



PARISH of KEEVIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH COMMUNITY MEETING

Friday 29 May 2026 in the village hall

Present: Councillors Rob Banfield (Chair), Simon Gough, Caroline Munday and Pat Tucker, Sarah Dow (Clerk) and 23 other residents of the parish.

In attendance: Jake Eggertsen, Rector of St Leonard' Keevil and St James Trowbridge, and Melanie Grace, Community Advisor at SSEN.

Cllr Rob Banfield, as Vice-Chair of the Council warmly welcomed everyone to the Parish Meeting, and gave special thanks to the community groups for their displays, including art, bell ringers, choir, St Leonard's, bus and walking groups, folk night and shopping. Wessex Water provided leaflets, and SSEN manned a table.

Melanie Grace of SSEN gave a helpful and interesting talk, reminding us **105** was the nationwide number to call in a power cut, and that SSEN's Community fund was there to help support resilience within communities, and that applications would open again next year.

AGENDA ITEMS

- 1. Apologies:** were noted from Liz Tyler, Geoff West, Cllrs Graham Miller and Rodney Meatyard, plus Caroline Noonan (FOKS) and WC Cllr Andrew Griffin who provided a written report distributed to tables.
- 2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Community Meeting of 23 May 2025:** Proposed and seconded by Barbara Lewendon and Simon van Poeteren, all agreed the Chair sign the minutes of the last meeting as a correct record.
- 3. Report from the Chair of the Parish Council for 2025-26:** Cllr Pat Tucker read her Chairs Report for the first year of the new council, paying tribute to members commitment and hard work. Printed copies of the report were available to those present, downloads available from the council's website and keevilvillage.com/parish-matters/annual-parish-community-meeting/.

4. COMMUNITY PROJECTS

4.1. Proposal for a permanent shelter on the Banfield Recreation Ground

An outline of the proposal was made available before and at the meeting, and introduced by Caroline Munday, who emphasised the aim to broaden use of the recreation ground as a space for everyone, that the current proposal fell within permitted development rights, and confirmed a solid roof was intended.

During the discussion, suggestions for seating, lighting, and removable sides were raised, along with concerns about the permanency of a large concreted area, difficulties of mowing around it, additional maintenance responsibilities, and whether any increase in use would be sufficient to justify the cost.

Recognising the need for a more detailed feasibility study including financing and maintenance, the Chair took a vote in the room:

15 in favour

6 against

1 abstention

... and noted a further 10 messages of support had been received before the meeting.

4.2. Proposal for a second defibrillator station outside the school

An outline of this proposal was also made available before and at the meeting, and introduced by Simon Gough who further explained the current 400m restriction and helpful preliminary engagement with the school. Everyone agreed the proposal should be pursued, and that it should be prioritised over item 4.1.

4.3. Replacement of stiles with gates

Simon Gough discussed the current approach of WC PROW to encourage the replacement of broken stiles with gates provided it accorded with the landowner’s wishes. Some stiles that needed attention were discussed, and Simon confirmed the Council was already working with the landowner and WC regarding KEEV7 on the ROW to Steeple Ashton.

4.4. Free dog poop bag scheme

Information was made available before and at the meeting. Questions were raised about whether the scheme had made a difference during the last two years, and, although some felt social media posts has tailed off, others felt that mess on pavements hadn’t changed. It was noted that the taking of whole rolls seemed to have reduced since moving to a cheaper brand. It was suggested some ‘less convenient’ locations be considered, and perhaps a ‘watch/wait’ approach once the current stock ran out.

The Chair took a vote in the room on the continuation of the scheme:

- 11 in favour
- 2 against
- 1 abstention

5. Strategic plan

The Chair introduced the council’s draft plan setting out its goals during the current term, which was well received, with no changes requested and comment that it was good to have a three-year plan.

6. Other matters arising

- FOOTPATHS: A resident asked if there was more that could be done to raise awareness of the Definitive Rights of Way, and the need for walkers to keep to them. It was also recognised that not all landowners made it obvious where the footpath went! Ideas included maps, downloads, and refreshers, and that WC could provide more direction roundels, maps with stiles marked, and parish-centred maps for Keevil.
- BIG DOG FARM: following a call with the Enforcement Officer, Pat Tucker said the Planning Contravention Notice had been complied with, the stable block had been removed, and other notices were being prepared.
- SEWAGE ISSUES: As a flood warden, Paul Lenaerts described sewage overflow issues in heavy rainfall affecting 12 properties that could not flush their toilets during these times. Although Wessex Water has installed some sensors under manhole covers to find the source of surface water leaks, this is only likely to work in winter during rainfall. Paul asked if WW could be invited to a meeting to meet residents and discuss resolutions.
- AIRFIELD: Simon Gough confirmed a UAV commercial drone now operating on Thursdays until further notice, and a large exercise happening in July, but nothing else outside normal activities was scheduled.

The Chair confirmed all matters discussed would be reviewed at the Council’s next business meeting in July and, there being no further matters arising from the floor, closed the meeting at **19:38**

Signed..... Dated.....

Chair, Keevil Parish Council