas in the town.

**The Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) is an independent public body that protects and improves the natural environment by holding government and public authorities in England and Northern Ireland to account.*

Agenda Item No. 7

To receive updates from Working Groups

Biodiversity

Jen to report on the review of STC's Wildflower Policy (Appendix E in the Sustainable Shaftesbury Masterplan 2024-31) and note the initial draft of the mini-management plan for Castle Hill Green as agreed in June.

The Green Wheel Project

Jamie to report on progress including any items not already dealt with earlier in the agenda including GIS mapping requirements and an update on the revamping of the STC website with a new 'Shaftesbury Wildlife' page to match the 'Orchard Town' page as part of the Green Wheel 'citizen science' monitoring process.

Note from the Town Clerk: A meeting between SuSAC representatives and officers to be scheduled to scope out overall aims and objectives of the Green Wheel Project and consequent workload and potential financial implications.

Circular Economy

Virginia to report on any Chamber of Commerce moves to encourage recycling among Shaftesbury businesses.

Energy

Jenny to report on her *People owned Power* meeting on 2 Nov and next survey steps; to respond to DC's request for on street EV charge points suggestions.

Food

Lucy to report

Transport, Travel and Rivers

John and Annie to report

Recommendation

That the updates from working groups are received and noted.

To consider a request from the town council to plant trees at Mampitts Hub, as per the planting plan approved with the planning permission

Information

Part of the planning conditions for the delivery of the Mampitts Hub include landscaping of the site and planting trees and shrubs, in accordance with the plans developed by the contracted landscape design team. The majority of the planting around the Hub, car park and the back of the site will be undertaken by a professional landscaping company.

However, there is an opportunity to plant 13 trees as part of the first landscaping phase (mainly at the front of the Hub) that is not in scope of the terms of the landscaping company.

SuSAC members are invited to participate in the planting of these trees.

Landscape Plan -



Recommendation

SuSAC members are requested to coordinate the planting of 13 trees on behalf of the town council in early 2027 to help deliver the scheme.