SOUTH MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 15th September 2026

at 7:30pm at South Marston Village Hall.

Council Members present	
S Brown (Chair) N Hole (NH) A Meenan (AM)	M Vallender (MV) A Carter (AC)
Clerk & Responsible Officer:	K Morgan
Borough Councillors present:	M Vallender
Others present:	Mrs Featherstone, 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 83/26-27	Mrs Featherstone raised the matter of transport for children going to Kingsdown School. Some incidents of poor behaviour have been reported when the bus returns to the village. Further, a question was asked as to what is being done for youths in the community within the new developments. The chair gave an update on plans and noted that while there are some suggestions and preliminary ideas, nothing has yet been proposed formally as part of the planning process. Mr Cave-Ayland mentioned the planned Christmas Lights Event and thanked the clerk for his help in checking that the council's insurance would cover it.	None
1. Apologies 84/26-27	Cllr Thunder and Cllr McEwen sent apologies as they were on holiday.	None
2. Declarations of interest 85/26-27	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 coordinating help and information provision on behalf of a collection of 12 neighbours.	None

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	Additionally Cllr Brown declares a direct interest in utility provision and the issue of closure of the Leaze, which she is engaging with SBC and developers about.	
3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 18th August 2026 86/26-27	Minutes were approved. Proposed: NH Seconded: AM Approved: All	None
4. Ward Councillor Update 87/26-27	The update was reviewed later in the meeting as Cllr Vallender had attended a borough meeting first: - Greenfields trees – letters have been sent to residents, one positive response received so far. Once more response are received further discussions about the viability of tree planting will be needed. - Update on traffic calming at The Bends expected at the end of the month, following a 'walk around' with the Chief Exec. - Enforcement at 19 Highworth Road – retrospective planning application to be submitted by the owners. - Local Plan consultation now beginning on 24th September. - The school expansion has been delayed by adjustments made by Blue Kite Academy trust, but is progressing. - Footpath issues with the Public Open Space application were discussed. It was agreed to discuss this outside the meeting and submit a response, with the potential to call this in to the planning committee as a last resort.	None
5. Review of actions 88/26-27	Review of actions currently outstanding. - Clerk to add a rolling item for upcoming road closures.	Clerk
6. Review of Council Calendar 89/26-27	The PC reviewed progress. - It was noted that reports for SMRA on the recreation ground and play equipment were regularly distributed and so a calendar item was not essential.	None

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7. Clerk's Report 90/26 -27	Report was reviewed. - Southmarston.org.uk - council discussed the use of an email address on the domain by the SMRA chair, and potentially for other users. The chair mentioned concerns with how the address would be accessed and used. Cllr Hole said he believes there is justification for the chair of SMRA to use an address because of the close involvement of the two organisations. Council resolved to permit use of an email address by the SMRA Chair. Clerk to arrange. Proposed: SB Seconded: NH Approved: All It was also noted that any user of an address on the domain would need to comply with the PC's policies and also that an overall review of IT use is to be arranged by the Clerk.	Clerk
8. Planning applications 91/26-27	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/26/0987 Keypoint Thornhill Road** – responded to prior to the meeting. Issues raised included potential for noise on any nearby development and also the existing bright lights. **S/OC106/26/0982 Discharge of s106** - responded to prior to the meeting with no comments. **S/RES/25/1614 Public Open Space** – to be discussed outside the meeting and response decided. **S/26/1049 Containers at Solar farm, Nightingale Lane** - To be reviewed and clerk to be informed if any response is needed. **S/RES/26/1058 Rowborough** - response submitted prior to meeting.	

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9. Reports from Working Groups 92/26-27	**Communications Working Group:** Report was reviewed. - It was noted that the last edition of CN was hectic with several last minute changes, which is a process that should not be repeated. - Publisher/Affinity – changeover has been done, November edition of CN to be done in Affinity. The Clerk is trialling an app that will ease the process of converting all .PUB files to usable formats once Publisher has been removed in October. To note this may require a subscription to an app at a cost of approx. £80. **Open Spaces Working Group:** No report. **Allotments Working Group:** No report. **Rights of Way Working Party:** - The chair reported that potential issues with trees in the expected storms in the coming autumn and winter had been passed onto developers, who now have responsibility for many of the pockets of land the trees are on. Developers will shortly have a dedicated landscaping team onsite and have agreed that they will contact SMPC reps to consider how best to tackle the issue and mitigate the risk to public safety. **Village Hall Working Group:** - It was noted that SMRA is preparing financial reporting to support a transfer of the Village Hall should it go ahead.	Clerk None
10. Reports relating to expansion 93/26-27	**Strategic Planning Working Group** Report reviewed. - Resurfacing of Old Vicarage Lane is progressing but has hit some issues. Still hoped to be completed as planned.	None

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	- Oxleaze Wood connection – Bloor is contributing to works involved and is helping beyond their initial limited commitment which is welcome.	
11. Other reports 94/26-27	**SMRA:** Report was reviewed. - Efforts to repair the recreation ground following the summer dry weather continue. - Thanks were offered to the Harris Trust for their agreement to fund necessary repair work to the grit pathway and the Witches Hat safety surface. **Parish/borough Liaison:** - MV reported that the revised draft protocol had been well received by the borough council.	None
12. Finance 95/26-27	**To review and approve finance statement, bank statements and payments:** - Council resolved to approve payments totalling £8,068.40 as listed on the finance summary. Proposed: NH Seconded: MV Approved: All **Spending approved at the meeting:** - Provisional approval to purchase data conversion software – cost approx. £80 depending on conversion rates/tax	None
13. To review future agenda items 96/26-27	None.	None

The meeting closed at 9:07pm

Signed by Chairperson: **Date:**

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