

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19th August 2025 at 7:30pm at South Marston Village Hall.

Council Members present	
S Brown (SB) (Vice Chair) B Thunder (BT)	T Leathart (TL) N Hole (NH)
Clerk & Responsible Officer:	K Morgan
Borough Councillors present:	None
Others present:	Mrs Featherstone, 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 (bookkeeper)

Agenda item & minute number	Summary	Action
Open 10 Minutes 59/25-26	No issues were raised.	None
1. Apologies 60/25-26	Cllrs McEwen, Carter and Povey were on holiday.	None
2. Declarations of interest 61/25-26	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. Cllr Brown in particular mentioned the works to roads in the vicinity of Morses Lane which directly impact her property access.	None
3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday	The minutes were approved. Proposed: TL Seconded: NH Approved: All	None

15 th July 2025 62/25-26		
4. Ward Councillor Update 63/25-26	Cllr Vallender had sent apologies but a discussion was held on matters he had been helping with: - Construction traffic – there are now currently three different contractors working and delivering to construction sites which coincides with an increase in issues of lorries using village roads. Cllr Hole has followed up on at least four occasions when lorries have passed through the village and issues have been raised with the site managers and other contacts. - Sand and dust – issues were raised but it is believed the dust was more likely due to ‘Sahara sand’ which was experienced in the Swindon area and not related to the developers in this case. - Tree works on orphaned land – issues with getting tree maintenance carried out are ongoing. In particular, matters related to trees on ‘orphaned land’ were discussed in relation to one current situation. However, it was noted that this could become more of an issue as parcels of developed land are completed and in all likelihood small areas of land will be left with unclear ownership. Council to review the best way to minimise the chances of this occurring and to further enquire with relevant bodies such as SLCC/NALC as to how such issues get resolved.	
5. Review of actions 64/25-26	Review of actions currently outstanding: - Oct 24 90/24-25 Hoddinott’s Corner hedge cutting – Clerk to raise with Cllr Vallender to check progress. - Apr 25 185/24-25 RoW issues – Clerk to follow up with developers	Clerk
6. Review of Council Calendar 65/25-26	The PC reviewed progress.	None
7. Clerk’s Report 66/25-26	Report was reviewed. - Code of Conduct – Council discussed and agreed to adopt. To be included on September Agenda for formal adoption.	None

8. Planning applications 67/25-26	The following applications were discussed: S/RES/25/0828 Electricity Substation and Access - Response had been sent prior to the meeting highlighting issue with planned access and suggesting alternative solution. S/RES/25/0836 Northern Loop Road - Response had been sent prior to the meeting with an objection related to concerns with planned drainage. S/COND/25/0852 Construction Management Plan - Response submitted prior to the meeting with an objection related to the proposed temporary haul road. S/RES/25/0437 Application for 107 dwellings, Parcels R3 and R5 - Response submitted prior to meeting raising a number of continuing concerns. S/COND/25/0972 Discharge of Various Conditions - SPWG to review and submit response. Planning Approvals S/25/0475 Kennington, Highworth Road - Construction of additional dwelling approved, with a number of conditions applied.	
9. Reports from Working Groups 68/25-26	Communications Working Group: Verbal report was given. - Noted that Cllr Thunder has now left the working group and will no longer be the CN delivery coordinator. - Hilary Brooks will take over the responsibility for distributing CN for delivery. - History of South Marston School will be uploaded to the South Marston website.	

	- New version of the Welcome Pack is being worked on and meeting held with Claire Fleming from SBC re use of Travel Plan money from developers. Open Spaces Working Group: Report was reviewed. - Cllr Thunder gave a brief overview of the situation with regard to weed spraying and the proposal to fund training for the lengthsman to undertake safe handling and spraying courses at a cost of £580 + VAT. Matter was fully discussed and council resolved that the training would be beneficial and approved the request. Proposed: BT Seconded: NH Approved: All Cllr Thunder to coordinate with lengthsman and provide payment details to the clerk. - Cllr Thunder noted that the Tree Report had raised a number of issues, most of which had been or are in the process of being dealt with. One particular set of trees is possibly on orphaned land, resolution to be investigated. - Seating to be replaced in Oxleaze Woods. Funding from SBC is already in place for this. Allotments Working Group: Report was reviewed. - Discussion held about a request for toilet facilities on the allotments. Possibilities could include temporary portable toilets or composting toilets but it was agreed this was not something that could currently be considered given costs and cleaning/maintenance requirements etc, but options may be reviewed in the future. Rights of Way Working Party: - Issues that have recently been raised concerning footpath 2 and the brook have been resolved.	
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10. Reports relating to expansion 69/25-26	Strategic Planning Working Group Report reviewed. - Cllr Brown also gave an update on recent meetings and discussions.	None
11. Other reports 70/25-26	SMRA and Play Working Group report: Report was reviewed. - Noted the cost of overcoming the immediate safety issues of grass cracking due to drought conditions and that the pitch drainage channel maintenance is still to be done. - Noted that the terms for Village Hall hire are now more restrictive following recent noise issues with parties. - It was discussed and agreed that the council would not request the surplus funds from the Party in the Park grant to be repaid to the council. Proposed: NH Seconded: BT Approved: All Parish/borough Liaison: Nothing to report.	None
12. Finance 71/25-26	To review and approve finance statement, bank statements and payments: - The clerk noted that the total of payments listed was incorrect but presented a corrected copy for signing. Council resolved to approve payments totalling £12,793.41. Proposed: BT Seconded: NH Approved: All Spending approved at the meeting: - It was agreed to fund £580 + VAT for weed spraying training To review and approve the Q1 Financial Monitoring Report:	None

	- Council discussed and resolved to approve the report. Proposed: NH Seconded: BT Approved: All	
13. Matters b/f 72/25-26	It was noted that several councillors may be away for the September meeting and that a number of important decisions might be required that would be better discussed with more councillors present. It was agreed that if necessary an emergency meeting would be held. Nightingale Lane – potential issues were noted, with several closures or actions along the lane being planned by Forestry Commission, developers and Thames Water to take place from September onwards. Clerk to ask Cllr Vallender to check access to the woods for walkers and cyclists during the Thames Water closure in particular, and if there has been any coordination between the various parties for the other plans.	None

The meeting closed at 9:25pm

Signed by Chairperson:

Date: