

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF SAVERNAKE PARISH COUNCIL 22ND MAY 2024
MEETING HELD AT THE MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE, ST MARGARET'S MEAD

PRESENT

Guy Singleton (Chairman) (GS)
 Nigel Eayrs (NE)
 Martin Phipps (MP)
 Suzie Singleton (SS)

Councillor - Chair
 Councillor - Finance

 Parishioner & Minute Taker

5 parishioners

ITEM		
1	WELCOME GS welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the other Councillors.	
2	APOLOGIES Andrew Smithson Nikki Boutal Caroline Thomas - Wiltshire Council Nikki Morgans - Forestry England	
3	APPROVAL OF MINUTES The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 24 th May 2023 were approved. A copy will be uploaded to the SPC website.	
4	UPDATE ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES GS gave an overview of the works carried out by the Parish Council since the last Annual Meeting in 2023. A copy is at the end of these Minutes at Appendix A.	
5	FINANCE REPORT NE went over the Parish Council's income and expenditure over the last 12 months.	
6	UPDATE ON CRIME FIGURES PROVIDED BY WILTSHIRE POLICE Wiltshire Police now provide Savernake Parish Council with a quarterly update on crime in the area and in the latest one covering 1st January 2024 – 22nd March 2024 there had been 0 crimes and 0 incidents reported to the police within Savernake Parish.	

ITEM		
	<p>Speed enforcement operations had been carried out within the area: 123 drivers have been offered speed awareness courses, 19 drivers have been issued with a fine and points on their license and 8 drivers have been reported to court for excess speed.</p> <p>The police have also held various community consultation events in the area and will be holding more at various locations.</p> <p>The recent Reports are attached at Appendix C.</p>	
6	<p>FORESTRY MATTERS</p> <p>Nikki Morgans from Forestry England who was due to give a presentation at the meeting was unable to do so at the last minute so her recent report on works undertaken over the last year, and that due to be done this year, was read out at the meeting by NE.</p> <p>The Report is attached in Appendix D.</p>	
7	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>The fact that there seems to be significant Ash Die Back at both Granham and Postern Hill was mentioned, at Granham, this is on the old railway line, and it was not know who owns this, GS said he would investigate this.</p> <p>Post meeting note: <i>The Parish Council have not found out who owns this, it is believed not to be Ramsbury Estate.</i></p> <p>It was queried if Forestry England are maintaining the rides within the Savernake Forest, especially those radiating from Eight Walks.</p>	

Signed ... Guy Singleton

Date ... 22nd May 2025

Name ... Guy Singleton.....

Appendix A

Savernake Parish Council APM – 22nd May 2024

I would like to start by welcoming you all to our Annual Parish Meeting, as I think you are aware, this is different to the Parish Council Meetings and is a meeting that is a legal requirement for each Parish to hold and is less formal than the 4 quarterly Parish Council Meetings which are held each year.

As you may know I am Guy Singleton and I am the Chair of Savernake Parish Council, my four fellow Parish Councillors are:

- Nikki Boutal
- Nigel Eayrs
- Martin Philips
- And apologies from Andrew Smithson who has a bad cold and is unable to attend

I would also mention that if anyone here is interested in joining the Parish Council there is one spare seat available – the Parish Council can have up to 6 members.

Post meeting note: As most of the parishioners attending the meeting had previously had long periods as Parish Councillors – up to 18 and 20 years – they were not expected to, and not too keen, on doing so again.

At this meeting I customarily give a brief breakdown of Parish Council activities over the past year.

It has been quite a quiet year, one of our main focuses is still trying to improve road safety and ideally reduce the speed limits at Forest Hill and Cadley – at present it does not seem possible to reduce the limits as Wiltshire Council will not agree to this. We have however had some improvement made to the road markings at Forest Hill, which hopefully reinforces the White Gates and signage installed a couple of years ago.

We have been in touch with the Ramsbury Estate and Ridgeway Sprayers, and with their help we are planning to get White Gates with Sign boards installed at the Wootton Rivers end of Clench Common and name boards installed at the Marlborough end, which should help to inform motorists that they are entering a residential area – unfortunately at present there is little chance of getting a speed limit put in place.

Since the last APM we have responded to 14 planning applications during the year, this year the majority seem to have been at the Clench Common side of the Parish.

We received an invitation to an Open Day and Planting Event at Savernake Park Farm, and I attended. The owners Mark & Justine Jankovick have planted a 30 acre orchard and are planning to form a Community Farm with the aim of helping those with mental health problems, especially those from the Armed Services. They have had support from Swindon Borough Council, and are consulting with Wiltshire Council about their proposals, more

information will be available in the coming months. This is an exciting proposal and I personally hope that it succeeds.

Wiltshire Police were unable to send a representative to the meeting but they do now send us a quarterly report of crimes and incidents within the Savernake Area. These only started last October but since the beginning of October to the end of March there had only been 3 reported crimes, all for criminal damage, and no other reported incidents within the Savernake Parish area. There have also been some speed enforcement checks made in the Marlborough area between January and March 2024 and the numbers here are significantly higher. 123 drivers were offered speed awareness courses, 19 have been fined and received points on their licenses and 8 drivers have been referred to court proceedings for excessive speed.

The Neighbourhood Policing team have also been holding regular Community Engagement Events at various locations such as the Waitrose café, St John's school and the Recreation Ground.



Savernake Parish Council

Appendix B

Savernake Parish Council - Finance

1. 2023-24 Precept Income & Expenditure

♦ Precept from Wiltshire Council + Bank interest	+	£ 1,368
♦ Expenditure during the year	-	<u>£ 1,991</u>
♦ Balance added to reserves	-	£ 623

- ♦ The Precept received from Wiltshire Council was again unchanged at £1,300
- ♦ Expenditure included regular recurring costs (insurance, website, administration etc)
- ♦ It also included project expenditure of £1,220 to improve road signage at Forest Hill.

2. Bank Balances

♦ Reserves at the start of the year (1 April 2023)	+	£ 5,864
♦ Added to reserves	-	<u>£ 623</u>
♦ Reserve funds at 31 March 2024	+	£ 5,241

3. 2024/2025 Forecast

♦ Precept from Wiltshire Council + Bank interest	+	£ 1,350
♦ Recurring expenses	-	£ 8
		900
♦ Project expenditure (Road Safety)	-	<u>£1,000</u>
♦ Funds drawn from reserves	-	£ 450

♦ All reserves at the start of the year (1 April 2023)	+	£ 5,241
♦ Deduct the deficit arising from the year's expenditure	-	<u>£ 450</u>
♦ Forecast reserve funds at 31 March 2024	+	£ 4,791

4. Summary

- ♦ The Precept continues to fully cover the Council's recurring expenses
- ♦ The Council plans to use some reserve funds for further road safety measures
- ♦ Reserves continue broadly in line with historic levels
- ♦ The Council is confident of its 2024-25 Budget and foresees no risk of being unable to fulfil its financial commitments.



Savernake

Quarter 4 2023

Crimes and Incidents

Wiltshire Police record crimes and incidents in accordance with the National Crime and incident recording standards. Not all incidents that one would consider a crime are necessarily classified as a crime for recording purposes.

NB- The below statistics do not account for incidents that police respond to but do not need any follow up (Road traffic incidents, minor incidents of Anti-social behaviour)

From the 1st October 2023-31st December 2023.

3 reported crimes (all criminal damage) and 0 incidents have been recorded in the Savernake Parish area.

Speed enforcement

There have been no speed checks conducted in Savernake during this period.

Community consultations

During the lead up to Christmas, officers from the Neighbourhood Policing Team have been focusing on Operation Elf, which has involved numerous high-visibility foot patrols of the Devizes, Marlborough, and Pewsey areas to deter criminality such as shopliftings and offer crime prevention advice to businesses and members of the public. There have been several pro-active arrests and positive outcomes linked to thefts from retail businesses in the area during this period.

In the next three months we will be holding consultations in the following locations.

Friday 12th January 2024 – Waitrose café - Community Engagement event. Fraud/Scam Awareness and Prevention, General Crime Prevention, Awareness provided for access to Local Community Policing Page and Community Messenger

5th February 2024 – Waitrose café - Community Engagement event. Fraud/Scam Awareness and Prevention, General Crime Prevention, Awareness provided for access to Local Community Policing Page and Community Messenger



7th March 2024 – Waitrose café - Community Engagement event. Fraud/Scam Awareness and Prevention, General Crime Prevention, Awareness provided for access to Local Community Policing Page and Community Messenger

There will be other events taking place which will be advertised on Facebook and Community Messaging.

The specific times of these surgeries will be advertised via community messaging. You and your residents can sign up for community messaging at www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk



Savernake

Quarter 1 2024

Crimes and Incidents

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NB- The below statistics do not account for incidents that police respond to but do not need any follow up (Road traffic incidents, minor incidents of Anti-social behaviour)

From the **1st January 2024-22nd March 2024.**

0 reported crimes and **0** incidents have been recorded in the Savernake Parish area.

Having reviewed the crime data for the area – There are no apparent trends that are presented or a series of crimes that are linked.

Speed enforcement

Both the local Neighbourhood Policing Team and the Speed Watch Enforcement Team have conducted several pro-active checks in the local area. Speed enforcement has taken place on **18** occasions in the Marlborough area between **January- March 2024**. During this period, **123** drivers have been offered speed awareness courses, **19** drivers have been issued with a fine and points on their license and **8** drivers have been reported to court for excess speed. During this period, there have been several pro-active patrols made of the **Marlborough** area from Neighbourhood, Response and Specialist Operations teams which have resulted in the arrests of several drivers for driving under the influence of drink or drugs.

Community consultations

Officers from the local Neighbourhood Policing Team have been involved in several Community Engagement events during **January-March 2024**. A force wide, '**Neighbourhood Policing Week of Action**' took place at the end of January. In Marlborough, during this week officers were involved in a test purchasing operation alongside the Wiltshire Council Trading Standards Department for business premises in the local area. Additionally, local officers were also involved in pro-active patrols of the High Street, which led to the arrest of two suspects for a high value retail theft in the town with the stolen goods being recovered. Other activities during the week included youth engagement events such as the Pop-Up Youth Café at The Recreation Ground and a visit to the Marlborough Cub Scouts.



Several other youth engagements also took place in this period including a knife crime intervention at St John's School, entitled '**Blunt Truth**', which is an initiative supported by the NHS encouraging youngsters to be confident in reporting knife related crime and highlight the dangers of carrying weapons. Furthermore, in partnership with **Connect (Wiltshire Substance Use Service)**, local officers delivered a drug awareness day at St John's School highlighting the dangers of substance misuse and the links to criminal exploitation. Officers were also involved in a Careers Fair at St John's School and delivered a school talk to Early Years pupils at St Mary's C of E Primary School as part of their topic- 'People Who Help Us'.

There have been **8** specific community consultation events held during this period at various locations around the **Marlborough** area, to enable the local community to engage directly with officers from the Neighbourhood Policing Team.

We are always looking for new areas to conduct drop-in surgeries and provide community engagement opportunities. If you are aware or have access to suitable facilities, particularly in the **Savernake** area please contact us directly via email- **devizesareanpt@wiltshire.police.uk**

Further community consultations and engagement events will take place in the second quarter of 2024, and these will be advertised in advance via our Neighbourhood Policing Team social media pages. Any residents are also free to sign up to our community messaging service at **www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk**

In the next three months we will be in the following locations;

18th April 2024 at The Royal Oak, Wootton Rivers at 11am -12am

10th May 2024 at Pewsey Vale Campus at 7pm – 8pm

20th June 2024, Great Bedwyn Holy Cross Church 12:30pm – 13:30pm

Appendix D

Update from Nikki Morgans, Forestry England - May 2024

Last few months

We have been working hard to pull together the next programme of work for our Long Term harvesting Contract (Year 4). Last year's work (Year 3) did not happen as planned in late summer due to contractor availability. Despite the contractors then being available to start the work in November, we did not allow this to happen due to bad weather and the risk to sensitive soils. This year we will once again be aiming to start in late Summer (post nesting season) and work will begin on the combined year 3 and 4 work. The year three work will be in the Savernake main block with a focus around Great lodge bottom and three oak hill drive. The year 4 work will be much more focused in the outliers including work in Chisbury, Cobham Frith and Bedwyn. I am happy to provide maps and nearer the time there will be maps up in the forest as well as information about the work we are doing.

During March we sadly lost one of our community rangers Greg, who left Forestry England and returned to Devon. Before leaving Greg did some fantastic work planting Willow with volunteers to help support the Purple emperor butterfly. We are now down to just one ranger – Sian – who will be leading on recreation and community work for Savernake. It is very much our hope to continue with the volunteer group but Sian needs some time to adjust to the increased workload and to pull together a programme of work for the volunteers. We will keep you informed with how this is going.

We have carried out pond restoration work on Column pool, Thornhill pond, and Kite pool. The work included clearing vegetation to ensure that open water is maintained for the benefit of Great crested newts. Part of this work also included the installation of fencing around the ponds that are most sensitive to encourage the public to keep dogs out of some of the important wildlife ponds.

We have also carried out some important work in Red vein bottom. We have cleared some of the Birch here in order to open up some of the lovely Oak trees that were being suppressed. These Oaks can now be seen and have space to grow and become veterans of the future. The material cut from the birch has gone to make horse jumps and a large amount of material has also remained on site as valuable habitat piles and will increase the amount of deadwood in this area. Clearing the birch will also allow better movement for the cattle.

In the next few months.....

The grader is currently in the forest fixing grand avenue and some of the roads that needing repair – including the top of Sawpit/eight walks.

We have done our annual 'beat up' and this has seen trees going into Ashlade Firs and Bedwyn. Trees have also been treated with Trico to keep deer at bay and we will monitor for weeds and ensure the trees are given the best chance of survival.

We would hope to start harvesting towards the end of July/early August. There will be communications about this to PC's, on our website and on social media as well as onsite communications and information.

We would like to start the volunteer groups back up with Sian leading this.

We will carry out bracken rolling in some of the shallow valleys bottoms in the forest, including red vein and cheval bottom.

Tree inspections will begin in June once all the trees are in leaf and we will continue to carefully monitor any Ash dieback.