Marston Sicca Parish Council
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Approved Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council meeting held Meon Vale Village Hall
18th August 2025, 7.30pm

Members Present: Cllr. Ian Johnsey (Chair), Cllr. Bill Tempest, Cllr. Steve Barker, Cllr. Cliff Brown, Cllr. Colin Parrott
Clerk: Debbie Woodliffe
District Councillor: Stuart Keighley
Also present: 12 members of the public

1.Apologies
1.1 Cllr. Davis gave his apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest
None given

3 Public Open Session
3.1 Several Meon Vale residents reported persistent incidents of anti-social behaviour. The consequence of repeated bad behaviour was having a detrimental effect on residents who asked the Parish Council for assistance. The Chair and council members whilst acknowledging the matter was not on the agenda for discussion, felt the severity of the problem warranted attention.
Resolved: to consider organising an Anti-Social Behaviour & Community Focus Committee and to liaise with other organisations including the police, housing associations and WCC. The matter will be placed on the September agenda.
3.2 A member of the RA confirmed the Meon Fest event that took place on 16th August and reported it as a great success.
3.3 Council members were advised the RA had written to the appointed customer services manager for Meon Vale within Miller Homes inviting him to attend the RA meetings.
3.4 A meeting between the RA and Preim revealed the trees surveys are not correctly being assessed.
3.5 Several residents raised concerns about road markings, speeding, and reported Willow Way to be a junction hazard. Councillors also received communication from a resident raising similar concerns over speeding traffic into Long Marston village.
Speeding and road safety remain Parish Council priorities. Resolved: signage and road markings to be discussed with the County Councillor and Highways.
3.6 Two members of the public confirmed their intention to apply to join the parish council.

4.To Approve the Minutes of the previous meetings
4.1 Minutes of meeting held 21st July 2025
Resolved: the minutes of the meeting held on 21st July 2025 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

5. District & County Councillor Reports

5.1 District Cllr. Keighley provided council members with a report prior to the meeting. The main point related to the Warwickshire Local Government Reorganisation:

The Local Government Reorganisation for Warwickshire is entering a period of engagement with residents, businesses and other organisations. The aim is to gain external views and insights into the of the best future shape of local government and inform the final submission to the Government in the late autumn.

Stratford District Council is undertaking this exercise in partnership with North Warwickshire BC, Nuneaton & Bedworth BC and Warwick DC. Whilst Rugby Borough Council is not part of the engagement process, they have agreed to inform their residents and are happy to distribute paper copies of the questionnaire to residents who call at their offices.

The exercise is being undertaken by Opinion Research Services, an independent social research agency, specialising in research for public, voluntary, and private sector organisations. A web site has been developed which provides background information in relation to local government reorganisation and a link to the questionnaire https://shapingourcouncils.co.uk/.

5.2 County Cllr. Cliff Brown advised members of various meetings and discussions he had held with highways about speeding. Cllr. Keighley asked if there had been any developments with the police on speeding following the discussions held with Warwickshire Police & Crome Commissioner Philip Seccombe. It was confirmed a police van had been deployed locally on three occasions.

5.3 C.Cllr. Cliff Brown advised members about unspent County Councillors funds that had accumulated over the past four years. It was confirmed that some planned expenditure including traffic calming measures in Long Marston had finally been tabled but not authorised. Cllr. Brown had reviewed the spending plan and confirmed this would include a third build out to Long Marston village. The parish council gave a brief recap of the ongoing strategy to mitigate speed, and how the original plan for 4 build outs that had initially been limited to 2 due to costs, can now be completed. Using some retained funds held in highways, the parish council can budget to install the 4th build out in the next fiscal year.

6. Chairmans Comments

The Chairman read a short note confirming the parish council has signed up to the Warwickshire Connected Police alerts but have requested a more local report be made available for each meeting and to have police in attendance on a quarterly basis. This would support the anti-social behaviour programmes being considered by the council.

7. Clerks Verbal Report

7.1 The clerk advised council members of the response received from Preim. The main question relating to the purported £3k admin fee for maintenance to the Meon Vale Sports Field formed part of the consolidated fee of £5k plus vat for the entire central amenities (£5k being the minimum). Resolved: to sign the agreement with Preim for a one- year trial period, but also, for the Clerk to send the full response from Preim in advance.

7.2 The Draft Pavilion Lease agreement has been concluded by Hall Reynolds, but a meeting has been scheduled with the clerk to ensure all points raised by the council have been included. The draft should be available for members perusal by 22nd August 2025.

7.3 The clerk confirmed the asset register would now include the land now owned by the Parish Council and the procedure for transferring assets to the charity is being organised

8 Finance

8.1 Members received the bank reconciliation and listed payments for approval.
Resolved: Bank reconciliation and payment requests were approved and signed by the Chair
8.2 Clerk confirmed the bank have been instructed to include Cllr. Davis as a signature to online banking.

9. Meon Vale Village Hall / Asset Management Committee

9.1 Members acknowledged receiving the Meon Vale Village Hall Committee meeting notes confirming that the Committee will become a legal entity to meet funding and concession requirements.
9.2 The clerk confirmed no response as been received from SDC regarding the dispute over rates for the village hall.

10. Planning Matters

10.1 25/01560/VARY Rail Innovation Centre, Long Marston.
Resolved: Respond with no objection
10.2 Cllr. Tempest informed council members that the meeting with key stakeholders regarding Shackleton community/employment hub has been rescheduled for August 29th at MV Village Hall.

11. Civility & Respect Statement and Social Media Communications

11.1 Parish council members debated the suggested C&R statement to remind councillors and residents of the need to maintain a civil and respectful dialogue.
Resolved: to post the statement on the website and to enact the vexatious policy when required
11.2 members debated the use of social media when information posted about the parish council, or its actions is erroneous.
Resolved: In accordance with the PC social medial policy, to provide accurate information and/or data relating to parish council projects.

12. Councillor reports

Cllr. Parrott confirmed the works to Long Marston Village Hall are underway starting with the removal of asbestos to the hall roof.

13.Correspondence

13.1 Members were advised of a response from Porterbrook following a letter from the PC regarding specific projects in the parish.
Resolved: to organise a meeting at Porterbrook with Cllr. Barker and the Clerk in attendance.
13.2 the clerk confirmed a further reply had been received from Lodders regarding a £750 bill for land registry costs to Marston Meadow. This cost had already been queried.
Resolved: The clerk to respond requesting any correspondence that had suggested such a cost would be valid for informing LR of an approximate cost for the site.

14. Meeting Dates

Next Ordinary Meeting – 15th September 2025. Venue to be confirmed asap pending building works to LM Village Hall

Meeting closed 9.40pm
Debbie Woodliffe
Clerk/RFO

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