

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18th November 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 Featherstone, R & K Mountford

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 88/25-26	R & K Mountford attended to mention their concerns about the flooding issues in the vicinity of the Bends - they acknowledged that the flood report had helped explained some of those and they had talked about the issues at length at the recent coffee morning with the Chair and Cllr Vallender. They also mentioned the speeds of traffic leaving the village on Highworth Road and asked if anything can be done about it. They were advised to email the clerk and register their thoughts. Mr Cave-Ayland mentioned the new roundabout on Thornhill Road and that large vehicles appeared to already be struggling with navigating the roundabout without mounting the kerbs. It was noted that this was apparently a deliberate decision to slow traffic down. Mrs Featherstone reported back on the success of Harry's Ride that had taken place the previous weekend. She mentioned that two of the four young attendees from the village had been offered free training at Moredon Hub to become qualified cycle	None

	trainers which would be of benefit should a facility be built in the village.	
1. Apologies 89/25-26	None.	None
2. Co-option of councillor 90/25-26	Council resolved to approve the co-option of M. Vallender as a parish councillor. Proposed: CM Seconded: AC Approved: All Form was signed and Matt to submit register of interests. Clerk to notify SBC of the co-option and update website.	Clerk
3. Declarations of interest 91/25-26	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 works in the vicinity of Morses Lane which directly impact her property access and facilities were noted.	None
4. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 21 st October 2025 92/25-26	The minutes were approved. Proposed: TL Seconded: BT Approved: All	None
5. Ward Councillor Update 93/25-26	Cllr Vallender gave an update: - Flooding – Matt attended Meeting Point and spoke to residents in the village during the issues. The only residence that appears to have actually flooded was the Old Post Office ground floor flat. The Chair added that he walked round the village during the event and the overflowing of the brook was the source of the flooding by Quarrybrook/Byron Close, rather than an issue with drains. It was noted that the easterly flow of water onto Old Vicarage Lane during such heavy rains appears to have been mitigated by the development works. Hodinott's Corner - It was noted that SBC had cleared anything under their demise and would be raising concerns formally with Crocodile Packaging about a	None

	potential blockage within their land. The chair said that the blockage that caused the road to flood must be on the downstream side of the road and not at Crocodile Packaging. The water arriving at the Greenfields culvert had been above the top of the opening despite it being cleared by EA staff. This suggested that the Panattoni works had, at best, resulted in no improvement in the flood risk. This will be raised with Panattoni during the upcoming visit. - OVL Closures – pedestrian access appears to be working as no-one has raised concerns. It is essential that we review the order of works and proposals from January onwards to better provide alternate routes. - Bus route – No 23 diversions appear to be working ok. S6 bus will not be coming through the village and so the college and school service will not be easily usable. Cllr Vallender has prepared a press release and is hoping to get progress on this matter. - Carpenter’s Arms – situation with access during road closures appears to be under control. The PC has put Arkells in touch with the developers and a meeting is planned. - Ashdene, Highworth Road – the application for a children’s home has received initial certification but the process will be long and feedback on the absence of a footpath into the village will be possible. - Carriers Arms – sale is being held up by a chain but it is under offer and will hopefully remain a public house. - 1 Manor Park - hedging overhanging the path is an issue, will need to be dealt with by landlord via an SBC enforcement. Council discussed and agreed that this hedge could be cut by the lengthsman in the meantime to make it safer.	
6. Review of actions 94/25-26	Review of actions currently outstanding: - Oct 25 80/25-26 Trees Thornhill Rd – following meeting with SBC tree officer they have acknowledged responsibility and added to the tree team’s works list.	None
7. Review of	The PC reviewed progress.	

Council Calendar 95/25-26	- Noted that initial issues related to budgets would be dealt with over the next two months. - Also noted that an alternate quote for services currently provided by Allbuild will be sought to satisfy requirements for due diligence.	None Clerk/BT
8. Clerk's Report 96/25-26	Report was reviewed. - Watering Compensation – Clerk will calculate amounts and make payments via vouchers over the next month. - Weed Spraying – the SBC weed spraying has been done in South Marston although it remains unclear what exactly was done. We await updates on whether this will now take place on a regular basis.	Clerk
9. Planning applications 97/25-26	The following applications were discussed. Submitted responses can be viewed on the Swindon Planning Portal. S/RES/25/1071 Revised application for R12 - Agreed that changes do not need any further response to those already submitted. No action. S/RES/25/1389 Revised R1 and R2 - A few things need addressing - response to be agreed and submitted by SPWG. S/COND/25/1314 Various including Construction Method Statement - Response submitted prior to meeting with no adverse comments.	SPWG
10. Reports from Working Groups 98/25-26	Communications Working Group: Report was reviewed. - Noted that removal of MS Publisher in late 2026 has potential to cause issues – alternate packages are being investigated.	None

	Open Spaces Working Group: Report was reviewed. - It was discussed and generally agreed that growth of trees should be managed where possible to stop issues arising in future and that trees on land to be adopted by the Parish should be checked before we take ownership to avoid future issuesse and costs. Allotments Working Group: Report was reviewed. - The main outstanding issue was deciding the increase to rents to cover water bills. - Contact has finally been renewed with Panattoni regarding the water situation, progress hopefully to be made with billing and leaks in memorial garden. Rights of Way Working Party: - Nothing to report. - While he is reducing his involvement overall, Mr Cave-Ayland mentioned that he would appreciate it if the Parish Council continued to fund efforts to keep rights of way maintained in the future.	None
11. Reports relating to expansion 99/25-26	Strategic Planning Working Group Report reviewed. - SB mentioned the Open Space strategy and the lack of proposed allotment provision across the expanded South Marston and Rowborough area. She is following up with this and looking to raise the matter with SBC. - The failure of developers to provide mains utilities to existing properties without current access, as specified in both the Local and Neighbourhood Plans, was noted. Council intends to involve SBC planning team in the matter and will object to relevant applications until resolved. SB personal interests in these matters noted.	None

12. Other reports 100/25-26	SMRA and Play Working Group report: Report was reviewed. - Most notable concern is the future of the current village hall given the development of the new Village Centre. Options are being considered and relevant parties will be involved in any decisions. Parish/borough Liaison: - A meeting is due with borough senior management to discuss the proposed Protocol and Annexes. - The chair asked informally if council should consider undertaking minor road repairs such as to small potholes. The general response was that this was not something the council should consider. -	None
13. Finance 101/25-26	To review and approve finance statement, bank statements and payments: - Council resolved to approve payments totalling £13,983.95 Proposed: MV Seconded: BT Approved: All Spending approved at the meeting: - None To review and approve Q2 Finance Monitoring Report: - The main things to note were S106 funds to be spent by Jan 2027, including those for the recreation ground path that are still held by SBC and awaiting progress with the school. - Council reviewed and approved the monitoring report. Proposed: NH Seconded: AC Approved: All To review minutes of Finance Working Group meeting: - Council noted the report.	None

14. Matters b/f 102/25-26	BT mentioned that the temporary 20mph signs in the village needed replacing as they were faded. SB happy to produce these if someone can put them up. BT also mentioned Highworth United Charities and its availability to residents. This would be advertised soon. NH asked if 'please take litter home' signs could be considered. TL asked about the flood risk letters that the EA had been posting to some properties and whether these would have any negative consequences for house owners. It was agreed that any information within them would already be general knowledge.	None

The meeting closed at 9:30pm

Signed by Chairperson:

Date: