

**Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 17th February 2026 at 7:30pm at
South Marston Village Hall.**

Council Members present	
C McEwen (Chair)	T Leathart (TL)
B Thunder (BT)	N Hole (NH)
M Vallender (MV)	A Carter (AC)
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 132/25-26	There were no points raised.	None
1. Apologies 133/25-26	Cllr Brown sent her apologies as she was unwell.	None
2. Declarations of interest 134/25-26	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 on behalf of neighbours. MV noted that he had already responded to S/25/1680 as ward councillor so would not take part in any vote if one was needed.	None
3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held	The minutes were approved. Proposed: TL Seconded: NH Approved: All	None

on Tuesday 20 th January 2026 135/25- 26		
4. Ward Councillor Update 136/25-26	The provided report was reviewed. In addition: - 20mph zone – some comments had been made online about the lack of measures going as far as ‘the bends’ on Highworth Road. MV has offered to consider other options once the current scheme is approved fully, as it was necessary to avoid any delays given upcoming elections. - Highworth Road – speed limit of 40mph from Sevenhampton through to South Marston is being consulted on.	None
5. Review of actions 137/25-26	Review of actions currently outstanding. - It was noted that issues with the mud were improving but still remained.	None
6. Review of Council Calendar 138/25-26	The PC reviewed progress. - It was noted that the budget approval would be done in March as the current heavy planning workload had to take priority.	Clerk
7. Clerk’s Report 139/25-26	Report was reviewed. - It was noted that unfortunately the Swindon cycling consultation was focussed mainly on Swindon itself and did not reach out to surrounding communities including South Marston. - The road sweeping schedule from SBC was mentioned and the delay to the next sweep in the village to 2027 was especially noted. BT has already asked Allbuild for a rough estimate of costs to sweep various areas if required.	None
8. Planning applications 140/25-26	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/RES/25/1485 SM West substation - Response had been submitted.	

	S/RES/26/0090 South Marston Community Orchard - Discussions had been held – status of response to be checked. S/25/1680 Change of use @ former Steris site - Objections had been submitted and situation will be monitored.	
9. To review and approve service contracts for 2026-27 141/25-26	Council reviewed and approved the service contracts for 2026-27. Clerk to finalise and send copies to Allbuild and S Case for signing. Proposed: AC Seconded: MV Approved: All	Clerk
10. To discuss meeting times 142/25-26	Discussion was held with contributions from all. It was generally agreed that moving the meeting to an earlier start time would probably not attract more councillors and not be beneficial currently.	None
11. Reports from Working Groups 143/25-26	Communications Working Group: - It is planned to include a report and photographs of the imminent HYS event in the next edition of Community News. Open Spaces Working Group: Report was reviewed. - Community payback can no longer commit to regular visits which makes planning tasks difficult - but it was concluded that there will always be work required on the recreation ground for when they attend. Additionally the lengthsman can now be used to cover more tasks. - Costings are now available for replacement tree planting and this is being progressed. - Replacement trees for Greenfields were also discussed. It was agreed that this would be looked into and any required expenditure to be agreed in March. Allotments Working Group: Report was reviewed.	None

	- Council approved the increase in allotment rents by £6 per plot from the next renewal. To be included in the tenants' letter and schedule of charges to be updated. Proposed: AC Seconded: NH Approved: All - Council approved the purchase of a new self-propelled mower @ cost of £300. Proposed: MV Seconded: AC Approved: All Rights of Way Working Party: - Some damage has been done to footpaths in and around Bell Gardens field because of developer vehicles crossing the boggy ground. Regrettably it appears this is unavoidable given the recent very wet weather.	Clerk/BT
12. Reports relating to expansion 144/25-26	Strategic Planning Working Group Report reviewed. - It was agreed that including the detailed information from meetings with planners within the agenda was beneficial as it gave more context to discussions.	None
13. To receive Panattoni Meeting Report 145/25-26	Report was discussed. - Overall the visit was positive but there remain some concerns to be addressed.	None
14. Other reports 146/25-26	SMRA and Play Working Group report: Report was reviewed. - Council resolved to fund the training course for the SMRA health and safety officer @ cost of £365 exc VAT. Proposed: BT Seconded: NH Approved: All	

	- Council resolved to dissolve the Play Working Group as the majority of relevant s106 funds had been spent and the group had served its purpose. Proposed: NH Seconded: AC Approved: All - Council resolved to establish a Village Hall Working Group to be jointly manned by representatives of SMPC and SMRA. The group will manage the future of the current Village Hall with regard to the legal and financial matters involved in the potential sale once the new hall was ready. Terms of reference and membership for the group to be determined and presented for approval at the March PC meeting. Proposed: NH Seconded: BT Approved: All Parish/borough Liaison: - It was noted that a reduction in Streetworks license costs for Parish Councils had been approved by the borough. These will now cost £189.	Clerk
15. Finance 147/25-26	To review and approve finance statement, bank statements and payments: - Council resolved to approve payments totalling £7,841.93 as noted on the finance summary. Proposed: MV Seconded: NH Approved: All Spending approved at the meeting: - £300 for new mower to be paid from allotment s106 funds - £365 for training course for the SMRA H + S representative to be paid by the PC	None

16. Exclusion of press and public 148/25-26	Council resolved to exclude the press and public. Proposed: MV Seconded: BT Approved: All	None
17. To review and approve staff remuneration changes 149/25-26	Council resolved to approve the recommended changes to staff remuneration. Clerk to file confidential item.	Clerk
18. Matters b/f 150/25-26	A discussion was held about changing this agenda item in future to allow proposals for agenda items for the following month rather than to make general points.	None

The meeting closed at 9:00pm

Signed by Chairperson:

Date: