

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18th Feb 2025 at 7:30pm at South
Marston Village Hall.**

Council Members present	
C McEwen (CM) (Chair)	T Leathart (TL)
S Brown (SB)	N Hole (NH)
B Thunder (BT)	A Carter (AC)
Clerk & Responsible Officer:	K Morgan
Borough Councillors present:	None
Others present:	Mr 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 (bookkeep

Agenda item & minute number	Summary	Action
Open 10 Minutes 144/24-25	Mr Cave-Ayland gave an update on the person doing the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme.	None
1. Apologies 145/24-25	Cllr Povey sent apologies as he was away.	None
2. Declarations of interest 146/24-25	Cllr Brown has an ongoing general interest due to the proximity of her property to development sites, the proposed roads and the likely opportunity for mains services to her residence, as well as meetings she is helping coordinate. Council continues to note this.	None
3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21 st January 2024 147/24-25	The minutes were approved. Proposed: TL Seconded: AC Approved: All	None
4. Ward Councillor Update 148/24-25	Cllr Vallender sent apologies but submitted a written update to the meeting in advance .The following related points were raised/discussed:	

	- The chair updated council on progress with the land transfer of the Bell Gardens field to the Parish Council – Vistry have said that they do not require the borough side of the land transfer arrangements to be progressed before agreeing their part of the process. Chair to expedite arrangements with Vistry. - It was noted that there remain concerns with the borough officer leading the school project and the lack of progress, despite several attempts to move matters along. - The squeaky windmill issues were mentioned – these are now being dealt with the grounds contractors but occasional issues are still being reported. - SBC rights of way officers have tried to engage with landowners about the need for a public link through the hedge along Thornhill Road without success. It has been suggested that a compulsory legal order may be required but officers would prefer to avoid this if possible, given the complications involved, and will continue to seek landowner engagement. - The council awaits further updates on the bus service discussions Cllr Vallender is due to have with Stagecoach. - Clerk to contact Cllr Vallender and thank him for the updates.	Clerk
5. Review of actions 149/24-25	Review of actions currently outstanding. Clerk to update the following: - Aug 23 65/23-24 Website Changes Work is ongoing, to be removed as an action. - Apr24 175/23-24 Crown Timber Planners have informed us that some issues remain but the PC has emphasised the desire for this to progress. - Aug 24 64/24-25 Village Garden Progressing, remove as action - Nov 24 100/24-25 War memorial Council discussed and agreed to have the lettering addressed and to deal with the cross at a later date. Expenditure had been previously agreed. Clerk to follow up.	Clerk

	- Dec 24 125/24-25 CADC SPWG to read and review third edition	
6. Review of Council Calendar 150/24-25	The PC reviewed the calendar.	None
7. Clerk's Report 151/24-25	Report was reviewed. - The future of the lengthsman role was discussed. Clerk raised concerns about the new employee rights due in April and how this would impact the role. Agreed to advertise in the next edition of Community News to gauge interest before any next steps. - Council discussed enquiries about a paediatric first aid course and the wider question as to whether the PC should be involved in such events. It was agreed that Cllr Povey would liaise about this course in particular and more generally that the Parish Council should act as an enabler for such events where possible and appropriate -	CWG
8. Planning & Highways 152/24-25	Several applications had been dealt with prior to the meeting and responses sent as appropriate: S/RES/24/0551 Foul Water Pumping Station - NEV Response submitted prior to meeting with no further comments to those previously made S/25/0059 Installation of Solar equipment – main SM Business Park Response submitted prior to meeting with no adverse comment. S/COND/23/0154 Discharge of Conditions - NEV SPWG to discuss and submit response as appropriate. S/25/0120 External heating and ventilation - Police Station Response to be submitted with no adverse comment. S/HOU/25/0165 – Installation of Air Source Heating – Magdalene Close	SPWG Clerk

	Response to be submitted with no adverse comment but mention deferral to planners regarding noise levels. Planning Items Received late S/COND/22/1186 Discharge of Condition 30 related to OVL works SPWG to review and comment as appropriate. S/25/0143 Installation of extraction ducts – main SM business park Likely not be no comment, to be confirmed.	Clerk SPWG
9. Reports from Working Groups 153/24-25	Communications Working Group: A verbal report was given. - It was noted that the scheduled printing of Community News would miss HYS and Tree planting events, so timing was moved by a week to incorporate these. - CWG to discuss VE day event with the Church to offer assistance Open Spaces Working Group: Report reviewed: - Cllr Thunder reemphasised the need to replace the work done by the lengthsman. - It was noted that tree planting locations have been cleared in preparation for upcoming planting events - The weeding plan is to be provided to Allbuild Allotments Working Group: Report was noted: - It was noted that significant work has been done by Allbuild on converting older, larger plots to smaller ones that are easier to work. Large amounts of waste and rubbish have been removed from site. - Council resolved to approve the initial expenditure and continue to further renovate the allotments using s106 funds.	CWG Clerk/BT

	Proposed: BT Seconded: NH Approved: All Council resolved to approve adjusted plot rental system including reduced rent for initial year and delay of taking deposit for a year. Proposed: BT Seconded: AC Approved: All Rights of Way Working Party: - Council maintenance requirements have been forwarded to Martin Fry at SBC – no response received as yet.	Clerk/BT
10. Reports relating to expansion 154/24-25	Strategic Planning Working Group Report was reviewed: - Concerns with some features of Character Area Design Codes were mentioned - the SPWG is reviewing this and will be submitting response as appropriate. - Some concerns were noted about the apparent landlocking of Manor Farmyard following development. The owners have been contacted and advised to investigate.	SPWG
11. Other reports 155/24-25	SMRA and Play Working Group report: Report was reviewed: - It was noted that the new long-term play inspection agreement had been undertaken. - Volunteers for the Rec landscaping day have come forward and numbers are now sufficient. Council resolved to agree that a £200 grant should be paid by the Parish Council to cover the cost of refreshments and BBQ food for volunteers. Cost to come from community engagement funds. Proposed: AC Seconded: BT Approved: All	None

	Parish/borough Liaison: Verbal report was given. - Chair gave an update on the current situation and ongoing difficulty of getting borough cooperation. - Clerk mentioned the concerns from other clerks about s171 licenses and charges to install or do works alongside highways . Chair to raise with the forum with a view to formally raising the matter with the borough.	Chair
12. Finance 156/24-25	To review and approve finance statement, bank statements and payments: - Council resolved to approve payments totalling £9,097.68. Proposed: NH Seconded: AC Approved: All Spending approved at this meeting: - To confirm the £600 + VAT for war memorial refurbishment as previously agreed To review and approve SMRA Rec Maintenance Grant and Village Hall Grant for 2025/26: - Council resolved to agree £7,750 for the SMRA Recreation Ground Maintenance Grant and £5,395 for the Village Hall grant for 2025/26. Proposed: SB Seconded: AC Approved: All To review and approve budget for 2025/26 - Council resolved to agree the proposed budget for 2025/26. Proposed: SB Seconded: BT Approved: All	None

13. Exclusion of press and public 157/24-25	Council resolved to exclude press and public. Proposed: SB Seconded: AC Approved: All	None
14. To discuss staffing and remuneration 158/24-25	Council resolved to adopt the proposed changes to staff remuneration: Proposed: NH Seconded: BT Approved: All	None
15. Matters b/f 159/24-25	Declaring a personal interest, Cllr Brown mentioned that issues with low water pressure for all Manor Farm properties had been resolved by the local residents with no help from the developer on whose land the leaks had been in existence for several years.	None

The meeting closed at 9:30pm

Signed by Chairperson:

Date: