**SHALBOURNE**

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Held at the Kingston Room,**

**Thursday 24th April 2025 at 7.30 pm.**

**Minutes**

1. **Introduction**

Mike Lockhart, Chairman, welcomed those attending and noted that Shalbourne had been judged the poshest village in Wiltshire by the Daily Mail. The deeds of the village green were produced for inspection. He thanked Polly Cox from the Shalbourne Stores and Dan Lefevre for providing refreshments.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were received from the police community support officer.

1. **Minutes of Last Meeting**

These were approved and the Chairman authorized to sign them.

1. **Police Report**

The Police Report for Quarter 1 2025 is appended Attachment 1

1. **Wiltshire Council Report**

Councilor Wheeler informed the meeting that Wiltshire Council’s finances were relatively healthy in comparison with many other local councils. He noted that the Wiltshire Connect bus service has been a success and is particularly appreciated by younger residents as it allows them to travel without being dependent on parents/caregivers to provide a lift.

He pointed out how the council had helped with the situation with the Plough which is still a work in progress although the village has enjoyed this amenity several times a week since its reopening.

He noted that the planning application for the Plough was being progressed through the relevant department which was very supportive of village public houses remaining as such.

Councilor Wheeler said he endorsed the proposed developments to the Oxenwood Centre

1. **Shalbourne Growers**

Polly Cox updated the village about the Shalbourne Growers. It is now their 5th growing season and they enjoy help from village volunteers and regular visits from the children at Great Bedwyn Primary School.

1. **Shalbourne Club**

Report appended Attachment 2

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1. **Church Report**

Report appended, Attachment 3

1. **Shalbourne Connect Report**

Lesley Green updated the village about Shalbourne Connect’s activities in the past year. It was noted that all were welcome to attend the sessions and villagers were encouraged to come, even if for a limited time. The PC were thanked for the generous grant for purchase of craft materials.

1. **Parish Council Report**

Report appended Attachment 4

1. **The Plough Report**

Report appended Attachment 5

1. **Village Hall Report**

Report appended Attachment 6

1. **Village Charities Reports**
	1. Shalbourne Community Fund, Attachment 7
	2. Shalbourne Relief Fund, Attachment 8
2. **AOB**

Richard Rumbelow thanked the village and the police for their support following a burglary at his house. He noted that two people had been arrested in connection with this offence and had their first court appearance this month

John Green addressed the meeting and said how pleased he and his partner, Kate Millington, were to have moved to the village.

A vote of thanks was proposed to the Chairman for his work during the last year and for all the 11 preceding years

The meeting finished at 8.52pm.

**Attachment 1**

**Crimes and incidents**

Wiltshire Police record crimes and incidents in accordance with the National Crime and incident recording standards. Not all incidents that one would consider a crime are necessarily classified as a crime for recording purposes.

NB- The below statistics do not account for incidents that police respond to but do not need any follow up (Road traffic incidents, minor incidents of Anti-social behaviour)

From 1st January 2025 - 31st March 2025

1 crime(s) and 2 incidents have been recorded in the Shalbourne Parish area.

There have been 1 Reports of non dwelling burglary.

There have been 0 Reports in relation to theft of or theft from Motor vehicles.

Having reviewed the crime data for the area – There are no apparent trends that are presented or a series of crimes that are linked.

**Speed enforcement**

Both the local Neighbourhood Policing Team and the Speed Watch Enforcement Team have conducted several pro-active checks in the local area. Speed enforcement has taken place on at least **12 occasions** in the Pewsey area between **January- March 2025**. Checks have also been completed at highlighted areas of concern across the Pewsey sector. During this period, **47** drivers have been offered a speed awareness courses, **2** drivers have been issued with a fine and points on their license and **0** drivers have been reported to court for excess speed.

**Community consultations**

During this period there have beenseveral formal community engagements held in the wider Pewsey area. We have also made use of the ‘**Mobile Police Station**’ during this period to provide an opportunity for the more remote areas of the patch to engage with us. We are scheduled to have the ‘**Mobile Police Station**’ again the week commencing **Monday 19th May 2025,** further details about this will be advertised in due course. If you are aware of any other local community events in the area, please let us know via our email address- **devizesareanpt@wiltshire.police.uk**

In the next three months we will also be at the following locations;

**-8th  May 2025 at The Royal Oak, Wootton Rivers**

**-20th  May 2025, Bouverie Hall, Pewsey**

**-4th  June 2025, The Parish Rooms, Woodborough**

**-17th June 2025, Bouverie Hall, Pewsey**

The specific times of these surgeries will be advertised via community messaging and the Pewsey Police Facebook page. You and your residents can sign up for community messaging at [*www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk*](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wiltsmessaging.co.uk%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cmelissa.camilleri%40wiltshire.police.uk%7C05f5a3e3ac3846da679208dd783ad7ac%7C4e5729cf852d4510921251157ca27e3e%7C0%7C0%7C638798916310089966%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ztrSG%2Ft8tx%2FMUAL3%2BH4CSGs4ko6Z%2BY0M%2FRWw%2B2EhdwQ%3D&reserved=0)

**Local Updates**

The Devizes Neighbourhood Policing Team and Devizes Response Policing Team will be vacating Devizes Borough Police Station in the coming weeks, making a permanent move to the Force Headquarters, situated at London Road in Devizes. Devizes Borough Police Station will therefore be permanently closed as part of the wider estates’ strategy.  There are plans for a fully functioning Enquiry Office at Headquarters, Devizes in due course, something that we have not had at HQ or the Borough for some time. We understand that the move will have little effect on us operationally as we should still have the facility to conduct suspect interviews at HQ and, we will continue to work alongside and share briefings between the Response/Neighbourhood Policing Teams where possible. The touchdown point at the George Lane Car Park in Marlborough also remains in use and has an enquiry office that is open on Wednesdays and Fridays.

In other matters, PS Chris Wickham has been successfully promoted to a new role as a Duty Inspector for the County and will therefore be leaving his current post as the Devizes Area Neighbourhood Sergeant in April. PS Georgie Wyatt has been successful in her application for the vacant position and joins the team having previously been a Sergeant for one of our Devizes Response Teams. We wish them both well in their new roles.

**Attachment 2**

**Shalbourne Club – 24th April 2025**

We were pleased to welcome Marlborough Under 14’s football club to our sports field last season, they signed a 3-year agreement with us, and extremely happy with our friendly welcome and wonderful setting in Shalbourne ... just need to control the dog fouling and we’re cooking on gas. A few issues with car parking for supports, but this will be ironed out as time goes on.

We will be supporting the May Day fair again this year and running the Classic Car Show on Sunday 24th August – Bank Holiday – rota’s etc will be going out at the beginning of summer.

We also have some party bookings at The Pavilion throughout the year – great news – Shalbourner’s get a discount if they book the Pavilion too – spread the word.

To keep our village tidy, the committee has a “Tidy Up day” this Saturday (26th April) at the sports field and playground area.

We currently have a great team of trustees who work very hard to maintain and improve the facilities for all to enjoy….however, we are recruiting for more committee members, we’re after someone with a techie background to help us move into this century….web design etc….if you know anyone, please introduce yourselves.

We have now appointed Phil Matthews as Vice Chairman to the Pavilion.

Our AGM meeting will be on Monday 2nd June at 7.30pm.

**Attachment 3**

 **CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING** 2025

As we have adapted to having less Clergy in the Savernake Team we now regularly have one lay led service a month and one Sunday a month without a service. However this has not decreased our overall activity as the numbers of attendance in the Church has significantly increased. It has been a busy year.

We had three weddings: for Emma Scott and Joshua Halcro in September, Steve and Sam Conner at Christmas and Phillip Moss and Roberta Morris in June. Norman and Jess Box also held a thanks giving Service for their wedding in 2023. One funeral when we said goodbye to Michael Blendall in December. One Baptism for Josh and Thomas in June and a double for Kitty Quested and Victor Palmer.

In April we held a large Service for Shalbourne School when we had 180 people, many standing to celebrate the school which closed down earlier in the year. A beautiful picture created by the final children to attend has been placed in the Church. We are also very sorry that Stephen Trapnell has left the village and gone to live in Bristol. We wish him all the happiness there and we were glad to hold a special service celebrating his ministry in September.

This year we had help with our Services from Anne Massey in May and October. The new card reader has collected a number of donations as people leave the Church after Services.

Progress has been made on getting permissions to reinscribe the names on our War Memorial. A local stone mason will be working on the names this summer. Thanks to Sarah Davies for following through this complicated project and getting approval from the diocese.

We have appointed a new Church Architect, Bruce Clark from the Nash Partnership, who has made a new inspection of the building. The heating electrics have also been checked and some non working radiators fixed. The heating cupboard now has to be locked.

Again our Ride and Stride village childrens team did win the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust junior cup. Many thanks to Becky Styles for collecting together the team and doing the fundraising of which half the money raised comes back to the Church. Alan Jeans came to take the Service and give the cup.

Christmas Services this year were very busy with services on 5 consecutive days. The Church was full on each occasion, which did include a wedding and funeral as well as our crib service, carol service and Christmas festivals. Thanks to Carolyn Bartholomew, Candice Greenly and Sophia Collins for the Carol and Crib Service, also to Andrew Blake for arranging to bring The Cantemus choir with their Christmas Concert. We look forward to having them again.

Our bells have been very active in the Tower thanks to Ian Daziel. Their long rendering for the welcome to the New Year was especially memorable. The bell tower was checked out by our new architect and found to be in good condition.

Jonny

**ATTACHMENT 4**

SHALBOURNE PARISH COUNCIL - Report to the Parish Assembly - 2025

Last year I said 2023/24 was not a good year for the village. I venture that 2024/25 was better! The real success story was the pub and full credit to the four families who bought it making a considerable financial commitment. Also, a tribute to those, led by Bill Bird who made the pub useable in record time. And of course, thanks to Polly and Dan for making the pub into a real centre of the community with delicious food. And thanks to the 30 odd individuals who have subscribed to loan notes – always room for more.

On planning, the terms under which events may be held at the winery have been agreed between them and the Wilts Council. The biggest failure was Wilts Council’s refusal to countenance any improvement in the A338/Carvers Hill junction. Its attitude was ‘It’s not as dangerous as some and you will have to live with it’. I emphasise that this had nothing to do with the winery. I would like to thank the team there for consulting us at every stage and ensuring, as they promised, that construction traffic did not impact the village.

The school building, controlled by the church but proceeds going to a Trust has been sold with completion in early May. I believe a Wiltshire couple have bought it to convert to a house suitable for their parents – rumour. Wiltshire failed to consult us and are putting the grounds up for sale. We will be protesting the lack of consultation.

The wet winter overwhelmed Wiltshire's Highways Department. Amazingly we have been resurfaced but with all the equipment mobilised Rivar Road was ignored.

Unfortunately, the idea of a village Speedwatch has had to be abandoned because of apathy and probably a fear of dobbing in your neighbours.

Thanks to perseverance by Mrs Shaw the Area Highway Committee agreed to a 30mph limit in Oxenwood. Unfortunately, some Oxenwood residents protested that this was not enough! This should have been done when the scheme was discussed but the PC! The result will be a 3-6 month delay in implementation and we may have to start the scheme again. A scheme with Highways has been agreed for signs to tell those approaching Bagshot that it is a built-up area. It does take time.

Every year in November when we set our budget we asked for suggestions as to things the village needs. This is greeted with a deafening silence.

As Wiltshire Council budgets become tighter it will fall more to the parish councils to get things done.

I would like to thank Peter Orr who is repairing the fingerpost sign on the Village Green. If he had not volunteered to do it the other option was a ghastly plastic thing.

As you know there was to have been elections for a new Parish Council on May 1st. Fortunately 8 people stood for the 9 vacancies so no election was needed. Five councillors are standing down – Nicola Hartman, Carolyn Bartholomew, Emma Verey, Susan Jamieson and the deputy Chairman, Carole Fisher. May thanks to them. Welcome to the newcomers Victoria Astor, Hugo Fitzgerald, Arabella Parton and Bill Simpson. I was going to say something about the change in average age but decided I want to keep living here. The first meeting will be on 22 May when Chairpersons etc will be elected and we will look to co-opt a further member – do come along.

 A mention also to our auditor, Nick Shaw Hardie, who although no longer living in the village continues to provide a free service to us.

I would also like to thank all who come along to our meetings, you bring a depth of village knowledge and experience which is much appreciated.

**Attachment 5**

**Pub notes**

* Trading well-but could always do better! We need you!
* Huge thanks to Polly and Dan-right from the start
* Too much commitment for long term - completely understandable
* They are Happy to work until we find a long term tenant which we are actively looking for
* Difficult: we have money to invest, but want to do it with the long term tenant
* Not a straightforward ad for a tenant
* So…stay tuned. Partners all resolved to find the right, sustainable solution to ensure a great pub for our village (and responsible investment of our money in doing that!)

**Attachment 6******

**Attachment 7**

**The Shalbourne Community Fund**

The Community Fund continues to maintain the defibrillators at the pub and the Pavilion. The defibrillator at the school has been removed. It is hoped that a replacement defibrillator can be positioned at the Church and a faculty has been applied for.

The First Aid course and the Defibrillator course were well attended.

There will be a bottle stall as usual at the Mayday fair and villagers are asked to contribute to this popular fundraising event

**ATTACHMENT 8**

SHALBOURNE RELIEF FUND - Report to Parish Assembly - 2025

The Shalbourne Relief Fund is registered with the Charity Commission and is the amalgamation of three ‘poor law’ charities:

1. Thomas Henshaw’s Gift from 1752;
2. Parish Stock;
3. Poor’s Allotment from 1805.

The first two were combined in 1923. All three were combined in 1998 under the name of “The Shalbourne Relief Fund”.

Their objective is the “relief of poverty”.

The trustees are appointed by the Parish Council, the Parochial church council and the third is appointed by the other two. The trustees are Micky Bird, Ann Currie and Mike Lockhart.

Their assets are:

* the allotment behind Kew Gardens
* approximately £700 invested in charity bonds with M&G and
* £2100 in cash at the Newbury Building Society.

We received a donation from the Shalbourne Club from the proceeds of the Car Show.

We made a small surplus in 2024, accounts available from me on request.

In 2024 gift vouchers from the Shalbourne Stores worth £40 each were given to nine parishioners. Also, we contributed £40 to the hamper which the Buxton’s very generously donate to Dramsdon each year.

We welcome any suggestions of those who might benefit from the charity but it is a sad fact that the old and the bold are getting fewer by the year.