

Marston Sicca Parish Council

Serving Long Marston, Meon Vale & Shackleton

www.marstonsicca-pc.gov.uk

Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council meeting held at Long Marston Village Hall 19th January, 2026 7.30pm

Members Present: Cllr. Ian Johnsey (Chair), Cllr. Noel Davis (Vice Chair) Cllr. Steve Barker, Cllr. Tom Jackson

Clerk: Debbie Woodliffe

Also present: 6 members of the public and Dist. Council Stuart Keighley

1. Apologies

Apology received from County Councillor Cliff Brown and Cllr. Tempest

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3 Public Open Session

3.1 A resident thanked the Parish Council for including the Meon Vale Christmas event in the funding secured from Porterbrook.

3.2 A member of the Meon Vale Residents Association queried the initial date put forward to discuss ASB within Meon Vale. The Clerk confirmed any intended meeting would be combined with Quinton PC and key stakeholders. The original date of 22nd January is likely to be postponed. Noting the issues with ASB parish councillors were advised the County Council have a youth grant fund. Clerk to investigate.

A Meon Village Hall Committee member presented mural designs for the Meon Vale VH rear wall, with Porterbrook funding secured. The Clerk stated this would be discussed under correspondence, but as the matter had been raised, the Chair, with council approval, raised questions about application on brick, lifespan, maintenance funding, and potential for graffiti.

Resolved: The proposal will be considered further after initial inquiries are completed.

3.4 A new Meon Vale Residents Association member, focusing on outside activities, was introduced. Councillors were informed that the PC-owned playing field is mostly unused except for winter football. The RA proposed removing one fixed goal, leaving one on the upper field and two moveable goals enabling other activities to be introduced to the site; the council agreed to discuss this, though it was not on the agenda, as it aligns with asset enhancement.

Resolved: The council expressed no objection, contingent upon consultation with the football team and their agreement.

3.5 The Chair of the Pavilion Trustees explained that registering for VAT after surpassing £90k in turnover has affected the charity's cashflow, particularly during slower winter months. Although there is a long-term strategy aimed at sustainable enterprise, short-term liquidity remains an issue and was highlighted in agenda item 14 (to be discussed under correspondence); councillors emphasised that immediate action was necessary. The pavilion's donated dishwasher has also broken down, complicating café operations—however, the manager identified a suitable replacement costing approximately £2,700. In addition, an urgent cash payment of £4,500 is needed

to cover the first quarter VAT bill. With council approval, the Chair proposed addressing this matter before proceeding with the rest of the agenda items, councillors approved the request.

Resolved: The council considered the pavilion to be vital infrastructure and agreed to back the trustees. They approved funding for a dishwasher, provided its compliance, warranty, and extra installation expenses are confirmed by the clerk and trustees. The council asked for further details about short-term funding options and the rules related to supporting this recreational facility. The Chair proposed that an extraordinary meeting could be arranged to decide on funding if it's needed before the next regular meeting.

3.6 A resident asked about the Welford traffic study and its relation to Long Marston. Cllr. Barker said he requested postponing Long Marston's inclusion until after Christmas to ensure accurate traffic flow was included. He also confirmed existing data from the Long Marston VAS unit was available on the parish council website.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The content of the December 15th 2025 had a discrepancy (omission) on planning item 10.1. The minutes will be revised and circulated to parish council members.

5. District & County Councillor Reports

5.1 No report received from C.Councillor Cliff Brown

5.2 District Councillor Stuart Keighley had circulated a report prior to the meeting but did elaborate on some key points:

(i) Summary of proposed Lib Dem. budget for 2026/27 (yet to go through Council for final approval and budget amendments from other parties (Conservative, Geen and Reform) are yet to be considered.

(ii) Communications: See On- Line View through the SDC website searching Communications.

(iii) Local Government Reorganization: Stratford District Council made a strong case for a South Warwickshire Unitary Authority, in the belief that it would provide better long- term solutions for residents. The Reford led County Council, however, favour a single Unitary, with the existing Council remaining as is and simply acquiring all the work of the District and Borough Councils.

(iv) SWLP – The work on this topic continues with the final options for Regulation 19 Consultation in May 2026.

6. Chairmans Comments.

The Chair gave a short appraisal of the increasing areas of responsibility for the council including the maintenance and support of acquired assets, and the funding needed to help achieve the council's objectives. Members were also reminded of recent incidents of ASB to Meon Vale and how this must be debated with other key stakeholders to secure any meaningful solutions.

7.Clerks verbal report on ongoing matters

7.1 The queries raised by the Pavilion trustees regarding the lease agreement had been sent to the PC solicitors. The response regarding the windows related to possible breakage and consequential costs. The clerk also queried the lease clause relating to the trustees potentially paying for the buildings insurance cover.

Resolved: The clerk to raise the point about breakage costs to windows with the trustees, and to discuss a potential contribution towards the building's insurance if necessary.

7.2 The Clerk discussed the funding application to SDC (Community Grant Scheme) and how the draft framework had been prepared with the assistance of Cllr. Barker.

-3-/Jan2026

Resolved: Prepare two separate applications (two projects), that reflect the assets and their role within the community – The Meon Village Hall and Pavilion and the Outside Spaces of Marston Meadow and Meon playing field. Further full council input may be required before sending.

7.3 Council members were informed of ongoing challenges with Bryt Energy's system changes, which have prevented access to current data. Figures were reconciled up to May 2025, covering Quinton's joint tenancy period.

Resolved: Pay 50% of the reconciled amount, await further details from Bryt, and invoice Quinton for half of the costs related to their tenancy.

7.4 Members were advised of an email sent to Quinton PC regarding their required contribution towards non-domestic rates to Meon Vale VH during 2024.

7.5 In response to councillor inquiries regarding expenditures for grit bins and related items, the Clerk sought clarification on which costs would be borne by the developer (specifically CALA) and which responsibilities would be allocated to the County Council or the Management Company. This would clarify the parish council's required actions.

8. Finance

8.1 Council members had received the bank reconciliation and itemised payments for approval in advance of the meeting. As part of internal controls, it was also confirmed once approved, payments would be actioned with final online approval from either Cllr. Johnsey or Cllr. Davis.

Resolved: Payments were approved.

8.2 Members considered the quotation of £262 to repair lighting to Meon Vale Village Hall.

Resolved: Quotation was approved.

8.3 The Clerk/RFO provided up to date trading figures for the village hall. A P&L will be organised for the hall and will be published separately on the PC website by end of the current fiscal year.

8.4 Members were aware of the communications with SDC regarding non-domestic rates for MV village hall. Resolved: approved the 3-tranche payment schedule.

9. Storage unit for Marston Sicca files

9.1 The Clerk requested the council to agree to the purchase of a secure filing/document cabinet to be housed in the managers office within Meon Vale VH.

Resolved: Members approved the cost to be capped at £200

10. Ground Maintenance

As more areas will be included in the annual ground maintenance contract, it was proposed to invite tenders from I. Johnsey & Co, Thos. Fox, and another contractor.

Resolved: Tender forms will be sent to approved contractors before the next meeting.

11. Planning Matters

No new applications were received; existing matters remain ongoing.

12. Allotments

12.1 Members discussed the site's water supply, next year's rent, and waste collection due to poor plot management.

Resolved: Arrange a separate water meter and notify the allotment committee of the new subsidised rent (£700 based on 2025 water usage). Add a clause to lease agreements requiring a deposit, retained if a plot is left in poor condition. Recommend regular review of plot usage and condition by the committee.

-4-/Jan2026

13. Councillor Reports

Nothing to report outside of items discussed

14. Correspondence

Matter had already been raised earlier in the meeting including the communication from the Pavilion trustees discussed under agenda point 3.5

15. Next meeting date and time

February 16th 7.30pm at Meon Vale Village Hall

Debbie Woodliffe

Parish Clerk

31st January 2026

-