

# MARSTON SICCA PARISH COUNCIL

*Serving the communities of Long Marston, Meon Vale & Shackleton*

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## **DRAFT MINUTES ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH (PARISH ASSEMBLY) 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026, LONG MARSTON VILLAGE HALL**

Present:

All Parish Council members  
County Councillor Cliff Brown  
Assistant Clerk Carol Watts  
9 Members of the public

### 1. Welcome

The Chair, Cllr. Ian Johnsey welcomed everyone and opened the meeting.

### 2. Apologies

No apologies received; County Councillor Cliff Brown arrived shortly after apologies and brought a report on behalf of District Councillor Stuart Keighley.

### 3. Chairmans Report

3.1 The Chair gave an overview of the Parish Councils year and thanked fellow councillors for their ongoing hard work. The Chair emphasised how as volunteers, they had shouldered a considerable increase in workload to support the local community.

3.2 A grant summary was given detailing funds given in the previous fiscal year to support local community projects.

### 4. County Councillor Report

Cllr. Cliff Brown reported that he is taking on the position of vice chair and will have the responsibility for developing communities (including working with the community builders). Next May will be the unitary authorities' elections. He supports the closer collaboration between Marston Sicca, Quinton, Meon Vale and Shackleton communities.

There was a brief comment on speeding and roads followed by details relating to the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) and how the local plan is essential to the wellbeing of the area. Cllr. Brown further suggested that while the plan may not be welcome with everyone, the alternative would be worse and encouraged everyone to read the plan stressing that if the plan is agreed as a viable option it will need to be registered with the government by end December 2026. If this is not achieved there will not be another plan allowed for two years.

A general debate on the plan followed.

## 5. Open Forum.

5.1 A member of the Village Hall Committee confirmed a lot of work had been carried out over the last year to improve the hall and eradicate the damp. The roof has been repaired and gutters & tiles replaced (there were sufficient tiles to also action the porch).

Appreciation was expressed for the Parish Council grant funding.

Groundwork and drainage work have been done outside to divert water. It was confirmed the floor to hall will likely need to be replaced next year.

The hall is celebrating its centenary and new efforts are underway to increase usage and revenue.

5.2 A member of the Popping Community Shop Committee confirmed the shop has been operated by volunteers for 20 years and is a valuable community asset.

The WI is running well as a friendly space with 20 members.

The shoe box appeal continues to flourish with over 400 boxes given away over the last year, many of which are destined for the Ukraine. The generosity of the local community was noted both in terms of time given and donations which enable boxes to reach children in need.

5.3 A member of the Meon Vale Residents Association gave a detailed report of the annual events and activities that have taken place in Meon Vale; The leisure centre is now operated by Halo and is doing extremely well with increasing popularity. The food share project continues to be managed by the pavilion, and sporting activities are doing well. The local ECO group continues its activities, and Meon Vale will host another Green Day event in June.

The village hall continues to be busy hosting various events throughout the year including craft fairs, and Easter & Christmas celebrations

The Residents Association maintain regular meetings with the Meon Management Company Preim to ensure all local issues are addressed.

The RA also now produces a newsletter for residents.

Some concerns about local issues – the greenway, wetlands etc were mentioned and potential costs to residents.

Antil Social Behaviour is improving following the collective support of the police, housing authorities and councils.

5.4 A trustee of the Pavilion Charity confirmed the café is doing well but having reached a threshold that required registering for VAT created an immediate financial impact. The Parish Council was thanked for providing grant support to help cover initial financial liabilities.

The pavilion provides a valued service as a welcoming community space and the continued operation of the food share programme that helps those in need – the trustees thanked M&S and Waitrose for their donation of food and for financial contributions to help fund other necessities. The café is supported by local volunteers, and the kitchen has a 5-star hygiene rating. Volunteers and trustees are working on various fundraising events.

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5.5 A member of the Meon Vale Allotment Committee confirmed all plots are occupied including the community space. More stringent rules have been introduced to ensure all allotments are managed properly, with plot sizes potentially being reduced or taken away if conditions are breached. The allotment site is looking good and regular meetings are held with plot holders to address any concerns. The plot costs have been increased to cover the cost of water usage; meters will be installed by the standpipes so usage can be monitored. The allotment space gives holders a sense of well-being, friendships are made and involvement with the wider community (including participation in the annual green day event). The Parish Council was thanked for their time and financial support.

5.6 The Meon Vale village hall continues to be well supported and has regular bookings throughout the year. Community groups using the hall include beavers, scouts, toddler and youth groups, art groups Food Bank, and various other community organisations. The village hall committee are working to achieve charity status and thanked the parish council and the Asset Management Committee for their time and financial support.

5.7 A member of the newly formed Shackleton Village Residents Association gave an update on Shackleton Village and the work being done to support residents. The Meon Vale Residents Assoc. was thanked for their support and advice in setting up the Residents Assoc. The Parish Council were also thanked for use of the Meon village hall and their support shown to the local community; it was suggested a meeting between the Parish Council, and the Shackleton Residents Association would be beneficial.

5.8 A representative of Meon Vale & Quinton Cricket Club advised their pitch is in good condition and that they have sufficient members for a full team which they intend to expand to include children. It was also confirmed that grant requests would be made to fund flat rain covers and mobile cricket cage practice nets.

With all discussions concluded, the Chair closed the meeting at 7.25pm