

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st October 2025 at 7:30pm at
South Marston Village Hall.**

Council Members present	
C McEwen (Chair)	T Leathart (TL)
S Brown (SB) (Vice Chair)	N Hole (NH)
B Thunder (BT)	A Carter (AC)
Clerk & Responsible Officer:	K Morgan
Borough Councillors present:	M Vallender
Others present:	Mr Cave-Ayland, Mrs L Comber

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 73/25-26	Mrs Featherstone had contacted the PC about 'Harry's Ride', a cycling event that has been organised. This included a request for sponsorship for the event from the Parish. Cllr Brown gave an overview of the situation - it was noted that sponsorship funds would not be available as the request had not been submitted in time to be on the agenda for consideration. However, whatever other help could be offered would be done including advertising on Facebook and in Community News. Cllr Brown also offered to do any printing she could to help. Lynda Comber introduced herself and expressed an interest in co-option to the council.	None
1. Apologies 74/25-26	None.	None
2. Declarations of interest 75/25-26	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. In particular the works to	None

	roads in the vicinity of Morses Lane which directly impact her property access were noted.	
3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 19 th August 2025 76/25-26	The minutes were approved. Proposed: TL Seconded: NH Approved: All	None
4. Ward Councillor Update 77/25-26	Cllr Vallender gave an update: - A site visit to the new Primary Street took place with several councillors. The electricity substation application has been approved - the temporary haul road will be removed and landscaping is planned to offset any damage or changes. - Construction vehicles – reports of issues with these have reduced and are now rare, reflecting positively on efforts to chase the issues with development management as they are reported. - Bus route – positive initial response and use. - Crown Timber site – it has been confirmed that the footpath around Hodinott’s Corner will be constructed at the start of development, if and when this occurs. Cllr Brown noted that positive results like this are a result of many years of work and interaction with developers and planners. - Local Plan responses - these had been submitted and initial results of the Reg 18 consultation should be published by SBC shortly. - Verge cutting – SBC has completed cutting any verges it will be doing in parishes. - Bus stop on A420 – works to restore the surface at the bus stop will hopefully be done by one of the developers. - Orphaned land enquiries - Cllr Vallender will be submitting requests for works via SBC where appropriate. - Application for Care Home - Cllr Vallender will be objecting to the application for a Care Home at Lancaster Place, located off the main South Marston Business Park.	

	- Children's Home application – an application to convert Ashdene, off Highworth Road, into a children's home has been made. Despite no safe access into the village and to facilities, it appears there are no planning reasons for refusal. - Co-option - Cllr Vallender confirmed his intention to be considered for co-option to the Parish Council. The co-option vote will be included on the November agenda.	
5. Review of actions 78/25-26	Review of actions currently outstanding: - Oct 24 90/24-25 Hoddinott's Corner hedge cutting – all works by SBC have now been done. Item closed. - Jun 25 38/25-26 Commemorative Requests - Clerk to investigate a policy and circulate for discussion. - Jun 25 39/25-26 Land Search for Bridleway – item to be removed and revisited with landowners once Thornhill Road changes are complete	Clerk
6. Review of Council Calendar 79/25-26	The PC reviewed progress. - Noted that a yearly review with the Clerk is required. - FWG meetings to be arranged for review of Q2 figures, initial budgeting and then budget finalisation.	CRM/Clerk SB/FWG
7. Clerk's Report 80/25-26	Report was reviewed. - A discussion was held about finances, with a general agreement that, as CIL and S.106 funds are time limited, they should be used wherever possible prior to drawing down SMPC reserves without time limitations. - A discussion was held about 'orphaned land' where ownership is not clear, and issues arising with trees on such land - in this case particularly those on Thornhill Rd requiring attention and felling, for which a quote of £2,700 + VAT had been received from Cotswold Tree Surgeons. The chair mentioned another current issue with another tree that was overhanging private land from what appears to be an 'orphaned' area and the risk of setting a precedent of the Parish Council taking action. It was	None

