SOUTH MARSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20th October 2026

at 7:30pm at South Marston Village Hall.

Council Members present	
C McEwen (Chair) S Brown (SB) N Hole (NH)	M Vallender (MV) B Thunder (BT) A Meenan (AM)
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 97/26-27	Mr Cave-Ayland mentioned footpath 2 by the solar farm which is overgrown and, in parts, hard to access. Cllr Thunder mentioned that it appears the ownership of the land has changed and it is unclear who is responsible for maintenance now. Clerk to further investigate who to contact. Mrs Featherstone mentioned the success of the litter picking that has just been done. She mentioned that unfortunately as soon as a pick is done it starts to become an issue again. Cllr Hole mentioned that the issue appears to often be waste from lunch items and much of it is likely from workers involved in the development. Clerk to contact Breheny to raise this and enquire about waste facilities onsite. Having been asked about SBC's use of powers relating to fly tipping, Cllr Vallender said the powers are being used more with the current administration and that the teams involved are due to be expanded. The chair thanked those involved in the litter picking.	Clerk Clerk

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1. Apologies 98/26-27	Cllr Carter sent apologies as he was unwell.	None
2. Declarations of interest 99/26-27	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. Additionally, Cllr Brown declared a direct interest in utility provision and issues around closure of the Leaze and works on Morses Lane, which she is engaging with SBC and developers about. From his ward councillor perspective, Cllr Vallender declared an interest in the Nightingale Lane application and in parish/borough liaison discussions.	None
3. To approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 15th September 2026 100/26-27	Minutes were approved. Proposed: AM Seconded: MV Approved: All	None
4. Ward Councillor Update 101/26-27	The update was reviewed: - Greenfields trees – MV to reply to Cllr Thunder and take this further. - Enforcement at 19 Highworth Road – nothing further to report. - Oak tree – has been checked by the landowner and to be updated on whether any work is to be done. - VH Bookings – Matt has received several contacts raising issues with parking during bookings. It was discussed whether double yellow lines might help or be desirable. It was mentioned SMRA does act when necessary and the Terms & Conditions that are on the hire form already include only loading & unloading being permissible. Customers can lose their deposit and having repeat bookings refused if they park on the road for prolonged periods. Noting the circumstances that lead to parking outside the Hall and that the problem should end with the	MV

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	provision of the new Hall within two years, it was agreed to review in 6 months time. - Waste by Greenfields culvert – ownership and responsibility to be investigated as SBC is refusing to clear the large amount of waste. Chair to conduct some land searches.	Chair
5. Review of actions 102/26-27	Review of actions currently outstanding. - Clerk to chase outstanding invoices issued to Ward Williams and it will be raised at the next developer meeting on 5th Nov.	Clerk/SWG
6. Review of Council Calendar 103/26-27	The PC reviewed progress. - Dates for Finance Working Group meeting to be circulated once Q2 figures are available. This may be held remotely.	None
7. Clerk's Report 104/26 -27	Report was reviewed. - GOV.UK domain - Agreed for clerk to prepare estimate of work involved and benefits of changing. - MV to contact Network Rail to chase about the fly tipping at the end of OVL. Clerk to forward information. - S106 fund deadlines - council to prepare documents assigning funds in anticipation of deadlines. Especially important to assign funds for Community Infrastructure which has the largest outstanding balance and as yet no date by which it will be used due to delays in new village Hall programme.. - Agenda and minutes – it was agreed that draft minutes would be published and circulated as soon as available. A discussion was held about 'Matters Brought Forward' and similar open agenda items, as well as the adoption of Councillor Reports section. Cllr Hole expressed his concern that such items had been removed. The clerk and chair offered reasons why the items should not feature on the agenda. It was agreed that there would be no open agenda item for a trial period of the rest of this council year. To be reviewed at the next Annual Meeting.	Clerk MV/Clerk BT/Clerk Clerk

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	It was also agreed to introduce the Councillor report item, whereby councillors can submit items to the clerk as part of the agenda preparation. Clerk to prompt for items when requesting working group reports. To be instigated from November's meeting.	Clerk
8. Planning applications 105/26-27	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/26/1166 Land at Nightingale Lane** – response submitted with a strong objection. Noted that numerous residents had also responded with a variety of reasons. Further work to be done in preparation for any appeal that may result. **S/COND/26/1172 Rowborough Primary Street** - it was noted that there are potential issues with construction traffic access, which may need to use Rowborough Lane. **S/RES/26/1245 Open Space** – this includes the badly impacted area near Morses Lane and fails to address the major issues with landscaping that developers had agreed would be remedied. Interim response has been fed back to SBC raising concerns about the lack of appropriate detail and documents – further response to follow. **S/26/0987 Keypoint** - was received after the agenda was issued. However, only involves minor adjustments to the previous application, clerk to respond with no comment.	SWG Clerk
9. Reports from Working Groups 106/26-27	**Communications Working Group:** Report was reviewed. - Next edition of Community News will be produced using the Affinity package. - Carriers Arms – to be given regular articles given their role in hosting community activity. - Welcome Pack – progressing. The relationship with Orchard Press is valuable and their help with the transition	None

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	to Affinity and other flexibility is appreciated. Suggested they are our preferred supplier on the basis of best value. **Open Spaces Working Group:** - Village Garden. Council discussed the proposed plan and approved expenditure of up to £1,400 to cover all costs. To be paid from Open Spaces. Proposed: NH Seconded: MV Approved: All - Signage – approved to spend £146 on renewing signage. Proposed: SB Seconded: MV Approved: All **Allotments Working Group:** - Several tenants have not maintained their plots and are likely to have their tenancies terminated. - Signage – approved to spend £100 on renewing signage. Proposed: NH Seconded: BT Approved: All **Rights of Way Working Party:** - Nothing other than matter with footpath 2 noted previously. **Village Hall Working Group:** - Verbal contact has been made again related to the purchase of additional land but no further progress to report. - SMRA is progressing the ownership changeover, with a view to seeking approval for the submission to the Charity Commission at the next SMRA meeting	None None

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10. Reports relating to expansion 107/26-27	**Strategic Planning Working Group** Report reviewed. - Cllr Brown queried the utility vehicle access on Nightingale Lane that recently occurred with no warning. Cllr Vallender confirmed this is related to utility company works for Rowborough. - Quiet Lane – Clerk to chase information on how to pursue this in relation to Nightingale Lane. To liaise with Cllr Vallender who has already raised the issue. - Local Plan – noted that there are issues with some of the documentation and some needs to be republished.	None Clerk SWG
11. Other reports 108/26-27	**SMRA:** Report was reviewed. Council resolved to approve the £2,000 transfer of funds to SMRA: Proposed: SB Seconded: NH Approved: All **Parish/borough Liaison:** Chair reported that progress with the forum and borough is still slow and lacking urgency.	None
12. To review and adopt the updated Memorandum of Understanding 109/26-27	Council resolved to adopt the updated Memorandum of Understanding. Document to be signed by chairs of SMRA and SMPC. Proposed: MV Seconded: NH Approved: All	None
13. Finance 110/26-27	**To review and approve finance statement, bank statements and payments:** - Council resolved to approve payments totalling £17,428.94 as listed on the finance summary. Proposed: BT	

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	Seconded: AM Approved: All **Spending approved at the meeting:** - £1,400 for Village Garden works - £146 for signage for open spaces - £100 for signage for allotments	None
14. To review future agenda items 111/26-27	None.	None

The meeting closed at 9:30pm

Signed by Chairperson: **Date:**

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