

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 Long Marston Village Hall on Monday 19th October 2026 7.30pm

Members Present: Cllr. Ian Johnsey (Chair), Cllr. Steve Barker Cllr. Colin Parrott, Cllr. Mark Salter, District Councillor, Stuart Keighley
Also present: 3members of the public

1.Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr. Tempest

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared

3. Public Open Session

3.1 A resident of Meon Vale confirmed a location had been agreed for the siting of the new bench. A local resident who is preparing the base will ensure the porcelain tiles are anti slip.

3.2 Councillors were advised that residents of Meon Vale had been in discussion with Preim and were advised they are likely to face a 24% increase in their management charges. This is to cover the costs for maintaining the wetlands. Residents were further advised that reserves held by the management company had diminished.

3.3 The Chair of the Meon Vale RA, is preparing a report for the District Councillor Stuart Keighley on management fees and the long term maintenance of the woodlands, greenway and wetlands. A meeting is being scheduled between the RA and Stuart Keighley. It was interesting to note that residents of Meon Way Gardens do not contribute towards the wetlands.

3.4 A Barley Fields resident requested an update on 26/01252/PIP and asked whether all site certifications and obligations had been signed off. It was confirmed all Parish Council comments have been submitted in response to 26/01252/PIP and the clerk will check what has been signed off with SDC enforcement.

3.5 During discussion of Barley Fields, Cllr. Parrott asked whether the play area roundabout had been considered further. Although slow, it poses no health and safety hazard, and given Kompan's high quoted costs for improvements, remedial work would be deferred until the new year, allowing more time to consider additional quotes.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

4.1 Cllr. Parrott asked for point 11.1 to be made clearer. Clerk confirmed an amendment would be sent. This was a minor point, the parish council therefore considered the minutes to be an accurate record of the meeting.

Resolved: Minutes were approved and signed.

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 to councillors prior to the meeting. The report contained three points:

(i) Local Government Reorganisation – The Government paused LGR on 7th September in 14 areas including Warwickshire. The pause means that elections in May 2027 will be on the basis of the existing District Wards.

(ii) Planning Decisions: From 31st October 2026, new national rules will require Council Officers, rather than the planning committee, to decide most planning applications. Ward Councillors and Town and Parish Councils will no longer be able to ‘call in’ applications for Committee consideration.

These changes significantly alter opportunities for Parish Councils and residents to attend Committee meetings and speak in support of or against applications.

(iii) South Warwickshire Local Plan – There was a significant response to the Regulation 19 Draft Plan. The scale of the response was much greater than expected, and the assessment of mails and letters into the relevant policy areas is taking longer than anticipated. Cllr. Keighley advised, as a member of the Advisory Group, he is aware that further work has been commissioned on the route of the proposed relief road and the modelling of flows from the southeast Stratford development (STR2) through to the A46. Cllr. Keighley added additional comments on the SWLP.

5.3 In light of the new directive on planning applications for fewer than 10 dwellings and a recent Barley Fields appeal, councillors asked S. Keighley whether recent Neighbourhood Plans containing reserve sites still carried weight in planning decisions. Cllr. Keighley confirmed that they did.

6. Planning Matters

6.1 26/00163/FUL Parcel A – 37 dwellings north of Tudor Grange School, Meon Vale

26/00164 /FUL Parcel B – 20 dwellings south of Tudor Grange School, Meon Vale

Both pending decision.

6.2 26/00716/FUL, - Porterbrooke, Station Road. Installation and operation of ground-mounted solar voltaic installation and associated works. Decision: Approved with conditions.

6.3 26/01906/PIP – Forest Farm, Long Marston, Erection of single storey bungalow. Decision: Permission in Principle granted.

6.4 26/01252/PIP – Barley Fields, Appeal Reference 6014978. PIP sought to erect up to 9 dwellings. Status: Responses have been submitted to SDC and to the Inspectorate. Resident also enquired about conditions and whether certificates have been signed off.

Resolved: Clerk to contact SDC enforcement.

6.5 Members considered the merits of having a meeting with Shackleton RA regarding status with the site and Cala Homes

Resolved: To organise a meeting - clerk to write to SDC and council members with suggested date.

7. Clerks Verbal Report

7.1 Energy supplier – members were advised the switch to Octopus has been concluded. All invoices and credit notes received from Bryt energy are being studied to organise a settlement figure.

7.2 Proposed lease agreement for Meon Vale Hall

Resolved: agreed.

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7.3 The clerk reported that a funding strategy is being developed with Carol Watts's assistance. A funding support framework will be provided for the November Parish Council meeting.

The clerk advised councillors that the admin assistant's laptop was old and also used by the family. Keeping a new laptop in the Meon Vale VH management office would help maintain confidentiality and allow the clerk and admin assistant to share tasks and follow-up actions.

Resolved: Agreement to purchase a laptop for the PC management office in Meon Vale Hall. Prior to this, however, Cllr. Barker will first replace the door handle and lock to improve security. Clerk to send laptop options for councillors' approval.

7.4 Temporary use of the Meon Vale meeting room for therapy sessions was considered.

Resolved: Councillors support local enterprise, noting that the therapy business also benefits the local community. They approved the requested reduction to £10 per hour in recognition of the longer hire period. The clerk will inform the hirer and secure payment.

7.5 Items noted on the agenda confirmed actions taken.

8. Parish Council Assets

Council members debated the points raised by the Allotment Committee

Resolved: Cllr. Johnsey & Cllr. Barker to check gates, hedges & taps and advise what work is required.

9. Policies and Governance

Internal Control Policy, Cllr. Parrott proposed including tender & contractor agreements in the policy.

Resolved: Adopt the policy with an added reference to contractor agreements.

10. Finance

10.1 Council members received current reconciliation.

Resolved: approved payment items noted on the agenda.

10.2 Council members received up to date trading figures for Meon Vale Village Hall.

11. Councillor Reports

11.1 Shackleton points including RA meeting already discussed

11.2 Cllr. Salter stated he is still in communication with the football club for Meon Vale sports field.

12. Christmas Event

Potential funding was debated including positioning a Christmas Tree to Shackleton and contribution towards Christmas family event at Meon Vale Village Hall.

Resolved: Clerk/RFO to send potential cost and review of reserves.

13. Correspondence

The clerk informed councillors that a hall user had collected parish council post sent to MV Village Hall. To ensure post reaches the council correctly, the clerk requested a post box be purchased and sited by the hall entrance.

Resolved: Members agreed. The clerk will send examples for councillors to review before purchase.

14. Next Meeting

Monday November 16th Meon Vale Village Hall

Debbie Woodliffe
Parish Clerk