

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th December 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)
M Vallender (MV)	
Clerk & Responsible Officer:	K Morgan
Borough Councillors present:	M Vallender
Others present:	Mr Cave-Ayland, Mrs Featherstone

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 103/25-26	Mr Cave-Ayland raised the issues with the new roundabout again and cited several cases where clear issues had arisen with near collisions and vehicles being forced to give way or stand aside. It was noted this was probably now a highways issue as when previously raised no one saw any issues with the design and it was seen as working as intended – it was suggested that some dashcam footage or similar would be welcome to provide evidence of the issues.	None
1. Apologies 104/25-26	None.	None
2. Declarations of interest 105/25-26	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

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 18 th November 2025 106/25-26	The minutes were approved. Proposed: MV Seconded: TL Approved: All	None
4. Ward Councillor Update 107/25-26	Cllr Vallender gave an update: - Panattoni meeting – a few concerns were raised about flood prevention, to be revisited in meeting with designer in the new year. Also agreed additional planting to give more privacy to residents. - Old Vicarage Lane - road is to be reopened earlier than expected. It is thought that January closures will be delayed. - C6 Bus Diversion – developers to fund taxi service for pupils impacted starting in the new year. - Flooding in village – Update to follow in new year. - Nightingale Lane – archaeological surveys have been observed along Nightingale Lane at the site where travellers proposed a site. There have been no further applications. - HGV to pass through village – to be posted on Facebook to notify residents. - Morses Lane - residents have been updated with ongoing matters. - Speeds through bends – proposal and consultation being prepared for 40mph for the whole length of Highworth Road to Supermarine.	None
5. Review of actions 108/25-26	Review of actions currently outstanding. Nothing to note.	None
6. Review of	The PC reviewed progress.	

Council Calendar 109/25-26	- School license invoice to be issued as normal given lack of further progress with expansion. Clerk to organise.	Clerk
7. Clerk's Report 110/25-26	Report was reviewed. - Street naming – to be done by 22nd December. SB to circulate proposed response for review.	SB
8. Planning applications 111/25-26	It was noted that there are currently multiple ongoing applications and these are responded to by the Strategic Planning Working Group as and when possible. Submitted responses can be viewed on the Swindon Planning Portal. These applications will be responded to after the meeting: S/25/1597 – Stirling Court, Main SM Industrial Estate. Installation of signage - No adverse comment, clerk to respond. S/25/1598 – Sirling Court, Main SM Industrial Estate. Installation of various facilities, - No adverse comment, clerk to respond. It was also noted that the many variations of similar applications makes it difficult to keep track of them - SPWG and Clerk to look into a method of labelling different items for more clarity.	Clerk Clerk
9. Adoption of IT Policy 112/25-26	Council resolved to adopt the IT policy. Clerk to finalise and upload to website. Proposed: MV Seconded: NH Approved: All	Clerk
10. Reports from Working Groups 113/25-26	Communications Working Group: Report was reviewed. - Advertising prices – updated pricing to be circulated and agreed in January. Open Spaces Working Group: Report was reviewed.	None

	- It was noted that a review of how we deal with tree maintenance and the possibility of trees on orphaned land is to be organised. Allotments Working Group: Report was reviewed. - The main outstanding issue is deciding the amount of increase to rents to cover water bills. - BT requested approx. £1000 of expenditure from allotment s106 to purchase a variety of equipment to improve maintenance capability. Council resolved to approve the expenditure: Proposed: AC Seconded: MV Approved: All Rights of Way Working Party: - We have been given formal notice of the diversion of footpath 15. This notice formalises the changes that were made previously without permission – the fence has been removed and the path has been opened up and will be maintained by the new owners of the Haybarns.	
11. Reports relating to expansion 114/25-26	Strategic Planning Working Group Report reviewed. - Village centre – it is currently unclear what exactly the developer funding will deliver but it has been noted that some of the planned footpaths are unnecessary and may free up funds that could be reallocated. Additional funds may need to be provided by the Parish Council to enable facilities to be built at the initial stage of construction. - There has been no further progress with the school expansion despite pursuing this with the relevant officer at SBC. - MOLA is finishing its archaeological work before Christmas and needs to move its vehicles down Old Vicarage Lane. To	None

	be added to note about lorry passing through village to inform residents. - It was noted that Ward Williams is proposing a village consultation event for mid February, exact dates and format to be confirmed.	
12. Other reports 115/25-26	SMRA and Play Working Group report: Report was reviewed. - Clerk to review legality of the Parish Council providing funds and handling the sale/transfer of the Village Hall given its role as custodian trustee. Parish/borough Liaison: - A meeting is due with borough senior management to discuss the proposed Protocol and Annexes.	Clerk
13. Finance 116/25-26	To review and approve finance statement, bank statements and payments: - Council resolved to approve payments totalling £5,764.10 as noted on the finance summary. Additionally, a payment to HAGS for £291.31 for recreation ground repairs was received late and approved. Proposed: NH Seconded: AC Approved: All Spending approved at the meeting: - Up to £1,000.00 from the s106 allotments funds for equipment. To review minutes of Finance Working Group meeting: - Council reviewed and noted the report.	None

14. Matters b/f 102/25-26	BT raised Community Payback and issues the service is having. It was generally agreed that continuing with them is of benefit to the parish and we accept that the service is occasionally unpredictable. TL raised a question about solar panels on new build houses – it was noted that these are being included where appropriate. The fencing at the Old Post Office site was mentioned – council to review if a request for a further panel to be removed is appropriate.	None
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The meeting closed at 9:30pm

Signed by Chairperson:

Date: