Marston Sicca Parish Council
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Draft Minutes of Ordinary Parish Council meeting held Meon Vale Village Hall
28th April 2025, 7.30pm

Members Present: Cllr. Ian Johnsey (Chair), Cllr. Bill Tempest, Cllr. Noel Davis, Cllr. Steve Barker, Cllr. Cliff Brown, Cllr. Colin Parrott
Clerk: Debbie Woodliffe
Also present: six members of the public

1.Apologies
Apologies received from District Councillor Stuart Keighley

2. Declarations of Interest
2.1 Cllr Barker declared a non- pecuniary interest in Marston Meadow
2.2 Cllr. Brown confirmed membership of the AMC

3 Public Open Session
3.1 Member of the public noted issues with retrieving data from the website on a mobile. The problem had already been reported to the web host to remedy.
3.2 It was suggested that the PC review options for VAS systems that have a camera and can record registration numbers. Cllr. Barker noted the information but also confirmed the acquisition of VAS systems (rented or otherwise) had to be managed via WCC.
3.3 A member of the public noted the reference to police reports. The clerk confirmed correspondence had been sent regarding 'safer neighbourhood' initiatives following some vandalism in the area but had yet to receive a response. Ideas have been requested to help create a strategy that looks to reduce vandalism.
3.4 A member of public / Resident Assoc. detailed a list of requirements for Meon VH and asked the PC to consider the following. Council members noted these would be considered before the May meeting.

- 3.4.1 PA system for the VH (cost @ £750 with £500 recoverable from a donation)
- 3.4.2 Upgrade to the kitchen
- 3.4.3 Ideas for long term management of the woodland and wetlands.

3.5 A member of the public congratulated the PC for the work done to the orchard within Marston Meadow
3.6 The PC were asked what the timeline is to conclude on the walkway around the Meon Vale attenuation ponds. It was confirmed since the switch to Millers Homes, various works remain unfinished and that some areas still required planning permission to be submitted. Clerk to check.
3.7 The PC were asked to consider the siting of electric power points to Meon Vale as residents in apartments had no opportunity to access electric power for vehicles.
3.8 A member of the public/Residents Assoc. confirmed no wayfinding signage existed for Meon Vale including an entrance sign to the MV site. Also, a sign at the junction of Station Road and Campden Road should be removed.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

Council members considered Minutes of the meeting held on March 17th 2025 to be an accurate account of the meeting except for point 13.2; Cllr. Barker had reminded all that he had requested to seek funding for phase two of Marston Meadow footpath, and the agreement had not been noted in the minutes. Members resolved to reaffirm the funding request but to omit one source. Minutes were subsequently approved and signed.

5. District & County Councillor Report

5.1 Cllr. Keighley was unable to attend but had produced a written report in advance of the meeting. Council members had queried the poor response to noted survey. Clerk to clarify and respond.

6. Chairmans Comments

No comments

7. Parish Council Vacancy

The Clerk confirmed the resignation of Cllr. Whittaker had been confirmed to SDC, and the Notice of Vacancy had been published. It was suggested the vacancy should also be highlighted in Shackleton to try and achieve fair representation within the parish council.

8. Clerks verbal report on any outstanding matters

8.1 Members had been sent a letter received from Lodders in advance of the meeting regarding costs for land registry fees pertaining to Marston Meadow. The cost had been reduced to £850 + VAT. It was resolved to pay upon invoice. Clerk to action

8.2 Members were advised WCC had agreed for the PC to place information on the notice platform to the Greenway. The banner printers have been asked to quote for laminating the historic pictures of LM railway and other signage plus a protective, secure cover. Final costs to be given to full council before the May meeting.

8.3 St Modwen had suggested a PR event should be organised regarding the asset transfer. Council members wanted to understand more fully what would be involved before deciding on the matter.

8.4 The Clerk informed members that SDC had been contacted regarding rates for the MV VH and that also, the utilities to the building are being reviewed with the aim of changing electricity supplier. Ongoing matter.

9. Finance

9.1 Bank reconciliation was provided.

9.1.1	Savings Account - £63,373.75
	Deposit Account - £3700
	Current Account - £1570.39
	Total- £68,644.14

9.2. Budget plan was reviewed. Major difference in original budget plan was mainly due to the Pavilion community centre remaining under the control of the parish council. The full operational running has now been passed to the Charity. The EOY result was still within budget:

9.2.1 Total expenditure - £117,438.51
Total income - £120,232.89

9.2.2 EOY accounts were approved.

9.3 The Clerk/RFO confirmed the internal auditor had conducted most of the internal review including full financial statements and governance review. This will be concluded after the PC meeting. The AGAR documents will be ready for the May Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.
9.4 Members had already resolved to transfer procured asset items for the community centre to the Charity. The asset register will be updated.
9.5 The Clerk/RFO also confirmed Cllr. Johnsey has been authorised to sign/approve payments and same will be applied to Cllr. Tempest. This satisfies further internal controls.
9.6 The Clerk/RFO advised a further invoice had been received from Biffa for waste collection ex the Pavilion. The Charity confirmed they are transferring this service to Grundon's, but the contract will only be concluded in May. Council members agreed to pay the invoice but to recover the costs from the Charity. Clerk to action and simultaneously conclude on price comparison with Grundon's for MV Village Hall.

10.Planning Matters
10.1 25/00444/LDP, 4 Larch Road, Meon Vale – single storey rear extension.
The proposed ground floor rear extension is considered to comply with Part 1 Class A of Schedule 2 the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development Order 2015)
Granted under delegated power.
10.2 Cllr. Tempest attended a meeting at Shackleton on April 11th run by Emma Thrussell with SDC in attendance. Parish councillor D. Bartlett (Quinton PC) and a resident of Shackleton explained that they were looking to set up a resident's association like that at Meon Vale. Caroline Owner (senior planner Cala) gave an update on occupancy rates, the sports pavilion and the play area. Neil Hempstead (SDC) explained about the ongoing problems with traffic infrastructure delays holding up phases 1a and 1b. He also mentioned funding problems with the community centre/employment hub and ongoing electricity problems on site.

11. Councillor Reports
11.1 The matter of the footpath had been raised earlier in the meeting. Cllr. Barker reiterated the point about funding for phase 2 of the footpath to Marston Meadow. The council had previously resolved to support funding requests for the footpath extension. Funding will be pursued with the Clerk providing information on potential sourcing for Cllr. Barker to action.
11.2 Cllr. Barker confirmed that he was not a member of the speed watch team but had assisted the community led team.
11.3 Cllr. Parrott confirmed the Village Hall committee had pursued further funding for remedial work to LM village hall and were waiting for responses. Members were also advised of a further problem to the hall floor where was part collapse under the area that housed the chairs and chair frame.

13. Grants
Although a formal grant application had not been submitted, an email had been received from a resident of Meon Vale who was creating a scout's team for the area and had enquired as to whether the Parish Council would cover the hall hire costs for four meeting sessions. It was resolved to confirm the PC would not charge for the four meetings.

14. Correspondence

14.1 A tender schedule for ground maintenance works had been received from I. Johnsey but were still waiting on a response from Thomas Fox. It was resolved to hold an extraordinary meeting to discuss maintenance contracts on May 2nd immediately after the Annual Parish Assembly, and to include the AGAR time permitted.

14.2 Cllr. Barker advised councillors of an email received from a resident regarding remedial work required to Barley Fields play area. The Clerk had already responded confirming the parish council were aware and had procured the materials to resolve.

15. Meeting Dates and Times

15.1 Annual Meeting of the Parish May 2nd, 6pm Long Marston Village Hall

15.2 Extraordinary Meeting May 2nd, 7.30pm Long Marston Village Hall

15.3 Annual Parish Council Meeting May 19th, 7.30pm Lond Marston Village Hall

Meeting closed 9.43pm

Debbie Woodliffe
Clerk/RFO

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