	agreed that a policy needs to be considered that guides decision on interventions when such issues arise. Clerk to research a policy. A non-binding 'straw poll' was taken, with most councillors agreeing that in this instance action should be taken regarding the trees on Thornhill Rd, given the risk of at least one of them falling across footpaths and the highway. Issue to be revisited and formally agreed once the Tree Protection Order permission is received from the borough for works to go ahead. - The situation regarding SBC's surprise weed spraying plans was discussed, with the lack of communication from the borough to parishes being noted.	Clerk
8. Planning applications 81/25-26	The following applications were discussed. Submitted responses can be viewed on the Swindon Planning Portal. S/COND/25/0974 Discharge of various Conditions, Parcels R6 and R7 - Response submitted prior to meeting. S/COND/25/0972 Discharge of conditions including Broadband provision - Response submitted prior to meeting S/COND/25/0971 Discharge of various conditions, NEV Loop Road - Response submitted prior to meeting S/COND/25/0950 Discharge of various conditions, NEV - Response submitted prior to meeting. S/RES/25/0828 Electricity Substation, NEV - Response submitted prior to meeting. Has been approved with planting and landscaping to mitigate impact on surroundings. S/COND/25/1184 Discharge of Condition 9 Design Code, NEV	SPWG

	- To be reviewed and responded to by SPWG S/25/1284 Change of Use to Care Home, Lancaster Place - Response to be submitted with no adverse comments and welcoming plans for additional care home capacity in the parish.	Clerk
9. To adopt revised Code of Conduct 82/25-26	Council resolved to adopt the revised Code of Conduct received from SBC: Proposed: AC Seconded: BT Approved: All Clerk to post on website.	Clerk
10. Reports from Working Groups 83/25-26	Communications Working Group: Report was reviewed. - It was noted that, where it had been possible to communicate news and advance warning related to development, it was having a positive effect. Open Spaces Working Group: Report was reviewed. - A test for weed spraying has been done on several locations in the village. Initial results suggest utilising the lengthsman to spray most areas will be very cost effective. - It was suggested that the gazebo in St Julian's would blend in more sympathetically if painted– council approved spending £150 for time and materials. Proposed: SB Seconded: AC Approved: All - Cllr Thunder requested £390 for clearing undergrowth and dead trees behind the changing rooms. Council resolved to approve this: Proposed: SB Seconded: AC Approved: All	

	Allotments Working Group: Report was reviewed. - The situation with the water leak is still an issue. Attempts to contact Panattoni have not been responded to. Cllr Thunder and clerk to chase. Rights of Way Working Party: - Some recent storm damage has been tidied. - Fence that was illegally erected alongside FP15 is being removed and the agreed line of FP15 and FP6 had been restored.	Clerk/BT
11. Reports relating to expansion 84/25-26	Strategic Planning Working Group Report reviewed. - Summary of Local Plan response to be uploaded to the website by Clerk. - 20mph zone to be chased by Cllr Vallender	Clerk
12. Other reports 85/25-26	SMRA and Play Working Group report: Report was reviewed. - A complaint was made to the school about drainage works taking place on the recreation ground while children were playing. There was no issue regarding the quality of the work done. It is unknown whether this will result in further complaint/communication addressed to the Parish Council, as owners of the land. Agreed to approve payment of the Ecosolve invoice for the works but withhold payment for 14 days in case of further developments. Parish/borough Liaison: Nothing of note to report.	None
13. Finance 86/25-26	To review and approve finance statement, bank statements and payments: - Council resolved to approve payments totalling £8,031.47 with one payment to Allbuild held over until November waiting on confirmation of amount. One	None

	additional invoice for £200 for some tree clearance work was also noted and added. Proposed: BT Seconded: AC Approved: All Spending approved at the meeting: - £150 for materials and lengthsmen labour to paint gazebo - £390 to clear dead trees and overgrowth behind changing rooms To discuss and agree use of CIL funds for Recreation Ground Maintenance: - Council discussed and resolved to agree using some of the held CIL funds to pay the Ecosolve Rec drainage invoice. Proposed: NH Seconded: BT Approved: All	
14. Matters b/f 87/25-26	Cllr Thunder noted that a new contractor for minor tree works is being used. Cllr Hole proposed pre-meeting drinks and nibbles at the December meeting and to invite SMRA members to attend. Details to be arranged. Cllr Leathart raised the chicane at Magdalene Close and the lack of any give way or priority – it was noted that this had been previously raised with SBC and that the configuration was deliberate, with the intention of encouraging people to slow down.	None Clerk

The meeting closed at 9:25pm

Signed by Chairperson:

Date: