

Shalfleet Parish Council Newsletter June 2025

I am pleased to share that our Meet Your Councillors morning was a great success. Over 50 parishioners attended, enjoying coffee, cake, and conversations about the Parish to discuss what is happening now and what they would like to see in the future. We intend to repeat this informal gathering at Christmas, when councillors will once again personally fund an informal mince pies and mulled wine soirée, an opportunity to chat, reflect, and plan for the New Year.

At our recent meeting, the following matters were discussed.

A grant was awarded to Shalfleet School to fund gym equipment, which the children are now enjoying. Another grant has been provided for the West Wight Sports and Community Centre, along with considerations for supporting our valuable local Community Centres. I'm sure you will agree that these are essential assets for our Parish.

The fencing at Bouldnor has been renewed, with an excellent job completed promptly by KC Tree Work.

Soon, two of the Council noticeboards, at Bouldnor and Wellow will be replaced. These new lockable boards will hopefully put an end to the mystery of missing official notices.

Concerns have been raised by several parishioners near Withyfields regarding the height and spread of nearby trees. The trees are blocking light, and there may be a problem with roots affecting drainage systems. The Tree Officer at County Hall has been asked to conduct a survey and advise on any necessary action.

Several bus stops across the Parish are overgrown with weeds and nettles, making them difficult to spot and unsafe to use. The Wellow stop near the Alpaca Farm is particularly problematic, with no safe standing area due to overgrown vegetation, making boarding and alighting hazardous. The District Steward has been asked to assess the situation and provide recommendations. If you're aware of any other bus stops needing attention, please let us know, you are our eyes and ears.

An old planning application has been revisited. The Burt Close extension off Warlands Lane. Residents raised concerns about the Southern Water system, which is already struggling to cope with waste and foul water disposal. With the addition of 70 more houses, there is a serious risk of more sewage flooding gardens and overflowing into lanes. Alarmingly, raw sewage has spilled onto the lane, forcing people to wade through it. There are additional concerns about environmental impacts on Newtown and the Solent, which must remain nitrate and phosphate neutral, as they hold international ecological importance.

Henry Blacksell, a local parishioner, provided a highly informative presentation outlining existing problems and potential future risks if infrastructure improvements are not made. The Council recognizes the urgency of this issue and has invited Southern Water representatives to our next meeting.

We strongly encourage residents to attend, this is your opportunity to hear directly from them and ask questions.

On a more positive note, the new SPC website is progressing well. A substantial amount of historical information has already been uploaded, and we hope to have the site fully operational before the next meeting.

Jonathan presented the refreshed SPC logo, which retains the traditional elements of the previous Council emblem but now appears revitalized and in full colour. The imagery reflects Shalfleet's brick-making heritage, ancient woodlands, and coastal history. The logo will feature on Parish stationery, letterheads, compliment slips, and other materials. Residents reviewed the logo and were pleased with its fresh, updated approach.

Other matters included:

- The Isle of Wight Council's contract for playground inspections is being updated, with regular inspections set to commence soon.
- Bus Users Group: Jonathan and I will be joining, enabling us to highlight the difficulties villagers face due to frequent road closures and limited public transport availability. 17 weeks of disruption last year alone.
- Councillor Training: Some councillors have already received training, and further sessions are planned, including a Chairman's training course.

Our Ward Councillors, Nick Stuart and Peter Spink, provided detailed reports covering Planning, Island Roads/Highways, and Barnfield Solar Farm. These reports are too extensive to feature in the local magazine, but once our website is live, all reports will be available for parishioners to read.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our future meetings. Meeting dates are posted in the Village News and listed on Parish noticeboards, with full details extending into next year.

If you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any councillor. We are all here to listen and help wherever possible.

Community matters. Let's work together for the good of our wonderful Parish of Shalfleet.

Jane

Jane Timbrell

Chair Shalfleet Parish Council