

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20th February 2024 at 7:30pm at
South Marston Village Hall.**

Council Members present	
C McEwen – Chair (CRM)	T Leathart (TL)
S Brown (SB)	N Hole (NH)
A Carter (AC)	R Messenger (RM)
B Thunder (BT)	
Clerk & Responsible Officer:	K Morgan
Borough Councillors present:	None
Others present:	A Featherstone, Lionel Cave-Ayland, L Scragg, S and J Pugh, T and Y Allen, D Pike, I Clark

Acronyms used in these minutes:

SBC – Swindon Borough Council, PC – Parish Council, NP – Neighbourhood Plan, NPC – Neighbourhood Planning Committee, SMRA – South Marston Recreation Association, OSWG – Open Spaces Working Group, CWG – Communications Working Group, SM website – www.SouthMarston.org.uk, ML – Mandy Larcombe (bookkeeper)

Agenda item & minute number	Summary	Action
Open 10 Minutes 139/23-24	The Chair introduced the discussion about application ref S/23/1500 for the site off Nightingale Lane. A draft response from the Parish Council had been prepared and publicised on the website and Facebook page. A number of points were made: SB briefly covered the long term aim of using Nightingale Lane as a mainly pedestrian/cycle way including moving the car park for Nightingale Wood. Mr Pike mentioned his own experience of the danger of traffic meeting pedestrians on Nightingale Lane and the increased risk that further traffic would bring. Mr Allen raised a query about caravan sizes on the site.	None

	The Chair reminded everyone that the Parish Council is a statutory consultee and should only respond with appropriate comments based on planning regulations and can ask for referral to the Planning Committee – but is not an actual decision maker in the planning process. Mrs Featherstone expressed appreciation of the efforts made by the Parish Council in composing its detailed response. Mr Cave-Ayland then gave a briefing on fire safety in the Village Hall.	
1. Apologies 140/23-24	CLlr Povey sent his apologies due to illness.	None
2. Declarations of interest 141/23-24	None	None
3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 16 th January 2024 2023 142/23-24	The minutes were approved. Proposed: NH Seconded: TL Approved: All	None
4. Review of actions 143/23-24	Review of actions currently outstanding. Clerk to update the following: Sep 23 79/23-24 Footpaths 6 & 15 – Rights of Way Working party to contact Martin Fry @ SBC Dec 23 120/23-24 Recycling Blue Bags – these are no longer distributed to hubs. Item closed. Jan 24 134/23-24 Heritage Garden – BT reported that there are issue with the play cars – reported to Honda. Jan 24 136/23-24 Royal Portrait – Clerk reported this has been ordered and awaiting delivery. Jan 24 138/23-24 Shelter tarpaulin – SB reported there are minor issues which have temporarily dealt with. Permanent solution being investigated. Item closed.	RoW
5. Review of	The PC reviewed progress.	None

Council Calendar 144/23-24		
6. Clerk's Report 145/23-24	Report was reviewed. - Hedges on Highworth Road – Clerk to follow up and try to make contact with land owners.	Clerk
7. Planning applications 146/23-24	The following applications were discussed: S/23/1500 Re: Change of use of land to the stationing of caravans for residential purposes and erection of dayroom buildings and hardstanding ancillary to that use and the creation of an access. At: Land At Nightingale Lane, South Marston Swindon Deadline: Extended to 23rd February - SB gave an update on suggested additions to the draft proposal including traffic levels, pedestrian usage, flooding and drainage issues and imagery including EA maps and photographs - Council agreed to submit the updated response as suggested. SB to finish and submit S/COND/22/0483 Re: Discharge of condition 26 (Thornhill Road Junction) and partial discharge of conditions 36 etc from previous outline permission S/OUT/13/1555. At: Land North Of A420, Eastern Villages Swindon Deadline: 19th February 2024 Deadline: 19th February - Response submitted prior to the meeting insisting on the need for a safe pedestrian/cycle/horse crossing point, asking for referral to planning committee if this cannot be provided. S/OUT/23/1514 Re: Outline application for the erection of up to 80 dwellings and open space with all matters reserved other than means of access. At: Redlands Phase 2, Redlands Farm, Wanborough Road Swindon SN4 0AA Deadline: 8th February 2024	SB

	- Response submitted prior to the meeting, highlighting the need to restrict any development that might impact flood risk for South Marston S/OUT/23/0456 Re: Outline planning permission for up to 275 dwellings (use class C3) including the provision of affordable homes, together with pedestrian and cycle connections, etc At: Land East Of Wanborough Road , New Eastern Villages Wanborough Deadline: 15th March 2024 - Response to be submitted outside the meeting if required	
8. Ward Boundary Review 147/23-24	Chair gave a summary of the issues, including that a response would need to estimate population that will be within the parish up to 2029. - It was noted that if it was considered that South Marston should be a separate ward then it may only have one ward councillor. - Council agreed that the SPWG would draw up a response.	
9. Reports from Working Groups 148/23-24	Communications Working Group: Report noted. - Hoping to include coverage of the tree planting in the upcoming 50th edition of CN, assuming it goes ahead. Open Spaces Working Group: Report noted. - Council resolved to approve expenditure for two first aid courses for BT and the new 'lengthsman', at a cost of £80 each, total £160 - Council resolved to approve purchase of PPE at cost of up to £150 Proposed: NH Seconded: AC Approved: All	

	The prospective candidate for the 'lengthsman' role, Mark Rostill, was introduced to the council. Allotments Working Group: Report noted. - It was reported that some allotment holders have resigned their plots - BT reported that he had purchased a gazebo for events at the allotments but also for general PC use. This was purchased without approval – the Clerk reminded Cllr Thunder of the need to seek authorisation before making such purchases. - Retrospective approval given for £300 for purchase of the gazebo to be charged against s106 funds. Proposed: SB Seconded: NH Approved: All Rights of Way Working Party: It was agreed earlier in the meeting that Mr Cave-Ayland and Cllr Carter would pursue the matter of footpaths 6 + 15 with Martin Fry @ SBC. Clerk to recirculate the email chain.	Clerk/LCA/AC
10. Reports relating to expansion 149/23-24	Strategic Planning Working Group Report noted.	None
11. Other reports 150/23-24	SMRA report: Report noted. - SB reported that a meeting had been held and a review of recent activities showed a significant amount of improvements and changes especially on the Recreation Ground. - SB also mentioned the route of the underground electric cable on the Recreation Ground that required careful planning of the new tree planting.	None

	- SB asked for approval for a fund of approximately £125 for food and refreshments for the upcoming tree planting day on 24th February. Council approved the request: Proposed: BT Seconded: AC Approved: All Parish/borough Liaison: - Chair summarised the ongoing Transfer of Services discussions. - Following discussion it was generally agreed that it may be most appropriate for the Parish Council to cover its own additional maintenance requirement through contractors rather than rely on another Parish or SBC - It was also agreed that funding for the town centre through an additional charge via the council tax might be the best solution, provided this charge was evenly distributed across Swindon and included contributions from residential properties within the town centre that currently do not sit within a parish.	None
12. Finance 151/23-24	To review and approve finance statement, bank statements and payments: - Council resolved to approve payments totalling £7,914.82 Proposed: SB Seconded: AC Approved: All Spending approved at this meeting: - £160 for two first aid courses - £150 for PPE - £300 for purchase of gazebo - £125 for refreshments	None Clerk

13. Exclusion of public and press	Council resolved to exclude public and press from the meeting at this point. Proposed: BT Seconded: AC Approved: All	
14. Staffing and remuneration	Hiring of a self-employed 'lengthsman' was discussed and approved.	
Matters brought forward 152/23-24	None.	

The meeting closed at 9:45pm

Signed by Chairperson:

Date: