MARSTON SICCA PARISH COUNCIL

Working for the community

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Approved Minutes of Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held Long Marston Village Hall 19th May 2025

Members Present: Cllr. Ian Johnsey, Cllr. Bill Tempest, Cllr. Noel Davis, Cllr. Steve Barker, Cllr. Cliff Brown, Cllr. Colin Parrott
Clerk: Debbie Woodliffe
District Councillor Stuart Keighley
26 members of the public

1.To elect the Chairman for the 2025/26 civil year.
Cllr. Ian Johnsey was proposed by Cllr. Bill Tempest and seconded by Cllr. Cliff Brown and unanimously agreed by full council. There was no other nomination, motion carried. Cllr. Johnsey was elected as Chairman and signed the acceptance of office form.

2. To elect the vice-Chair for the 2025/26 civic year
Councillor Tempest proposed Noel Davis which was seconded by Cllr. Cliff Brown. Members unanimously voted in favour of Cllr. Davis to be Vice Chair. The acceptance of office form was duly signed.

3.To record any absences and receive apologies for absence.
All present.

4.Declarations of Interest:
4.1 Cllr. Barker declared his non- pecuniary interest in Marston Meadow, the same was declared by Cllr. Parrott.
4.2 Cllr. Brown confirmed he had been elected as County Councillor.

5. Public Open Session (maximum 15 minutes)
There were several residents present who wished to discuss speeding problems through the village. Although not on the agenda, the Chairman permitted the points to be put forward which consequently increased the time typically allowed for public discussion.
5.1 Members of the public advised the council of concerns over traffic – speeding, parking and the volume of vehicles now travelling through the village. Various options were put forward including changing the location of the VAS unit, speed bumps, the use of a stationary police vehicle and yellow lines (though the latter was discarded). The Parish Council reaffirmed their commitment to speed mitigation and reminded residents of the various actions taken to date. Despite the efforts of the PC however, there are limitations on what can be achieved; VAS systems can only be procured from WCC, speed bumps were no longer encouraged by WCC (Clerk to check status), and the ramifications of having yellow lines (if permitted) were discussed. Councillors were advised the speed watch team had conducted numerous sessions and had noted 2231 vehicles over the course of a week. A speed working group was mentioned, but to ascertain realistic/compliant options it was agreed that Cllr. Brown would have a discussion with WCC/Highways and would liaise with the full council and speed watch team.

Cllr. Keighley confirmed a meeting is taking place on May 28th with the police in attendance, and suggested he mention speeding during the meeting.
5.2 A resident enquired about the annual parish assembly and what was discussed. The clerk noted the poor attendance but would be detailing the discussions in the minutes.
5.3 A member of Meon Vale Residents Association reminded the council of concerns over the woodland and wetlands. It was the original intention of St Modwen to pass responsibility of these assets over to the Management Company, but this would potentially overburden residents with higher annual management costs. It was suggested therefore, that a combined think tank should be organised comprising the RA, the parish council, and representation from District/C.Council to consider all options for maintaining these valuable assets.
5.4 A member of the RA asked when the two new bins for Meon Vale would arrive. The Clerk confirmed they had been ordered and would check.

6. To complete annual business in keeping with the council's Standing Orders.
6.1 Members considered the draft minutes of ordinary meeting held on 21st April, 2025 and extraordinary meeting held on 2nd May 2025 to be an accurate account and were duly signed by the Chair.
6.2 The clerk had circulated the new insurance premium and cover details to parish councillors. It was resolved to pay the premium for 2025/26. The clerk also advised that a chaser had been sent to receive a quotation for buildings insurance (Meon Vale VH and Pavilion) and would be sending this to council members once received. All acknowledged the importance of this cover.
6.3. Members discussed subscriptions including the rise in membership for WALC. It was felt this would not be good value for money at the present time and resolved not to subscribe to WALC for the coming year. Cllr. Parrott declared an interest and did not participate in the voting.
6.4 The complaints policy is valid but would be more effective if combined with a staffing committee noted later on the agenda.
6.5 Members resolved to make the suggested amendment to the Risk Management Schedule to consider the assets the parish council now own. Clerk to post amended schedule.
6.6 The Standing Orders were considered to be relevant, but members resolved to include an additional clause that would include the ownership of the assets. Clerk to send proposed amendment.
6.7 The Financial Regulations were considered to be relevant
6.8 It was agreed that the parish council met the criteria to retain General Power of Competence.
6.9 Members resolved to hold at least four meetings annual at Meon Vale Village Hall but to retain most meetings in Long Marston to encourage Shackleton residents to attend.
6.10 The terms of reference for the AMC were considered to be relevant, it was resolved to determine the TOR for hall hire at the AMC meeting scheduled for May 27th at Meon Village Hall (Clerk to post the agenda).
6.11 Members resolved to create a staffing committee to meet at least twice annually. The council agreed to appoint Cllr. Parrott, Cllr. Davis and Cllr. Johnsey as committee members.

7. <u>Finance</u>
Members had received financial documents including Internal Audit report in advance of the meeting.
7.1 Members resolved to authorise noted payments
7.2 Members received a copy of the latest Bank Reconciliation which was approved.
7.3 The Internal Audit Report was reviewed and approved & duly signed by the Chair.

7.4 Members reviewed and resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25 and was signed by the Chair.
7.5 The Annual Accounting Statement for 2024/25 was reviewed and was approved
7.6 Members resolved to notify exercise of public rights to start 03/06/2025 – 14/07/2025.

8.Clerks Verbal Report

8.1 The clerk confirmed receipt of a quotation from Hall Reynolds for organising a lease document for the Pavilion (£750 + VAT). It was resolved the clerk would try to secure a better price by simplifying the terms.
8.2 It was confirmed the noted assets of the Poppin, the village pub and village hall had been submitted for inclusion onto the register of assets of community value.
8.3 The clerk advised councillors of financial matters relating to the MV assets that had arrived after the agenda has been drafted. As these relate to the assets it was resolved to include the financial points on the next AMC agenda.
8.4 Members were advised emails had been sent to St Modwen/Miller Homes to secure a contact person who would address the issues within Meon Vale.

9. Ground Maintenance Contracts

Members discussed the quotation from Thos. Fox and Preim for the management of the Meon Vale playing field. It was resolved to allow Preim (contracting Whitings) to continue maintaining the site as they were on site, the quotation was cheaper, and work to date had been good. Clerk to write to Thos. Fox confirming the council's decision but to award other aspects of the tender.

10. Meon Vale

10.1 Members resolved to defer the Preim agreement to the AMC by which time a more concise terms of reference would be available for debate.
10.2 Council members also discussed the PC surgery to be held at Meon Vale VH and resolved to hold these on the last Friday of each month with the Clerk and a Parish Councillor in attendance.

11. Planning Matters

Cllr. Tempest discussed planning application 11.1 25/00856, Cat accommodation, building and Associated works, Porterbrook Mid Leasing Co.
Decision: No objection.

12. Councillor Reports

12.1 Cllr. Parrott confirmed the Long Marston Village Hall Committee had successfully secured a £20k grant from the Lottery to help with remedial costs for the hall roof. The quote for the roof work would be scrutinised and the shortfall in funding would be discussed again with the parish council.

13. Correspondence

None

Next Meeting. Due to holiday absences and one councillor short, the next ordinary PC meeting will be held on July 21st at Long Marston Village Hall

Debbie Woodliffe,
Parish Clerk RFO 22nd May 2025

Colin Parrott, Cliff Brown