

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15th April 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, Mrs Featherstone, Mr Fitzpatrick, Mr & Mrs Matthew-Hamza

Acronyms used in these minutes:

SBC – Swindon Borough Council, PC – Parish Council, NP – Neighbourhood Plan, SPWG – Strategic Planning Working Group, 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 176/24-25	Mr Fitzpatrick raised the planning application at St Heliers on Thornhill Road. He mentioned concerns about the erection of a garage and possibility of further construction on the grounds. He was advised that this would be discussed and he was welcome to wait until the planning section of the agenda. Mrs Featherstone raised concerns about the Village Centre and the amount of space taken by changing rooms and facilities to support football - and her belief this would reduce space available for other facilities. The chair and Cllr Brown explained the situation and that the facilities were required as a core part of the s106 provision and planning decisions and were not open for debate. Mr Cave-Ayland introduced Mr and Mrs Matthew-Hamza whose son Joshua is undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme and working with him on some items.	None
1. Apologies 177/24-25	Cllr Povey sent his apologies.	None

2. Declarations of interest 178/24-25	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 18 th March 2025 179/24-25	The minutes were approved. Proposed: TL Seconded: NH Approved: All	None
4. Ward Councillor Update 180/24-25	Cllr Vallender was not present. He had advised in advance that he would not be able to attend and would update council on anything noteworthy from the Planning Committee he was attending that evening.	None
5. Review of actions 181/24-25	Review of actions currently outstanding. May 22 21/22-23 Allotment Water – water has been connected. Action closed. Oct 24 90/24-25 Hodinott's Corner - Ownership of strip of land on the bend unclear - Clerk to chase. Following concerns raised again by Cllr Hole, it was agreed that another letter should be written to Thames Water following the one sent approximately a year ago, raising concerns about the continual works on Thornhill Road – Clerk to send and copy to Cllr Vallender.	Clerk Clerk
6. Review of Council Calendar 182/24-25	The PC reviewed the calendar. - It was decided the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Weds 28 th May. - It was noted that a Finance Working Group meeting would be held prior to the May monthly meeting to agree end of year figures.	FWG
7. Clerk's Report 183/24-25	Report was reviewed.	

	- Council noted progress with the appointment of a new lengthsman. Clerk and Cllr Thunder to meet with him and agree contract and way forward. - Council discussed the quote for a Tree Survey and resolved to undertake the survey at a cost of £1000+VAT. Proposed: NH Seconded: AC Approved: All Clerk to contact Cotswold Tree Surgeons and arrange. - Council discussed the request for a £500 contribution towards the Party in the Park event. Council resolved to agree a contribution of £500 to be paid into the SMRA accounts, with any residual monies to be reported back to council and possibly repaid. Clerk to make payment when requested. Proposed: BT Seconded: AC Approved: All	Clerk and BT Clerk
8. Planning & Highways 184/24-25	S/RES/25/0437 Re: A reserved matters application (access, appearance, layout, scale and landscaping) for 107 dwellings and associated infrastructure – Reserved Matters from previous outline permission S/OUT/13/1555. At: Land At Parcels R3-R5, Land North Of A420 New Eastern Villages, South Marston, Swindon Deadline: 25th April - Initial review done with some questions over the number of three storey houses and their design, and also the visitor parking provision which seemed to be inadequate. - SPWG to review and submit response. S/HOU/25/0403 Re: Conversion of existing garage and store/workshop into habitable space, shed and carport. At: Oxleaze Farm, Thornhill Road South Marston Swindon SN3 4RX Deadline: 2nd May	SPWG

	- There were no adverse comments raised. To be noted in the response that Oxleaze Farm is part of the NEV and within a permitted development area. - Clerk to respond. S/HOU/25/0456 Re: Erection of new double garage/store to front. At: St Heliers, Thornhill Road South Marston Swindon SN3 4RY Deadline: 28th April - Cllr Hole mentioned that he lived in close proximity and queried whether this constituted an interest to be declared - council agreed this did not constitute an interest. - Cllr Hole raised concerns that the planned garage contravenes the open aspect of properties and open street scene along that stretch of Thornhill Road. He also mentioned that various covenants are in place on properties there relating to the front gardens. - It was noted that the property already has a large garage to the front so it is unclear what the purpose of this building is. - Council agreed to object to the application and a response would be composed and sent by SPWG	Clerk SPWG
9. Reports from Working Groups 185/24-25	Communications Working Group: A verbal report was given. - The invoice for the next year's Community News has been received from Orchard Press. Price as originally quoted and to be paid this month. - Considerable work has been done on updates to the website, which include links to current planning documents and archaeology reports related to development works. Open Spaces Working Group: A verbal report was given:	None

	- Clerk to chase footbridge damage that has been reported to developers.	Clerk
10. Reports relating to expansion 186/24-25	Strategic Planning Working Group Report was reviewed: - Cllr Brown gave a verbal review of the Village Centre meeting that was held the previous night and the following points were noted: - o The group acknowledged there were limitations on what could be changed or achieved given funding and planning restrictions. - o The current design was poor but did include most things that were needed – feedback to be given and new design to be requested and reviewed further. - o The suggested creche could not be included within the centre given space restrictions and creche regulations; it was however noted that it should be an aspiration of the Parish Council to provide a creche facility within the village. How to achieve this is to be investigated.	
11. Other reports 187/24-25	SMRA and Play Working Group report: Report was reviewed: - It was noted there had been an accident on the recreation ground when a child jumped off a piece of equipment. - New signage for the recreation ground is being considered. - It was noted that the ‘tots and toddlers’ group had closed but more volunteers were being sought. Parish/borough Liaison: Verbal report was given. - The Chair reported that the forum will continue to press the borough to accept the protocol and annexes from last year.	

	- A meeting is to be held between the forum chair and SBC chief exec and the leader of the council to pursue better cooperative working.	
12. Finance 188/24-25	To review and approve finance statement, bank statements and payments: - Council resolved to approve payments totalling £14,372.12 Proposed: NH Seconded: AC Approved: All Spending approved at this meeting: - £500 from allotment s106 funds for tools and equipment. - £1000+VAT for a tree survey - £500 grant towards the Party in the Park	None
13. Matters b/f 189/24-25	No matters were raised.	

The meeting closed at 9:25pm

Signed by Chairperson:

Date: