

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15th July 2025 at 7:30pm at South
Marston Village Hall.**

Council Members present	
C McEwen (CM) (Chair)	T Leathart (TL)
S Brown (SB) (Vice Chair)	N Hole (NH)
A Carter (AC)	M Povey (MP)
Clerk & Responsible Officer:	K Morgan
Borough Councillors present:	M Vallender
Others present:	Mrs Featherstone, Mr Cave-Ayland, Mrs and Harry Hudswell

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 45/25-26	Mrs Featherstone introduced Harry Hudswell and his mother. Harry has been doing the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. He has been using cycling circuits in Swindon and would like to see something similar, perhaps a pump track, in South Marston. Cllr Brown explained that similar ideas have actually been discussed before when considering Rec development activity over the past few years but it has proven difficult to fit permanent facilities into available space within the expanded South Marston. It may be possible for the developers to consider this in the new Rowborough village. One possibility that was discussed was to organise a trip to sites in Swindon which can be done without the involvement of the Parish Council. There is also the future possibility of a temporary facility that could visit the recreation ground. Cllr Brown thanked Harry for attending, and noted that, given Harry's interest in cycling, he would probably find our strategy of creating multiple off-road cycling links of interest.	None

	Mr Cave-Ayland also mentioned involving SBC's travel officer and other groups that could help expand the cycling options within the village. It was agreed that Harry would be invited to join any future groups that form, to discuss expanding recreational activities in the community.	
1. Apologies 46/25-26	Cllr Thunder was away.	None
2. Declarations of interest 47/25-26	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 Tuesday 17 th June 2025 48/25-26	The minutes were approved. Proposed: NH Seconded: AC Approved: All	None
4. Ward Councillor Update 49/25-26	Cllr Vallender gave an update: - Hodinott's Corner – SBC will no longer be carrying out verge and hedge maintenance inside 30mph limits of villages. They will cut Hodinott's Corner this year hopefully in coming weeks. - L+G/Keypoint bridleway footpath cut through access – no further update. - Art installations – s106 money available for public arts from Symmetry Park which will be delivered at some point. Deadline date for this is unknown. - White Horse Roundabout - statues of a stag, deer and fawn are supposed to be installed but the foundations for these are problematic and expensive. It is unclear if the statues are in storage or yet to be built. - Panattoni roundabout art - options have been reviewed and choices suggested. - Carriers Arms – has not been sold yet.	Clerk

	- Former Post Office – no progress, SBC team had not raised it so will be taken to a higher level. Cllr Vallender to write to resident. - Site visits have taken place to the Panattoni site. - Nightingale Wood – Forestry England to carry out thinning work hopefully during September. Have been advised that lorry access through the village is difficult and has to be considered. It was also mentioned that there may be road closures because of development at that time of the year. - Thames Water drop in session has been announced but is unclear what it is for. - Local Plan review has been extended into September. Details and how to respond to soon be made available.	
5. Review of actions 50/25-26	Review of actions currently outstanding: - Discussion was held about footpath 2 and the depositing of grass cuttings and other materials along it by the landowner. Works on the brook running through the landowners property, including a form of netting that could cause a blockage, was also discussed. It was agreed that Mr Cave-Ayland would relay a number of concerns to the landowner in the hope of resolving the situation before any formal action is taken.	
6. Review of Council Calendar 51/25-26	The PC reviewed progress. - It was noted that a meeting of the Finance Working Group needed to be arranged.	None
7. Clerk's Report 52/25-26	Report was reviewed.	None
8. Planning applications 53/25-26	The following applications were discussed: S/RES/25/0693 Brook Surface Water Outfall - Response had been sent prior to the meeting requesting a condition be placed restricting use of the farm track alongside the features to farm vehicle use only.	

	S/OUT/22/1415 Application for Redlands Farm development, Wanborough - It was agreed that the PC would not comment on this application. S/DEM/25/0811 Demolition of Home Farm and associated buildings - It was agreed that the PC would respond with no adverse comments. Clerk to respond. It was also noted that two applications had been received just prior to the meeting, concerned with the Northern Loop Road and Electricity Substation. Cllr Brown noted that aspects of the former, namely surface water dispersal and impact on vehicle rights, might have a tangential impact on her property. SPWG to review and respond as appropriate.	Clerk
9. Reports from Working Groups 54/25-26	Communications Working Group: Report was reviewed. Open Spaces Working Group: Report was reviewed. - It was confirmed that a quote of £450 + VAT was received from Cotswold Tree Surgeons for the works on the recreation ground oak tree. Given this was £300 less than another quote we have instructed them to carry out the work. This payment (and the tree survey invoice paid this month) to be taken from the Tree Reserve. Allotments Working Group: Report was reviewed. Rights of Way Working Party: - Nothing further to add to previous contributions.	
10. Reports relating to expansion 55/25-26	Strategic Planning Working Group Report reviewed.	None

	- Progress is proving difficult with multiple applications to review and uncoordinated activities by developers, with changing deadlines and delivery details that need careful monitoring and sometimes need challenging. - A positive meeting was held with Vistry prior to the meeting. - Planned allotment site opposite to Manor Cottages to be redesigned following confusion and alternate suggestions of use by developers, that were challenged by the PC. - Plans for an electricity substation to be installed near Manor Cottages have been challenged, and it has been requested that this should be relocated if possible. Developers to discuss and return with alternate options.	
11. Other reports 56/25-26	SMRA and Play Working Group report: Report was reviewed. - The suggested design for new signs was discussed and it was agreed that generally the design was appropriate. Parish/borough Liaison: Verbal update was given. - Chair had attended a leadership forum at the borough. Funding within SBC continues to be an issue and partnership working remains a hope rather than reality.	None
12. Finance 57/25-26	To review and approve finance statement, bank statements and payments: - Council resolved to approve payments totalling £11,954.86 Proposed: AC Seconded: NH Approved: All	None
13. Matters b/f 58/25-26	None.	None

The meeting closed at 9:25pm

Signed by Chairperson:

Date:

Initials _____