

# Marston Sicca Parish Council

*Serving Long Marston, Meon Vale & Shackleton*

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## **Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council meeting held Long Marston Village Hall 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 7.30pm**

Members Present: Cllr. Davis (Presiding Chair), Cllr. Bill Tempest, Cllr. Steve Barker, Cllr. Cliff Brown, Cllr. Colin Parrott

Clerk: Debbie Woodliffe

Also present: 4 members of the public

### **1. Apologies**

1.1 Cllr. Johnsey gave his apologies for absence.

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

None given

### **3 Public Open Session**

The presiding Chair and council members voted to have the public open session before the Co-Option process, providing time for the candidate to arrive.

3.1 Member of Meon Vale Residents Association confirmed their annual meeting will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> October at 7pm – Meon Vale Village Hall. Parish Council members were invited to attend. RA member also informed councillors of a climate change grant was in place (for large areas, open space) and that this may a funding avenue towards the maintenance of the Woodland.

13.2 Councillors were advised of a street- light not working along Bailey Avenue.

13.3 It was confirmed some roads to Meon Vale and now been adopted.

### **4. Co-Option of Parish Councillor**

Members resolved to co-opt Mr Thomas Jackson onto the Parish Council

The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed. The clerk provided a copy of the Register of Interests noting this had to be completed and returned to the clerk within 28 days. A copy of the Code of Conduct was also provided.

### **5. To Approve the Minutes of the previous meetings**

Resolved: the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2025 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Presiding Chairman.

### **6. District & County Councillor Reports**

6.1 District Councillor not present

6.2 County Councillor Cliff Brown informed the parish council members that a dedicated task and finish group has been set up. The purpose of this group is to review planning compliance and examine enforcement issues within the area.

In addition, the group will also assess current practices where management companies assume responsibility for the running of sites after the developer's involvement concludes.

6.3 Members were reminded that Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC) had recently lost a planning appeal relating to a proposed housing development at Bordon Hill. This outcome was highlighted as a significant development in planning matters affecting the parish.

It was also noted that SDC is currently only able to demonstrate a 2.5-year land supply for housing. This shortfall in the five-year housing land supply requirement may have implications for future planning decisions.

6.4 County Councillor Cliff Brown provided an update regarding the allocation of the County Councillor fund. Councillor Brown confirmed that, while the average funding to be distributed across the district stands at £13,000, a total of £17,000 has been specifically ringfenced for Long Marston. This increased allocation is designated to finance an additional build out within the parish. The additional funding will directly contribute to the parish council's ongoing road safety initiatives.

## **7. Chairmans Comments**

Deferred until October meeting.

## **8. Clerks Verbal Report**

8.1 The clerk informed members that a response had been received from Preim addressing the parish council's queries regarding the management of the central assets at Meon Vale. This correspondence was distributed to all members for their consideration. Additionally, the clerk reported that a request had been made for the payment associated with the management agreement to be divided into two tranches, thereby providing flexibility in the council's financial arrangements.

Resolved: The council would proceed to sign the management agreement once the final dated contract had been received.

8.2 The clerk reported to members that the draft lease agreement for the pavilion had been circulated to all councillors for their review. It was highlighted that one of the key amendments to the agreement is the extension of the lease term from three years to five years, reflecting a longer commitment period.

Resolved: the parish council would formally confirm its acceptance of the revised lease terms to the council's solicitor. Additionally, the agreement will be forwarded to the Charity for their examination and feedback.

8.3 The clerk distributed the updated asset register including reference to the land and assets transferred to parish council ownership

Resolved: Update the AR on the PC website and include the Land Registry reference for Meon Vale central assets once concluded.

8.4 Costs had been received to improve the Greenway notice sign by adding historical pictures of Long Marston under protective screening.

Resolved: Agree the cost of £860 to prepare the pictures and install. Clerk to see if C.Councillor funding can be secured towards the costs.

8.6 Members discussed having photographs of councillors added to the PC website.

Resolved: To have photographs included. Clerk to arrange prior to next PC meeting.

## **9. Community Action Plan**

9.1 Anti- Social Behaviour. Draft report and proposed statement for the PC website had been circulated. Resolved: To include comments from the police and organise redraft prior to next PC meeting.

9.2 Members reviewed an appraisal of Parish Council activity and the various actions taken.

Resolved: To post the Action for You report on the PC website.

9.3 Date for meeting with Porterbrook has been confirmed for end September. Resolved: Prepare brief business plan for the meeting.

## **10. Social Media**

Members debated the need to post Parish Council information on social media (facebook).

Resolved: To use Social- Media as a communication tool without permitting comments. This doesn't mean the council is not interested in feedback, but avoids moderation problems, misinformation or defamatory content.

## **11. Road Safety / Traffic Calming Measures**

11.1 Cllr. Barker confirmed the old traffic data held by the parish council was not considered to be reliable data. The current reviews have there been monitored over a 15 month period and were more accurate in information. Further information was given and members felt this would be best structured in a public open session to show data and trends.

Resolved: To host a public forum on Road Safety on October 11<sup>th</sup> 12-2pm. The PC will provide data from the VAS units and will be available for questions or concerns. Clerk to organise hall hire, promotion of the event on the PC website and the purchase of a banner.

## **12. Planning Matters**

No specific planning applications were tabled at the meeting. Cllr. Bill Tempest, however, provided a comprehensive report on SDC's 5-year land supply. Relevant information will be placed in the village newsletter. Cllr. Tempest also provided an update on activity within Shackleton: Sports pavilion not yet started, allotments due to be sited next to the pavilion, and community hub not yet started. Members discussed the problems relating AB Developments and that the conditions placed on the developer to erect these assets should revert to Cala. Matter ongoing

## **13. Finance**

13.1 Members received a bank reconciliation, payments requiring approval report and budget plan in advance of the meeting. Items for payment were approved and signed by presiding Chair.

13.2 Clerk/RFO informed the 2024/25 AGAR had been approved by the external auditor with accompanying notes. Clerk to publish.

## **14. Meon Vale Hall / Asset Management**

14.1 The hall is seeing increasing occupancy, but a solution needs to be found regarding the opening of the hall. Options will be available for members perusal before the next meeting.

14.2 Asset management committee meeting date to be confirmed asap.

## **15. Parish Councillor verbal reports**

15.1 Cllr. Parrott confirmed the monies for the hall roof repairs will shortly be requested. It was also reported that the hall finances are likely to show a loss due to the disappointment result of the fete.

## **16. Correspondence**

Matter already covered under ASB

-4-/September 2025

**17. Next meeting**

20th October 2025 Meon Vale Village Hall 7.30pm

Meeting closed 21.23

Debbie Woodliffe

Clerk/RFO

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