Marston Sicca Parish Council

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Draft Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council meeting held at Meon Vale Village Hall
17th November 2025, 7.30pm

Members Present: Cllr. Ian Johnsey (Chair), Cllr. Noel Davis (Vice Chair) Cllr. Steve Barker, Cllr. Cliff Brown, Cllr. Colin Parrott, Cllr. Tom Jackson
Clerk: Debbie Woodliffe
Also present: 3 members of the public, County Councillor Cliff Brown

1.Apologies
1.1 Cllr. Stuart Keighley gave his apologies for absence.
1.2 The Chair thanked Cllr. Davis for presiding as Chair during his absence.

2. Declarations of Interest
Cllr. Parrott and Cllr. Barker noted a non-pecuniary interest in Marston Meadow

3 Public Open Session
3.1 A trustee of the Pavilion Café discussed the problem they have in using the outside space in winter months as it is exposed to the weather. The trustees are considering enclosing two of the open entrance areas with PVC sheeting to allow light. The cost for the works was estimated to be approx. £650. Council members confirmed they understood the problem and the expectation that the PC would contribute or fund the works but could not give an answer at this time.
3.2 The PC were asked to consider if they would be prepared to purchase new goals for the playing field. Again, it was noted but that all financial matters not noted on the agenda would be discussed at a later date.
3.3 A member of Meon Vale Residents Assoc. thanked the parish council for the attention given to Anti-Social and the efforts given to mitigate it. The council were also advised that a grant offer from Porterbrook to produce community led art mural for Meon Vale and would the council be interested in this being placed on the Village Hall. Again, a decision could not be made but Cllr. Barker did state that a full brief of design and conditions would need to be made clear.
3.4 Members were advised that Persimmon were considering placing a pump track to Meon Way Gardens (an area within Meon Vale that sits within Pebworth Parish). As this matter was on the agenda, it was suggested that Cllr. Jackson contacts the Meon Residents Association.
3.5 Resident of Long Marston asked if the traffic data shown at the public forum would be available for wider public viewing. It was confirmed the data is on the PC website.
3.6 The council were asked if it had funding to do the second phase of the footpath to Marston Meadow. It was confirmed the council did not have sufficient funds to complete the next phase without external funding, and that the parish council were already preparing grant applications.
3.6 A trustee from the Pavilion Café, wanted to provide information pertaining to point 3.3.3 from October PC Minutes. This relates to water usage for the pavilion and the allotments where it appears both sites have a consolidated bill sent to the Pavilion. The trustees had examined data for water usage identifying the peak in usage over the summer months and this was attributed to higher use

on the allotment site. The proposal was to extract this amount from the bill and for this to be paid by the PC. Although the matter was not on this current agenda, the council did confirm it would not be reasonable to expect the pavilion to pay the entire bill and would look to reimburse an agreed sum and to then liaise with the allotment committee. The matter would be placed on the next PC agenda.

4.To Approve the Minutes of the previous meetings

Resolved: the minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2025 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Presiding Chairman.

5. District & County Councillor Reports

5.1 Cllr. Brown was able to provide information from both the County and District Councillors.
5.2 Members were advised there are differing views regarding new structure to unitary authority, most voted for 2 tier authority, Rugby wanted one. Executive summary to be submitted, with decision likely to be made known after Christmas.
5.3 Representing the District Council, Councillor Brown indicated that, given the requirement to demonstrate a five-year land supply, planning considerations may be subject to change. Planning applications may see fewer refusals; however, approvals are expected to be accompanied by more stringent conditions. It was acknowledged that this approach would necessitate additional resources within the enforcement team to effectively oversee and enforce these conditions.
5.4 Cllr. Brown confirmed additional studies were ongoing regarding the relief road with some consideration being given to a new bridge through Luddington.
5.5 Cllr. Barker asked how the traffic/speed survey incorporating Long Marston and Welford was progressing. It was confirmed work has already started in Welford. It was also confirmed the 3rd build out to Long Marston would be concluded in the current fiscal year, but the survey will continue to include Long Marston.

6. Chairmans Comments

The Chair gave a brief review of parish council actions against Anti-Social Behaviour, and that further considerations would be given over the coming weeks.
The wider responsibilities that have falling to the parish council was also raised and how this will affect the budget plans for the next fiscal year.
Cllr. Barker was also thanked for his work in producing data for the road traffic forum held in Long Marston.

7. Clerks Verbal Report on ongoing matters

7.1 The final draft lease agreement for the Pavilion has been received and sent to the Chair of the pavilion trustees.
7.2 Members were reminded that a funding request to SDC had been submitted to enable a feasibility study for the MV woodlands to be conducted. A request for an update has been sent to SDC.
7.3 The matter of costs relating to a storage container to MV playing field was discussed with the costs being in the region of £2k. Cllr. Johnsey mentioned he may have a solution and would liaise with the clerk before the next PC meeting.

8. Finance

8.1 Members reviewed the bank reconciliation, reserves list, and monthly payment schedule.
Resolved: Approval was given for the bank reconciliation and payment schedule, the Chair signed accordingly.
8.2 Members resolved to hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss and resolve on the budget and precept. Agreed date to be December 4th.
8.3 The Clerk/RFO had sent members a financial report relating to Meon Vale Village Hall in advance of the meeting. It was confirmed that all accounts queries relating to three booking parties had been addressed. Any remaining outstanding payments or booking queries are being addressed with the hall administrator.
8.4 The Council's internal controls have been implemented, with Councillor Davis now registered on the council's online banking system.

9. Meon Vale / Asset Management

9.1 The clerk confirmed Quinton and Pebworth Parish Councils had been contacted regarding the escalation of ASB. The police had also been in contact to say they were made aware of new instances and would report back asap. Meon Vale Neighbourhood Watch had also been made aware.
9.2 Members received the cost indications from SDC regarding the siting of additional CCTV cameras within Meon Vale. The costs to purchase the cameras would be approximately £5k with further £5 to monitor. The Parish Council's existing camera, currently housed in the hall, could be moved outside. Although this camera would not be actively monitored, its footage would be available for review by police or a designated councillor if needed.
Resolved: Members decided that acquiring more cameras was too costly and opted to relocate the existing camera to the exterior of the village hall instead.
9.3. Members received costs and collection frequency from Meon Vale village hall from Grundons.
Resolved: Agree to contract for initial year with Grundons.
9.4 Fire Alarm Systems conducted a site survey at Meon Vale Village Hall to inspect the premises and assess the equipment. Their response was prompt, and they provided a comprehensive report outlining their findings, including the recommendation to update or upgrade the fire extinguishers. The quotation for conducting alarm checks and replacing equipment was reviewed.
Resolved: Approval was granted to accept the quotation and engage Fire Alarm Systems for the specified services.

10. Planning Matters

25/02627/REM, Land off Long Marston Road, Welford CV378RA
Resolved: The Design Statement from the applicant differs from the Visual Impact Assessment. Until there is clarity from the case officer, members resolved to object.

11. Parish Councillor Reports

11.1 Cllr. Jackson had sent a suggestion to consider the siting of a pump track for bikes within Meon Vale. With the issues relating to ASB and the need to consider activities for older youths, this suggested idea may be worth council's consideration. As the matter had been raised in the open session, it was agreed that Cllr. Jenkins with contact the MV Residents Assoc.
11.2 Councillor Barker shared details about the meeting with Porterbrook, which aimed to start discussions on future funding and present updates on local projects. The conversation focused on the importance of security and anti-social behaviour (ASB) prevention measures for local businesses.
Resolved: to draft a business statement and formally request funding.

12. Correspondence

12.1 Members debated the funding application from the Community Grant Scheme.
Resolved: Prepare a business plan that underpins the reasons for the application with requested amount before the next PC meeting

12.2 The council discussed play equipment for Marston Meadow, highlighting the high cost of each item and the planning conditions attached to the site.
Resolved: further review what is needed to prepare an area for ball sports, including evaluating any necessary preparation associated costs.

13. Christmas Event

13.1 Members felt there was little need to supply elaborate food and beverages at the December PC meeting.

13.2 Council members' extra hours and committee work led to a discussion of a thank you evening for Parish Council members.
Resolved: Chairman's funds will be used for a modest social gathering in the new year.

14. Meeting Date

To ensure meetings are accessible to all the electorate, the next meeting will be held in **Meon Vale Village Hall** on December 15th at 7.30pm

Meeting closed 21.43

Debbie Woodliffe
Clerk/RFO