

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th March 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)	M Povey (MP)
B Thunder (BT)	
Clerk & Responsible Officer:	K Morgan
Borough Councillors present:	M Vallender
Others present:	A Featherstone, Lionel Cave-Ayland

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 155/23-24	Cllr Vallender summarised a local plan review he had attended and reported that several sites in the village are possible sites for development. Mrs Featherstone asked about the Traveller site application and whether SBC had met its allocation for such sites - it was noted that SBC currently has no accurate assessment of whether traveller site requirements have been met. SB expressed serious concern that comments submitted by the PC regarding highways and traffic matters on Nightingale Lane have not been acknowledged or taken into account by officers so far in the review process for the application. The Chair also expressed concern that the officers involved did not appreciate the significance attached to the application by stakeholders. Noted that HHT have just submitted a detailed objection. Cllr Vallender to follow up. Crown Timber was also discussed. Cllr Vallender mentioned that conditions were to be requested for early delivery of footpath	None

	links from the site. SB confirmed that this generally reflected the views of the Parish Council. The Chair expressed concerns about the use of porous road surfaces. Mr Cave-Ayland reported that there would likely be a permissive path near paths 2 and 16 near the solar panels which would be of benefit to the village. The Chair also reported the issues with developers implementing a safe crossing point on Thornhill Road near the Morse's Lane junction due to land ownership matters.	
1. Apologies 156/23-24	Cllr Messenger sent her apologies due to work commitments.	None
2. Declarations of interest 157/23-24	None	None
3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 20th February 2024 158/23-24	The minutes were approved. Proposed: AC Seconded: TL Approved: All	None
4. Review of actions 159/23-24	Review of actions currently outstanding. Clerk to update the following: May 23 18/23-24 and Jan 24 134/23-24 - both concerning works on Morse's Lane, merged. Aug 23 69/23-24 CIL Chapel Lane – Clerk to chase with SBC, to copy in Cllr Vallender if required.	RoW Clerk
5. Review of Council Calendar 160/23-24	The PC reviewed progress.	None
6. Clerk's Report 161/23-24	Report was reviewed. - Thames Water – it was noted that the email concerning repeated works and disruption on Thornhill Road has now been sent and a response received confirming the issue has been passed to the operation team.	Clerk

	- Ward boundary review – response has been submitted noting the forthcoming proposals on changes to parish boundaries were of much greater importance, with the scale of NEV expansion. - Council discussed the request from Supermarine Bowls Club for a grant towards costs of its open day in May. Council resolved to approve a grant of £65. Clerk to arrange payment in April 2024. Proposed: SB Seconded: BT Approved: All - The recommendation to continue with the defibrillator support package through South West Ambulance Service was discussed. Council resolved to agree to the proposal: Proposed: TL Seconded: AC Approved: All	Clerk
7. Planning applications 162/23-24	The following applications were discussed: 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 It was agreed that there was no particular further comment to make on this matter and that the deadline had passed. S/OUT/24/0128 Re: Outline application for the erection of up to 57 no. dwellings with access from Thornhill Road, footpath improvements and public open space (Means of access not reserved). At: Crown Trading Estate, Thornhill Road South Marston Swindon Deadline: 13th March extended to 22nd March - Council were happy with progress so far and the draft response. SB to submit. HGV Application For 5 HGVs and trailers at Crown Timber.	SB

	- Clerk to reply and ask how this fits with the current development plans for the site. Also to express concerns over vehicle turning and capacity in the site and request standard operating conditions be applied if application goes ahead.	Clerk
8. Grant Request 163/23-24	- Mr Cave-Ayland requested a grant of £300 for the Party in the Park. Council resolved to approve the grant. Clerk to arrange payment to SMRA when required. Proposed: MP Seconded: SB Approved: All	
9. Reports from Working Groups 164/23-24	Communications Working Group: Report noted. Open Spaces Working Group: Report noted. - BT mentioned concerns over flooded paths in Oxleaze Woods. There was a discussion about the possible need to reintroduce ponds in the area to ease drainage issues. - A discussion took place over branding on clothing – it was agreed that some broad guidelines for branding were to be investigated by the CWG. In the meantime clothing items to be branded with South Marston Parish Council when possible. - Council resolved to approve purchase of ‘hi viz’ clothing and logos on other items at cost of up to £250 Proposed: NH Seconded: AC Approved: All - Council resolved to approve an additional £240 for first aid courses Allotments Working Group: Report noted.	

	- It was reported that some allotment holders have resigned their plots - It was noted that the way deposits are taken may be amended to avoid the need to refund deposits to new tenants who change their mind and create excessive admin tasks. Rights of Way Working Party: There were no further updates.	
10. Reports relating to expansion 165/23-24	Strategic Planning Working Group Report noted. - The crossing and junction near Morses Lane were discussed. BT asked about the existing gap in the hedge that allows access across the road – it was noted that while this can be used it is not ideal and our Neighbourhood Plan called for safety improvements. HHT consultants have just forwarded a Report suggesting that the safest solution would be to direct users to the crossing at the Link Road, not having been told that this is undeliverable. - Further discussion to be had amongst SPWG to ascertain possible solutions to the standoff with developers over safe crossings and then circulate to council. In the meantime the objection is to be maintained. - It was noted that the Steris land has been purchased and the noise issues that were impacting the HHT development are resolved. It is unclear what will now happen to the land.	None
11. Other reports 166/23-24	SMRA report: Report noted. Recreation Ground Landscaping: Report reviewed – it was generally agreed that the event had been a huge success.	None

	Parish/borough Liaison: Report reviewed – it was noted that there has been little further progress with resolving the Transfer of Services.	None
12. Finance 167/23-24	To review and approve finance statement, bank statements and payments: - Council resolved to approve payments totalling £5,199.12 Proposed: AC Seconded: BT Approved: All Spending approved at this meeting: - £65 grant to Supermarine Bowl Club - £300 grant for the Party in the Park - £250 for coats and appropriate branding - £240 additional funds towards first aid course	None
13. Exclusion of public and press 168/23-24	Council resolved to exclude public and press from the meeting at this point. Proposed: BT Seconded: AC Approved: All	
14. Staffing and remuneration 169/23-24	Staff remuneration changes – the recommendations in the confidential report were discussed and approved. Confidential minute filed.	
Matters brought forward 170/23-24	NH reported on the latest litter picking exercise.	

The meeting closed at 9:45pm

Signed by Chairperson:

Date: