

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

Council Members present	
C McEwen (Chair) S Brown (SB) B Thunder (BT)	N Hole (NH) M Vallender (MV)
Clerk & Responsible Officer:	K Morgan
Borough Councillors present:	M Vallender
Others present:	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 151/25-26	There were no points raised.	None
1. Apologies 152/25-26	Cllrs Carter and Leatthart sent apologies as they were unwell.	None
2. Declarations of interest 153/25-26	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. Additionally Cllr Brown declared a direct interest in utility provision and the issue of closure of the Leaze, which she is engaging with SBC about.	None
3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held	The minutes were approved. Proposed: NH Seconded: MV Approved: All	None

on Tuesday 17 th February 2026 154/25- 26		
4. Ward Councillor Update 155/25-26	The provided report was reviewed. In addition: - Signage for flooding situations – we have been given permission to purchase some temporary signs if required, as SBC does not have any capacity to provide them. Clerk to investigate. - R1 and R2/Bloor Homes application is the main issue currently. Many residents have concerns. This will be resubmitted. The option for utilities for homes without mains provision that should have been planned and included, has not been. MV is to meet with SBC planners and discuss. - 20mph zone is proceeding to the next stage following consultation. - Greater Crested Newts situation – issue has been discussed at length on social media but with incomplete information. The wording of the permission referenced does not fully explain the situation. This will be clarified by MV when appropriate.	Clerk
5. Review of actions 156/25-26	Review of actions currently outstanding.	None
6. Review of Council Calendar 157/25-26	The PC reviewed progress. - It was noted that the Annual Meeting of the PC would be held on May 19th at 7pm, prior to the monthly meeting. - It was suggested that the Annual Parish Meeting could be arranged to follow an information event. To be discussed.	Clerk
7. Clerk's Report 158/25-26	Report was reviewed. - Community libraries – this matter was discussed. Appropriate locations are an issue but matter to be considered. Clerk to update. - Elections – MV advised councillors to be aware that each resident can only sponsor one applicant to the PC.	Clerk

	- Old Post Office – suggested that four panels be removed and replaced with lower panels. It is believed the builder will discuss with the owner and that any further formal action may not be necessary. - The proposed Christmas event from Mr Cave-Ayland was discussed. A revised quote had been obtained and the proposed amount including delivery was £1,075 plus VAT. Council discussed and agreed that the Parish Council would run and be the main sponsor for the event, and would purchase the lighting for this and future use. Proposed: NH Seconded: BT Approved: All Date of ordering and budget for this to be agreed.	
8. Planning applications 159/25-26	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 were discussed: S/RES/25/1389 R1 & R2 Bloor development - Response submitted prior to meeting. S/RES/26/0173 Inlands Farm, Wanborough - Agreed to support the objection from Wanborough on non-coalescence grounds. Response to be submitted once agreed. S/26/0255 – Community Orchard - Requirement for vehicular access into the site is a matter of contention. An alternate suggestion has been provided by the PC and is to be discussed by planners and highways officers. Response prepared, submission pending outcome of these discussions.	SPWG/Clerk SPWG
9. To review and approve Terms of Reference for Village Hall Transition	Council discussed and some concerns were raised. The clerk reassured council that, as a working group, recommendations could be made but any decision would have to be agreed by full council, the VH charity and the Charity Commission.	

Working Group 160/25-26	It was agreed that an additional deliverable, for the group to offer recommendations for the governance of the new Village Hall/Centre, would be added. Council resolved to agree the Terms with the above addition: Proposed: NH Seconded: BT Approved: All Clerk to finalise and publish.	Clerk
10. To review and approve Asset Register 161/25-26	Asset register was reviewed and adopted by the council. Proposed: BT Seconded: MV Approved: All	
11. To review and approve Risk Assessment Documentation 162/25-26	Documentation was reviewed. It was agreed to include: - Risk of Swindon Borough Council failing to deliver services - Removal of regular password changes but inclusion of use of password lockers - Include mention of lengthsman insurance cover Risk documentation with these additions was approved: Proposed: SB Seconded: BT Approval: All Clerk to update and publish.	Clerk
12. Reports from Working Groups 163/25-26	Communications Working Group: - Sharon has some figures on social media and website usage that will be collated and presented for review. Open Spaces Working Group: Report was reviewed. - BT mentioned the intention to provide Justin with a simple accident book for his use. - Clearance of the brook in St Julians has been done. - First Aid course mentioned – requirement is not as urgent as thought. Additional course to be reviewed as needed.	None

	- Trees in Greenfields – it was agreed that MV would seek information on acquiring some trees from SBC if any were available and that any care needed for the trees would be provided by volunteers if required. Allotments Working Group: Report was reviewed. Rights of Way Working Party: - Footpath 2 footbridge issues were mentioned. Clerk to confirm receipt of information from Mr Cave-Ayland and forward to SBC as required. - The proposed Lease closure was mentioned. Queries with the relevant SBC officers are ongoing.	Clerk
13. Reports relating to expansion 164/25-26	Strategic Planning Working Group Report reviewed. - MV mentioned that there would be a new Local Plan Reg 19 consultation sometime in the summer. Council to ensure it responds when appropriate. - Nightingale Lane – it has been confirmed that this will be counted as a strategic cycleway going forward; this is a very positive result for the community and the result of continued early engagement with planners and developers. - It was noted that queries over drainage issues need to be followed up with the developers, as promised information had not been delivered. Chair to follow up.	None Chair
14. Other reports 165/25-26	SMRA: Report was reviewed. - It was noted that the F & E Trust would be making a grant payment to the PC to cover the costs of roundabout repairs on the recreation ground. Funds to be reassigned to appropriate cost centres. Note expected from the Trust as evidence of the transaction for audit purposes.	

