Shutford Annual Parish Meeting
Wednesday 13th May 2026 at 7.15pm in Shutford Village Hall

The meeting commenced at 7.15pm

Present: Cllrs: Ashley Taylor, George Reynolds, Alison Hughes, Stephen Barnes, Bill Richardson and Cllr. Chris Brant and Cllr. Nicola Borkmann. 0 members of the public attended the meeting.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr. Chris Hall

26/001/APM	**Minutes of the last meeting:** It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 14th May 2025 were a correct record and signed (unanimous).
26/002/APM	**Chairman's Report**: It has been a fairly uneventful year within the Parish of Shutford. The Parish Council has continued to diligently perform and deliver its core duties. Indeed, you will see some common themes in this year's report when compared with previous years. David Best announced that he has stepped down from the position of Clerk to the Parish Council. We would like to express our huge thanks to David for all the time and effort he has put into our Parish Council during his many years with us. Of course, that leaves us with a vacancy for the role of Clerk and we would very much like to hear from anyone in the Parish who feels they would like to take on this role. It is the only salaried position on the Parish Council and is vitally important to its successful running and management. In reality, it is only a few hours a month for a village the size of Shutford and the matters the Parish Council deal with. Councillor Donna Court also stepped down from the Parish Council this year due to personal circumstances. We thank Donna for her time and input that she gave to the Parish Council. We welcomed Bill Richardson onto the Parish Council, who also kindly stepped up and into managing the allotments. That means we still have an open Councillor vacancy on the Parish Council so this is a great opportunity for someone to join us. Perhaps those new to the village and especially people with fresh ideas. We live in a beautiful village and this is a great opportunity to be part of helping keep it that way for us and generations to come. There were fewer planning applications submitted this year versus previous years with only three full applications having been reviewed within the Parish. Of these, two have been permitted and one remains under consultation. Financially the Parish Council continues to have appropriate funds and reserves to carry out their duties. The precept was agreed to be increased again this year by 10% to £9,309 (or approximately £46.55 per household within the village) to ensure that this position is maintained. Whilst this may seem like a large increase, the ever increasing cost of work requires this. For example, a single tree being felled and removed on Plot Lane cost the Parish Council c.£2,200. Also, the play equipment on the Dairyground is aging and will require preventative maintenance soon along with more immediate repairs required to the bus shelter at Jame Corner. We also carried out the usual activities, such as: • Ensuring that all the allotments are rented out with rents collected from tenants and paid to Broughton Estates. All allotments are currently rented. The management of some of the allotments off Lower End and Plot Road was handed back to Broughton Estates and they planned to clear the scrub land on Thistle Hill. • Managing the grass and verge cutting, including the increasing costs as mentioned earlier. We continue to support the mowing of the Churchyard. • Continuing to ensure that dog waste is not a blight on the Village including ensuring that the dog poo bins are used appropriately and emptied regularly. • Maintaining the Dairyground play area and the play equipment.

	• The annual litter pick was again carried out in April – many thanks to those who took part. The good news is that very little litter was found and we extend our huge thanks to Ken Jeffs especially and all the Villagers that regularly collect litter when they are out walking. Thanks also to those Villagers who help maintain areas of the village such as keeping the various planters looking fantastic and clearing the kerbs and pavements on the Dairyground. • The Book Exchange continues to be well looked after and well used. Thanks to those that continue to look after it. • The village flagpole was also repaired and returned to use. I make no apology for closing with largely the same words I used last year as they are as true this year as last: The Village continues to be a fabulous place to live, with great people and great events. This year sees the second anniversary of Carol and Stuart in the George & Dragon and another great year of the long reigning Shutford Festival. As Chairman, I am very grateful for the support of my fellow Councillors and the Clerk, David Best, for all their time and effort on the Council. We are also very grateful for the continued support of our fellow Villagers. I would like to thank you all for helping make this such a wonderful village and special place to live. .
26/003/APM	**Open Forum for Parishioners:** Nothing raised.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 7:30pm

Signed by Chairman…… Date……