

Marston Sicca Parish Council

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

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Draft Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council meeting held at Meon Vale Village Hall on Monday 21st September 2026 7.30pm

Members Present: Cllr. Ian Johnsey (Chair), Cllr. Bill Tempest, Cllr. Colin Parrott, Cllr. Mark Salter, County Councillor, Cliff Brown
District Councillor, Stuart Keighley
Also present: 5 members of the public

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr. Noel Davis and Cllr. Tom Jackson

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared

3. Public Open Session

3.1 A member of Meon Vale Residents Association advised members that a grant had been received to purchase a new composite bench.

3.2 The RA member also asked whether the proportion of the parish council precept contributed by Meon Vale residents could be ring-fenced for Meon Vale. The Clerk confirmed that this was not possible because the precept supports the needs of the whole parish and expenditure is distributed fairly. The Clerk noted that, in the last financial year, more was spent on Meon Vale than on Long Marston or Shackleton combined and will write to the resident with further details.

3.3 A resident of Long Marston was thanked for helping to distribute the flyers relating to the SWLP.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Resolved: The minutes of the meetings held on 17th and 26th August 2026 were approved as accurate records and signed by the Chairman. A member also requested that future agendas include a summary of outstanding matters alongside confirmation of actions taken.

Resolved: Summarise each outstanding matter and identify the person assigned to the task.

5. District & County Councillor Reports

5.1 County Councillor Cliff Brown discussed the current uncertainty on whether there will be a single authority or two and the legal situation is being considered.

5.2 Members were advised that a new chief executive to the police and crime commissioner will be appointed on 22nd September.

5.3 As part of the ongoing scrutiny on speed in Long Marston (worked jointly with Marston Sicca Parish Council), Cllr. Brown confirmed a speed van had been positioned in Long Marston on September 19th. In addition, two speed surveys will be conducted in 2026— one to the end of Wyre

Lane and the other by Barley Fields. Evidence of speeding was noted to be present along Station Road and Dorsington Road.

5.4 Following the Parish Council's June discussions on speeding, further buildouts were considered unfeasible because the road is too narrow to create a pinch point. Other options are being considered.

5.5 District Councillor Stuart Keighley reaffirmed the fact that as a 5-year land supply could not be demonstrated (now only 2 years), there is a tilted balance in favour of developers unless the impact outweighs the benefits. The Council has also revised a term when considering impact – 'significantly' will now be changed to 'substantially'.

5.6 Members were informed the SWLP first advisory meeting will be held on 24th September after the Reg. 19 closed. The scale of response was reported to be huge.

-Open Session closed-

The Chairman proposed bringing forward item 12, Planning Matters, so that specific points could be discussed earlier in the meeting. Councillors agreed.

6. Planning Matters

6.1 SWLP – The matter was discussed and resolved at Extraordinary Meeting held August 26th. The Parish Council's response to SDC is visible on the PC website. Subsequent discussions included response content; Cllr. Keighley suggested the response should include alternatives, Cllr. Tempest confirmed this had been done e.g. *'LMA development should be delivered to the scale of 3500 homes which is already approved as part of the Garden Village proposal. Additional homes should be repositioned to the North of Stratford Upon Avon in a location that is closer to motorway links, rail links and employment hubs'*. Council members did not feel it was the remit of the parish council to provide detailed alternative site locations within the response.

6.2 26/01252/PIP - Land Off Barley Fields Long Marston CV37 8SN

Cllr. Tempest praised the Barley Fields Resident Association for their excellent submitted response. Cllr. Tempest read the resolved response to the application which has also been submitted directly to the planning inspectorate.

6.3 Councillors debated planning matters generally with Cllr. Keighley including the revised terminology now present - 'Substantially outweighed' potentially making it harder to argue /respond to planning applications including the new directive on 10 dwellings or under. Cllr. Parrott asked if developers would exploit this opportunity to avoid applications going to committee.

6.4 Cllr. Tempest had covered the New Scheme of Delegation in his planning review for the meeting (details of the new scheme had already been circulated to members prior to the meeting).

7. Parish Council Assets

7.1 to review the archery clubs use of the Meon Vale playing field and whether to advertise the new event.

Resolved: to publicise the new club and to post on social media.

7.2 To consider contacting Halo to discuss the leisure centre use for community clubs and to organise future invoices for central asset contribution.

Resolved: to contact Halo for suggested meeting dates.

7.3 To consider contacting Miller Homes to discuss Meon Vale and to remind Miller of their contractual obligation to pay toward central assets.

Resolved: To contact Miller Homes for suggested meeting dates.

8. Clerks verbal report on outstanding matters and tasks concluded.

8.1 The clerk confirmed a combined transfer of utilities for Meon Vale Hall had been submitted to Octopus. Once the transfer has been concluded (expected to be October 1st), a settlement figure with Bryt would need to be confirmed.

8.2 Members were advised of tasks concluded as noted on the agenda

8.3. Under correspondence, the clerk reminded members of a request for funding from the newly formed Shackleton Residents Association.

Resolved: To grant the sum of £200

9. Finance

9.1 Council members had received a payment review and bank reconciliation.

Resolved: Approved bank reconciliation and noted payment items on the agenda

9.2 Meon Vale bookings – members had been made aware that the hall was being used for specific sessions when the decision had been made to refuse the request. The original request suggested modifications would be required for a relatively short time frame and could, potentially, impact on 'business trading'. Further information, however, addressed the councils' concerns and offered a financial advantage in permitting short term use.

Resolved: Approve the use of the hall until beginning of October 2026, and to revert to the parish council should the term need to be extended.

10. Grant Applications

10.1 a) Pavilion funding request for contribution towards auditing costs was deferred to later in the meeting to allow wider for wider considerations.

10.1 b) To assist with the erection of a bin store to the pavilion

Resolved: deferred to next meeting

10.1 c) to consider request to use CCTV cameras currently housed in the village hall, to be erected to the side of the pavilion.

Resolved: check location of CCTV cameras and their condition.

10.2 Comments received regarding table tennis club & the new tariff within Meon Vale leisure centre.

Resolved: This would form part of general meeting discussions (see agenda point 7.2)

11. Policies

Members considered amendments to two parish council policies and adoption of Code of Conduct.

11.1 Risk Management Schedule

Resolved: Members agreed to the additional reference to grants for equipment assets.

11.2 Code of Conduct

Resolved: Members reaffirmed and agreed to adopt and adhere to COC.

11.3 Investment Policy

Resolved: Members agreed to include point 4.2 in the Investment Policy

12. Chairmans Comments

All comments had been covered in the agenda points.

13 Exempt Information.

Members to consider excluding the press and public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1(2) and extended by Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972, by resolution for the following agenda points due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted: Legal Agreement Matters

Resolved: members unanimously agreed to move the meeting into closed session.

14. Legal Agreement Matters

14.1 Members received the clerks report on assets, relevant tenancy agreements and short/midterm strategic action points.

Resolved: Grant £700 towards external audit costs for the pavilion. To receive and consider pavilion business plan and quarterly reviews.

14.2 Members considered the clerks comments on website changes and immediate action points.

Resolved: to organise changes asap and to confirm by next meeting.

15. Councillor Reports

No comments other than planning matters were debated.

16. Next Meeting

Monday October 19th Long Marston Village Hall

Debbie Woodliffe
Parish Clerk