

# Marston Sicca Parish Council

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## **Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council meeting held Long Marston Village Hall 14<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 7.30pm**

Members Present: Cllr. Ian Johnsey (Chair), Cllr. Bill Tempest, Cllr. Davis, Cllr. Steve Barker, Cllr. Richard Whittaker, Cllr. Cliff Brown  
Clerk: Debbie Woodliffe  
District Councillor: Stuart Keighley  
Also present: two members of the public

### **1. Apologies**

None

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Parrott and Cllr Barker declared a non-pecuniary interest in Marston Meadow

### **3 Public Open Session**

3.1 A member of the public advised members of a discussion held with Persimmon Homes. As there is not going to be a further community building within the Meon Vale development, and no monies had been spent by PH to benefit the community, they were asked what could be done to enhance the green space rather than it just being a field. Any options that may be put forward should not block the view to Meon Hill.

### **4. Minutes of the previous meeting**

Council members considered Minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024 to be an accurate account of the meeting. Minutes were subsequently approved and signed.

### **5. District & County Councillor Report**

5.1 District Cllr. Stuart Keighley had sent a report to council members in advance of the meeting. The report noted how health and well-being is high on the Agenda at Stratford District Council, and that a Community Outreach Officer has been employed by Everyone Active to support a programme of activities in the community for elderly residents, teen fitness and those living with conditions such as dementia.

5.2 A Climate Panel Meeting was held on November 5<sup>th</sup> 2024 where attendees heard the feedback about the Climate Assembly held in September. No specific examples were given as to what was debated by the Climate Assembly.

5.3 It was confirmed on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023 a Community Climate Change Fund was launched by SDC. The scope of the fund was created to help develop projects that address climate change.

5.4 With continuing traffic issues in and around Stratford Town Centre, council members were on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024, Warwickshire Highways attended Overview and Scrutiny Committee to answer questions about ubiquitous roadworks and speeding traffic through local villages. Details of the discussion can be found on the SDC YouTube channel.

## **6. Chairmans Comments**

The Chair advised members that Highways were being notified of the specific dwellings where hedges have encroached significantly over Public Right of Way. The parish council have previously notified relevant residents, but hedges continue to be a problem. It was felt Highways would have the ability to give specific instruction.

## **7. Clerks Report on any outstanding or ongoing matters**

7.1. The clerk confirmed PAYE had transferred to the charity, and aside from one supplier that was on a Direct Debit, all suppliers had also been transferred to the charity. The DD will stop in November with this final transfer completing end of the month. All that remains to do is to switch Zettle payments to the charity and summarise any monies that have been credited to the Parish Council account.

7.2 The transfer of the Meon Vale assets to the Parish Council hinges on the transfer of name from St Modwen Development to St Modwen Homes (now concluded), confirmation that Londis have signed the 25% contractual obligation towards central amenities and receipt of any revised costs from Preim.

7.3 The clerk advised that the Allotment Committee had written to say that the Chairperson was changing, but they would be paying the annual allotment fee by December.

7.4 The Clerk is liaising with Highways to contact households directly where hedges encroach on footpaths. Members also noted the hedge that restricts the visibility when exiting Wyre Lane.

7.5 Members concluded, that as a bus shelter is regarded as permitted development, the building should proceed. It was resolved to therefore give instructions to the manufacturer. Clerk to contact Richard Crow at WCC before liaising with the shelter manufacturer to satisfy St Modwens comments about road adoption.

7.6 Clerk confirmed that the speed guns had been requested and that Welford PC would confirm when they have been located.

## **8. Newsletter**

The response to the questionnaire regarding the newsletter publication (whether to remain as an online publication or to revert to hard copy), was poor and inconclusive in terms of fair representation of resident's views. It was resolved to inform residents of this outcome in the next newsletter and to revisit the question again next year.

## **9. Meon Vale Village Hall**

9.1 The Asset Management Committee (AMC) have been working to assess Hallmaster and the best method of using it as a booking/reporting tool for the Meon Village Hall. It was resolved to discuss the system with Cllr. Chris Watson (from Quinton PC), who was instrumental in getting the system set up.

9.2 The AMC had confirmed members of the newly formed Village Hall committee, and will be organising a working procedure with the appointed committee members in terms of who does what in terms of day-to-day operations for the hall. Clerk to help form the Terms of Reference by the next meeting.

9.3. Council members felt it would be a requirement to employ a Village Hall administrator, and resolved to consider costs, job spec and procedures within the PC budget preparations.

It is also envisaged that the running of the hall would be shared with the newly appointed Village Hall Committee.

## 10. Marston Meadow

10.1 Cllr. Barker reminded members that a questionnaire had been circulated to LM residents regarding Marston Meadow and would be advising outcomes prior to the next PC meeting. The questionnaire focused on what should be added to the Pavilion (seating options), the pathway to the site, play equipment and views on a village hall.

## 11. Finance

11.1 Members received the November bank reconciliation, noting bank balance/list of reserves and list of payments requiring approval. Members approved payments.

Funds in Nationwide Savings Account	£62,344.40
Funds in HSBC Deposit Account	£38,103.92
Funds in HSBC Current Account	£8,951.44
Total Funds as at 14/11/2024	£109,399.76

### Items Approved

Payee	Payment method	Amount £	Details
A Norris	BP	50.00	MV. V.Hall booking refund
HMRC	BP	70.40	Tax PAYE
LM Village Hall	BP	48.00	Hall Hire
Thomas Fox	BP	467.24	Ground Maintenance
Parish Clerk	BP	56.47	Stationery (Inc. Questionnaires
Bentens	BP	126.00	Payroll
Uberdoodle Design	BP	420.00	Newsletter & Website
HP Instant Ink	DC	127.49	Printer Ink
Parish Clerk	BP	317.19	PAYE
HMRC	BP	79.20	Tax
Zettle	N/A	135.42	Fees deducted from sales fees
Londis	DC	840.31	C. Centre Stock
Scottish Power	BP	648.42	Community Centre Utilities
Philip Dennis	DD	1098.99	C Centre Stock
Smarty	DC	12.00	Sim. CC Internet Connection
Biffa Waste	DD	246.33	Waste Collection
Total		4752.46	

11.2 Members received expenditure / income report and the budget plan, with initial discussions on budget preparation to be finalised by the December meeting. This will include the following factors:

11.2.1 Changes in responsibility for the Pavilion

11.2.2 Ownership of assets (to have their individual budgets to form part of the full council budget for easy referencing and controls.

11.2.3 Any grant considerations.

11.3 As council members and the Clerk/RFO are preparing the budget, they will also include further financial controls in terms of payments and reserves.

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## **12. Planning**

Cllr. Tempest provided a planning report in advance of the meeting.

**20/02315/FUL**, Shackleton Village, Phase 1a for 124 dwellings

**23/01794/OUT**, Shackleton Village, Phase 1b for 376 dwellings

**22/01677/OUT**, next to Waitrose on Shipston Road, Stratford, 221 dwellings

The above applications have all been held up for a considerable period pending additional information on traffic infrastructure, with little indication of this being resolved soon. The SWRR currently has no funding, Vectos & Jacobs reports are well overdue, National Highways have asked for any decision to be delayed until the new year as they are still waiting for additional information from developers and local committed highways work is continually delayed. Have spoken to the Case Officer (who is the same in all cases) and he has assured me that a great deal of work is being done but acknowledges our frustration in not being in the picture.

## **13. Correspondence**

13.1 Following changes within the Allotment Committee, the clerk received an email from a committee member (who runs the community plots) stating the allotments are now looking much better and confirmed no tenant has more than one plot. There will be an allotment committee meeting in December, a new Chair will be appointed.

13.2 The leak to the first water tap on the allotment site has returned. Members to consider how to remedy asap.

## **14. Councillor Reports**

14.1 Cllr Whittaker confirmed the preparations for 2025 Green Day are progressing well. A few guest speakers have confirmed they will attend which will include 3-4 cooking demos (with food waste in mind).

14.2 Cllr. Brown confirmed the AMC are working to sort out the Hallmaster system and to organise an action plan post transfer of the Meon assets to the parish council. With full council approval, this will include delegated powers to the AMC (in accordance with LGA 1972. S.101).

## **15. Meeting Dates**

December 16<sup>th</sup> Long Marston Village Hall

Debbie Woodliffe  
Clerk/RFO  
December 1<sup>st</sup> 2024

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