

Marston Sicca Parish Council

Serving Long Marston, Meon Vale & Shackleton

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Draft Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council meeting held at Meon Vale Village Hall 15th December 2025, 7.30pm

Members Present: Cllr. Ian Johnsey (Chair), Cllr. Steve Barker, Cllr. Cliff Brown, Cllr. Tom Jackson

Clerk: Debbie Woodliffe

Also present: 3 members of the public

1. Apologies

None

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Barker noted a non-pecuniary interest in Marston Meadow

3 Public Open Session

3.1 A member of Meon Vale Residents Association confirmed the application to secure money to cover costs for Meon Woodland feasibility study was unsuccessful. They are now reassessing the application and further options.

3.2 The Parish Council were asked if they would be prepared to consider taking over responsibility for the Meon Vale play area. Councillors stated they had not considered taking on this responsibility and would be unlikely to do so, given the current responsibilities for other assets.

3.3 A member of the public raised a question about Tudor Grange Meon Vale and Miller Homes. As Cllr. Spooner from Quinton PC was in attendance and who may have information, the Chair and fellow councillors agreed to bring forward agenda item 10.2 for discussion at the end of the public open session.

3.3.1 Miller Homes proposal to build 37 dwellings north of Tudor Grange and 20 apartments south of Tudor Grange on the car park for the all-weather, multi-use pitches. Cllr. Spooner confirmed he cannot speak on behalf of Tudor Academy, but stated the executive board want to see the application before they comment. He also stated, it was likely that he as a parish councillor and with the agreement of Quinton PC Chairman, would align with Marston Sicca Parish Council to object.

Resolved: to discuss the matter again in January.

4. To Approve the Minutes of the previous meetings

Resolved: the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2025 and extraordinary meeting held on 5th December 2025 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

5. District & County Councillor Reports

5.1 District Cllr. Report. PC members were advised the SWLP timetable has changed; Three pieces of information for forming the plan are required: green belt, wider transport strategy and relief road. There is a shortfall of 3500 houses with little chance that this will be bridged by end 2026.

It was confirmed the results were yet to be published regarding the route study and budget costings for the relief road.

5.2 County Cllr. Report. Cllr. Brown confirmed a 5-year budget plan is currently being organised. The WCC leader had proposed charging a 4% increase in council tax rather than the allowed cap of 5% regardless of liabilities.

5.3 County discussions indicated that expanding existing schools is a faster, more practical option than constructing new ones.

5.4 Cllr. Barker inquired about speed mitigation for Long Marston and the agreed 3rd build out; Cllr. Brown is awaiting a reply from the surveyor. Cllr. Barker and the MS Clerk confirmed they will attend a traffic meeting with MP Manuela Perteghella at Welford VH on December 19th, with Cllr. Brown also present.

6. Chairmans Comments

The Chair gave a short summary of some of the challenges and achievements of the year including the hard work undertaken by Cllr. Barker.

7. Clerks Verbal Report on ongoing matters

7.1 The clerk received a response from the trustees of the Pavilion Charity requesting clarification on some clauses to the lease.

Resolved: for the PC to place on next agenda allowing time for the PC solicitor to respond.

7.2 The funding request for Woodland feasibility study was declined and was discussed earlier in the public open session.

7.3 The Clerk confirmed St Modwen had switched from Scottish Power to Bryt Energy without the PC knowledge. The Clerk is in discussion with Bryt to determine electricity usage and accrued costs.

A follow-up meeting with the Meon Vale Village Hall Committee is scheduled for January to assess any ongoing concerns and discuss progress on the application for charity status.

8. Finance

8.1 Members reviewed the end of November 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 had already resolved on the budget for 2026/27 and the precept at the December Extraordinary Meeting. The budget would include a clerk's assistant to help manage the Meon Vale responsibilities and costs for maintaining the assets. Members discussed income including a P&L for the Meon village hall and to encourage the village hall committee to secure an events strategy.

Resolved: Clerk to confirm Precept to SDC and to include summary of budget plan for the PC website.

8.3 The Clerk presented current trading figures for MV village hall and addressed queries regarding four regular occupants.

Resolved: Ensure the hall administrator records cancellations and invoice amounts. The clerk will contact parties with finance queries to secure outstanding payments.

9. Meon Vale / Asset Management

9.1 Members reviewed the current status and future plans for Marston Meadow, agreeing that any significant additional expenditures should be supported by secured funding. The Council further determined that resources for outdoor activities would be best allocated toward developing an area suitable for ball games, rather than investing in costly play equipment.

Resolved: It was agreed that effective drainage must be implemented as a first step to improve the site. This matter will be subject to further investigation.

10. Planning Matters

10.1 Tudor Grange and Miller Homes – The Parish Council are looking to discuss this matter with Miller Homes. The proposed development of 37 homes north of Tudor Grange could potentially be overbearing, especially for the early year's classes in this location. Also, parents dropping and picking up children will end up parking along Bailey Avenue if the existing car park is used for 20 flats. The matter is ongoing.

10.2 25/02627/REM, Land off Long Marston Road, Welford CV378RA. The case officer finally responded to queries, Cllr. Tempest read the comments to full council:

'The application has been submitted with an LVIA that relates to a layout which has been revised prior to the submission of the application. I have requested that an updated LVIA is submitted, which relates to the current layout is provided. The level of car parking would be as per the submitted plan which details provision for the parking of 17 spaces for the new industrial units and 28 spaces for the open storage area.

The application seeks permission for open storage areas in the western part of the site. The use of the land for the stationing of any gypsy pitches would contravene this use and is not being applied for and therefore needs to be disregarded'.

11. Parish Councillor Reports

11.1 Cllr. Barker reported that the community speed watch team has stopped operating. He also suggested that he should post VAS data for a specified period on the PC website.

Resolved: Cllr. Barker to publish the data.

12. Correspondence

12.1 The Clerk advised members that Porterbrook had generously donated £1500 to the PC to be used for two specific community activities – a) for Meon Vale Pavilion including assistance towards the Christmas hampers for those who receive food share and b) towards the Meon Vale VH Santa Christmas event.

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

The next Ordinary PC meeting is on January 19th at 7:30pm at Long Marston Village Hall.

Meeting closed 21.40

Debbie Woodliffe. Clerk/RFO

