

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18th March 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)
M Povey (MP)	
Clerk & Responsible Officer:	K Morgan
Borough Councillors present:	M Vallender
Others present:	Mr Cave-Ayland, Mrs Featherstone

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 160/24-25	Mrs Featherstone mentioned the S19 Flooding Report and raised concerns about the report, and that funding is a possible issue. She raised the additional concern that the report does not take climate change and impacts that may have into account. The Chair mentioned the ongoing attempts to progress this with the borough, the issues the borough have with funding and resources and the lack of a current head of department with responsibility for infrastructure. Cllr Vallender reminded the meeting that the report can only look at specific incidents of actual flooding and remedies for those, not future possible changes. He also noted that it was positive that South Marston was included in the report as it was not clear at one stage that it would be.	None
1. Apologies 161/24-25	None.	None
2. Declarations of interest	Cllr Brown has an ongoing general interest due to the proximity of her property to development sites, the proposed roads and the	None

162/24-25	likely opportunity for mains services to her residence, as well as meetings she is helping coordinate. Council continues to note this. Cllr Hole declared an interest in a later item regarding a letter from F & E Harris Trust given his Trust role. It was agreed Cllr Hole did not need to leave the meeting for that discussion.	
3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18 th February 2025 163/24-25	The minutes were approved. The Clerk noted a minor date error that he would amend. Proposed: SB Seconded: AC Approved: All	None
4. Ward Councillor Update 164/24-25	Cllr Vallender raised the following points: - It was noted that reserved matters R8 and R9 for the new developments have been approved. - Development of the new Thames Water pumping station on Merlin Way is progressing. This is vital for improving waste water handling for the NEV developments. - The SBC budget has been passed and council tax figures have been released. - The Crown Timber application is still waiting for Environment Agency issues to be addressed before a decision is made. CIL and S106 liabilities resulting from the development to be clarified.	None
5. Exclusion of Press and Public 165/24-25	Council resolved to exclude the press and public: Proposed: AC Seconded: MP Approved: All	None
6. Confidential Ward Councillor Update 166/24-25	Cllr Vallender gave a confidential update to the council.	None
7. Review of actions 167/24-25	Review of actions currently outstanding. A number of actions were closed and removed from the action list.	Clerk

8. Review of Council Calendar 168/24-25	The PC reviewed the calendar. - It was agreed that the Annual Meeting of the Council would be held immediately prior to the May monthly meeting on Tuesday 20th May. - Date for Annual Parish Meeting to be agreed.	None
9. Clerk's Report 169/24-25	Report was reviewed. - The Clerk acknowledged the lack of an estimate for the recent allotment refurbishment work and that in future at least an estimate should be obtained prior to work taking place. It was noted that council had discussed and agreed the works on several occasions, and in this case Allbuild was the only appropriate contractor. Additionally the funds were from s106 funding assigned to allotments and could not be used elsewhere. - The refurbishment of the memorial lettering was discussed – date to be agreed.	None
10. Planning & Highways 170/24-25	Several applications had been dealt with prior to the meeting and responses sent as appropriate: S/COND/25/0142 Discharge Condition 9, Lotmead Site - No comment was issued as the application was related to the Wanborough part of the NEV developments. S/RES/24/1020 Reserved Matters, Primary Street, South Marston - Response agreed and submitted prior to meeting. - It was noted that the main concern was sufficiency and design of drainage around the primary street. This was challenged and solutions were suggested in the response. S/COND/22/1186 Discharge Condition 30, Old Vicarage Lane - Response agreed and submitted prior to meeting. S/25/0143	None

	- Response of no comment agreed and submitted prior to meeting.	
11. Reports from Working Groups 171/24-25	Communications Working Group: A verbal report was given. - The recent edition of Community News was positively received and has led to allotment applications and interest in the new Village Centre group. Open Spaces Working Group: Report reviewed: - Cllr Thunder mentioned that two people have registered interest in the lengthsman role. To be reviewed with the Clerk. - It was noted that there was a need for replacement of benches in Oxleaze Wood but queries had been raised over insurance for them given SBC's ownership of the wood. - Watering discussion – various ideas were discussed. Allotments Working Group: Report was noted and following points were made: - Thames Water are due to attend site again in April. - New allotment plots formed by the recent works have now all been let to new tenants. - The container/workshop has now been delivered and is in use. Council resolved to spend up to £250 from s106 funds for ramps and a generator platform for the container: Proposed: AC Seconded: SB Approved: All - The pond in the Honda Memorial garden is now fenced with warning signs about deep water.	Clerk/BT None

	Rights of Way Working Party: - Cllr Carter summarised the report. Various areas were discussed, it was agreed that more benefit would be gained by making changes to the suggested plans: i. that the proposed cutting of footpath 6 by Yew Tree Gardens is cancelled ii. that the proposed cutting of footpath 5 on the corner of Magdalene Close is cancelled iii. that we ask SBC to include clearing of the footpath from the other side of the rail footbridge south towards the A420 Clerk to email M Fry at SBC. It was also agreed that the Parish would review the situation with the rerouted section of footpath 6 and address this later in the year if required.	Clerk
12. Reports relating to expansion 172/24-25	Strategic Planning Working Group Report was reviewed: - It was noted that no phasing plan details were available yet but are expected imminently if the 2027 build date is to be met - developers have informed council that they are waiting on three things to be signed off by the borough before they can commit to dates. This directly impacts any movement on the school redevelopment as the borough education team require more certainty before proceeding. - Hedging and ditching work is ongoing but is being done by third parties and is causing some issues, for example with mud on roads, and Cllr Brown has written to the developers raising concerns. - Council resolved to approve funding of £2,000 towards legal costs for the transfer of the Bell Gardens field. Proposed: CM Seconded: NH Approved: All	

	- 20mph zone was discussed with particular reference to the options for the solution near Rawlings Close: Cllr Carter raised concerns about the limited scope of the consultation. Cllr Thunder also asked why only this part of the overall scheme had been consulted on and not other features. Cllr Hole raised the issue of repeated Thames Water works on Thornhill Road which could impact any work done as part of the 20mph zone. The Clerk also mentioned concerns about the potential for expenditure falling on the Parish if a contribution was required towards the measures. The Chair and Cllr Brown gave reasoning behind the approach used and explained that this was an informative result that SBC required to proceed, and was not committing the PC to anything beyond that; if any financial burden arose from the solution suggested by SBC then that would require approval by the PC. It was proposed that Option B (small 'table' option) was to be returned to SBC as the preferred choice: Proposed: SB Seconded: NH Approved: BT, MP, CM Abstained: TL Against: AC	
13. Other reports 173/24-25	SMRA and Play Working Group report: Report was reviewed: - Approval was sought for delegated spending from the TfCC fund for watering labour/costs within the budgets assigned – Cllr Thunder and Mr Cave-Ayland to liaise over requirements, with Clerk and Cllr Brown to agree spending. Proposed: SB Seconded: NH Approved: All Parish/borough Liaison: Verbal report was given.	

	- The Chair reported disappointment with the lack of borough input towards partnership working. The forum is due to discuss this at the upcoming meeting.	
14. Finance 174/24-25	To review and approve finance statement, bank statements and payments: - Council resolved to approve payments totalling £15,845.51 Proposed: AC Seconded: NH Approved: All Spending approved at this meeting: - £2,000 for legal fees - £250 from allotment s106 for container additions - Delegated spending for watering and associated equipment to be taken for the TFCC funds.	None
15. Matters b/f 175/24-25	Two matters were raised: - Council discussed the letter from F & E Trust requesting that the new 'secondary' street of the new developments be named after the Harris family in recognition of their contribution the village through the Trust. Cllr Brown explained the likely process involving SBC, and it was agreed that when the process took place the council would support this – Clerk to also write to our three ward councillors to request their support too. - Cllr Leathart raised concerns about deterioration of road surfaces in the village and whether recent boosts to unitary council funds for road repairs might help. Cllr Vallender noted that South Marston was not included in SBC plans for major resurfacing work. It was also mentioned that given the upcoming increase in traffic due to development this was perhaps an oversight and should be raised with SBC. Everyone was encouraged to continue to report any defects online using the SBC system.	Clerk

The meeting closed at 9:27pm

Signed by Chairperson:

Date: