

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SAVERNAKE PARISH COUNCIL 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2025  
MEETING HELD AT THE MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE, ST MARGARET’S MEAD**

**PRESENT**

Guy Singleton (Chairman) (GS)	Councillor
Martin Phipps (MP)	Councillor
Nigel Eayrs (NE)	Councillor
Nikki Boutal (NB)	Councillor

Suzie Singleton (SS)	Parishioner & Minute Taker
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ITEM		ACTION
<b>1</b>	<b>APOLOGIES</b> Andrew Smithson	
<b>2</b>	<b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b> None	
<b>3</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b> The minutes of the meeting on 8 <sup>th</sup> October 2025 were approved. A copy will be uploaded to the SPC website.	GS/SS
<b>4</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS</b> - None	
<b>5</b>	<b>CRIME UPDATE</b> The Police Crime Report covering the 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter of 2025 had been circulated to the other councillors. It showed that there had been only 1 crime and 1 incident 1 incident reported to the Police during that time from the Savernake Parish area.  Several speed enforcements checks had been carried out in the Marlborough Area.  The update listed the locations of Community Consultations over the following few months.  A copy is attached to these Minutes.	
<b>6</b>	<b>PLANNING UPDATE</b>  <u>25-05392 - Great Lodge, kitchen extension</u> PC Response - No objection. WC decision - Approved with conditions  <u>25/04899 – Levett’s Farm, Demolish and rebuild Garage</u> PC response - No objection WC have not yet made a decision. Decision Deadline 02/03/2026	NB

ITEM		ACTION
	<p>Whilst discussing Levett’s Farm there was a brief discussion about the disappointment felt by all the councillors that their views on the matter of the previous Planning Application - to convert farm buildings into an ApartHotel - had been completely ignored by the Planning Team. It was resolved to communicate that disappointment to the Planning Team as it seemed over the last few months that whatever the views of SPC, it appeared as though the final outcome was the opposite of what SPC wanted.</p> <p>It was also resolved to invite a member of the Planning Team to attend the APM in May.</p> <p><u>ACV/2025/00017 - Listing Postern Campsite as an Asset of Community Value</u>                      SPC will support this, but there is no way on the Council Website to leave a comment, so the Chair emailed the Planning Department confirming their support.</p> <p>It was noted that Forestry England were looking for new tenants for the campsite. Even if the Campsite were listed as an ACV, all it would really mean was if the owners were to try to sell it then Marlborough Town Council would have the opportunity to buy it to run themselves. As, in practice the site is unlikely to ever be sold, being part of the Savernake Estate, and that MTC are extremely unlikely to want to lease and run a campsite, it is not understood how this might benefit the area or keep the campsite open if no-one can be found to run it.</p>	
7	<p><b>FINANCE OFFICER’S REPORT</b></p> <p><b>Banking</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Since the last meeting,                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Payments made / received:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10Oct -£4.25 – Lloyds Bank – Service Fee</li> <li>20Oct -£50.00 – SMH Singleton – Secretarial services</li> <li>09Nov -£4.25 – Lloyds Bank – Service Fee</li> <li>09Dec -£4.25 – Lloyds Bank – Service Fee</li> <li>09Jan -£4.25 – Lloyds Bank – Service Fee</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) Invoices received, in the process of payment:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nil</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>- Total funds at date of meeting are £ 6,264 and are held as follows:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Payments a/c : £ 551.74</li> <li>Interest a/c : £ 5,712.31</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

ITEM		ACTION
	<p><b>Accounts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Total funds at date of meeting are as follows: Precept a/c :     £ 6,264.05 CIL a/c :             £ 0.00</li> </ul> <p><b>Budgeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Precept account: Expenses this year (2025-26) to date are £1,042.29 (80% of Income)</li> <li>- CIL account: No additional funds have been received and no additional payments made, funds are currently zero.</li> </ul> <p><b>Precept</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Circulated before the meeting for review by all Councillors: Current year forecast / Next year proposed budget / Next year proposed precept</li> <li>- Discussed and confirmed in the meeting</li> <li>- Precept Requirement to be submitted to Wiltshire Council before Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026.</li> </ul>	
8	<p><b>FOREST LIAISON OFFICER REPORT</b></p> <p>Prior to the meeting AS reported to GS that, he had not had any updates from FE, but noted there will be a meeting for Volunteers on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February from 10am to 2pm at Eight Walks in Savernake Forest. Volunteers are asked to bring their own lunch.</p> <p>The voluntary group will continue to meet on the first Wednesday of each month.</p>	
9	<p><b>ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLICIES</b></p> <p>The Councillors had reviewed Policies which covered areas in their remit. Most had been confirmed as being ok so the Review dates will be updated and updated documents replacing those on the website.</p> <p>MP will review the Flood and Hot and Cold Weather Plans so that they can be added.</p> <p>The Councillor Responsibilities Schedule will be updated as soon as possible.</p>	All/SS
10	<p><b>COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW</b></p> <p>There is a Community Governance Review currently taking place including Savernake Parish.</p> <p>Prior to the meeting an email had been drafted by the Chair, and once it had been agreed by the other Councillors, it was distributed to all those parishioners whose email addresses were held.</p>	

ITEM		ACTION
	<p>Following discussion it was agreed that a formal response to the Committee, worded as per the informal response, should be submitted to the Committee, this therefore to read:</p> <p><i>“The Parish is geographically quite large compared to the number of Parishioners (currently 210), making it a very rural parish due to Savernake Forest and surrounding farmland. It has always been a separate independent Parish. There was a suggestion in 2019 that Savernake, Preshute, Mildenhall and Marlborough Town Council could be merged into one Council. At that time we held an informal poll of Parishioners, and the overwhelming result was to retain the status quo – out of 220 Parishioners, we had 77 responses and 76 were to retain Savernake as a separate independent Parish, with one vote to merge.</i></p> <p><i>We have always been able to maintain an adequate number of Parish Councillors – currently 5 out of a maximum of 6. We have clear responsibilities allocated to each Councillor, each village is represented on the Council, and we fully review all planning applications and parishioner enquiries in regular quarterly meetings. We actively use our SPC email accounts and website for effective communications, and our annual financial audits demonstrate a healthy financial position and effective procedures. We believe we are an efficiently run council, providing a good level of public service at a low rate of Council precept.</i></p> <p><i>So, both from a Parishioner perspective and a Councillor perspective, we believe it would be most effective for the current system and boundaries to be maintained.</i></p> <p><i>In the event that demonstrable benefits can be shown to support the merging of our parish with another, we strongly believe that any merger should be with other rural parishes, not with Marlborough Town Council. The nature of the issues that arise, the personal relationships with parishioners, the application of services to parishioners, and the nature of the common link that the forest and farmland represents for those who live in it, gives greater connection between the rural inhabitants than with those from the town.</i></p> <p><i>However, in summary, we would prefer Savernake Parish Council to remain as it is.</i></p> <p><i>We trust that the Committee will take these views on board, if any further information is required we are happy to discuss this further.”</i></p> <p><i>Post Meeting note;</i></p>	

ITEM		ACTION
	<i>This view was formally submitted to the Electoral Review Committee by email on 26/01/2026</i>	
<b>11</b>	<p><b>IT</b></p> <p>It was agreed to make more use of the WhatsApp group that had been set up some time ago. It was also established that it would not be used for any formal Parish business, but could be used to notify Councillors that an email had been sent to them that needed to be read and responded to. This should assist those Councillors who do not have a direct feed of SPC emails and who need to log in to see them, to respond more promptly.</p> <p>It was agreed that it was important to make another attempt to gather email addresses of Parish residents by way of a letter drop to all properties in the Parish. This communication would also mention the SPC Website and encourage parishioners to visit it for local information. It would be timed to include an invitation to the APM, which MP suggested holding at the Cricket Club this year.</p> <p><i>Post Meeting Note: MP had contacted the Cricket Club and confirmed that the APM could be held there and had booked the room. He was unsure whether they had AV capabilities but it was resolved that it would be easier to print out the Financial and Audit records as paper handouts, as they were generally unclear on screen anyway.</i></p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>
<b>12</b>	<p><b>PARISH STEWARD</b></p> <p>It was noted that the monthly Steward Visits had been suspended again in January while they were concentrating on filling potholes in the county.</p>	
<b>13</b>	<p><b>FOOTPATHS</b></p> <p>An enquiry had been received from a parishioner concerned with the poor condition of the footpath alongside the A4. GS replied suggesting that the parishioner contact Marlborough Town Council and Mildenhall Parish Council as only a very small portion of the footpath was actually in Savernake Parish.</p> <p>GS has been in contact with Kymee Cleasby, the Wiltshire Councillor for Marlborough East, to see if anything can be done by Wiltshire Council about this. SPC understand that widening the pavement would be a very expensive undertaking and unlikely to be an affordable project but it was hoped that some effort would be made to cut back the undergrowth to make it a little easier to use.</p> <p>It was also suggested that people could utilise the Wiltshire Connect transport system as this is a bookable system for Wiltshire residents</p>	

ITEM		ACTION				
	covering much of the county. Alternatively perhaps Patients could contact the hospital to see if they have any information on Volunteer Drivers.					
14	<p><b>LHFIG</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Clench Common</u> Everything has been received, and there is only one invoice still to be paid. NB noted that they only needed to get some postcrete then they would be able to install the gates and signs. NB would notify the other Councillors when they were ready to do so if she required assistance</li> <li>• <u>Savernake Hospital/Maurice Way</u> GS to chase WC for an update on progress</li> </ul> <p><i>Post meeting note:- The request to have double yellow lines installed alongside the road leading from the A4 to Maurice Way had finally been agreed by Wiltshire Council and details can be seen at <a href="https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2247">https://cms.wiltshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2247</a></i></p> <p><i>The work is expected to be carried out around the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026.</i></p>	NB				
14	<p>Dates of next meetings:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">13<sup>th</sup> May 2026</td> <td style="width: 50%;">APM 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15<sup>th</sup> July 2026</td> <td>7<sup>th</sup> October 2026</td> </tr> </table>	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	APM 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	15 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2026	ALL
13 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	APM 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2026					
15 <sup>th</sup> July 2026	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2026					

Signed ... Guy Singleton .....

Date ...13/05/2026 .....

Name ... Guy Singletons.....



# Savernake

Quarter 4 2025

## 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 **1<sup>st</sup> October 2025-31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.**

**1** reported crime and **1** incident 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

The Speed Watch Enforcement Team have conducted several pro-active checks in the local area over the last quarter including targeted activity at areas previously identified as a concern such as Poulton Hill, Kingsbury Street and the A346 at Ogbourne St Andrew.

- **06/10/2025- Poulton Hill- 30 mph limit. Highest recorded speed was 58 mph. 7 drivers will be offered a speed awareness course or face £100 fine and 3 penalty points. 1 driver reported to Court for excess speed.**
- **23/10/2025- Kingsbury Street (Junction of Clarendon Court)- 20 mph limit. Highest recorded speed was 26 mph. 3 drivers will be offered a speed awareness course or face £100 fine and 3 penalty points.**
- **23/10/2025- Poulton Hill- 30 mph limit. Highest recorded speed was captured at 40mph. 4 drivers will be offered a speed awareness course or face £100 fine and 3 penalty points.**
- **11/11/2025- A346 Ogbourne St Andrew- Outside The Silk on The Downs- 30 mph limit. Highest recorded speed was 42 mph. 19 drivers will be offered a speed awareness course or face £100 fine and 3 penalty points.**



## Recent updates

- The last couple of months have been a busy time for the Neighbourhood Policing Team. The week commencing the 10<sup>th</sup> November was dedicated to '**Safer Business Action Week**'. This a nationwide initiative in conjunction with the National Business Crime Centre (NBCC) and Police forces across the country to focus resources on tackling retail crime.
- The week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> November was dedicated to '**Operation Sceptre**'. This a nationwide, twice-yearly national police campaign led by the National Police Chief's Council to tackle knife crime through intensified enforcement (searches, surrenders), education (schools, youth), and community engagement (retailers, youth), aiming to remove weapons, deter carriers, and reduce serious violence by removing knives from streets and changing attitudes, involving all UK police forces.
- The week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> November was dedicated to '**Operation Scorpion**'. Operation Scorpion is a collaboration between the South West's five police forces (Avon and Somerset, Dorset, Devon and Cornwall, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire), alongside their respective offices of Police and Crime Commissioners, the British Transport Police and South West Regional Organised Crime Unit (SW ROCU) which sees resources combined to tackle drug supply and make the region a hostile environment for organised crime groups.

During a week of coordinated activity, police officers and staff worked collectively to apprehend suspected dealers, seize drugs and weapons, and safeguard vulnerable people. In **Wiltshire**, there were:

- **17 warrants carried out**
- **45 people arrested, with four people since charged and one convicted**
- **£11,930 cash seized**
- **£60,000 worth of Class A and Class B drugs.**
- **14 people safeguarded**
- **15 cuckooed addresses visited**
- **5 closure orders granted**
- **11 weapons seized included an imitation firearm, machete, zombie knife, knuckle duster and a large hunting knife**
- **Numerous assets seized including 9 mobile phones, 3 vehicles, clothing and counterfeit cigarettes.**



- On the evening of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025, Officers from the Neighbourhood Policing team joined the dedicated Rural Crime Team, Specialist Operations and local farmers and landowners for targeted proactive patrols in the **Marlborough** and **Pewsey** area to target hare coursing in response to a recent influx of illegal activity that has seen numerous vehicles and dogs seized.
- Officers from the local Neighbourhood Policing Team attended the Remembrance Sunday Parade in both Marlborough Town and Pewsey on 09/11/2025. It continues to be a very respectful and well supported event hosted by our local communities.
- Officers have also attended other recent key local events such as the Marlborough Christmas Lights Switch-On and Marlborough Mop Fayres.

### **Community Alert**

We are urging our communities, particularly in the East of the County to be vigilant following a series of high value burglaries in the area that form part of a wider series across other neighbouring forces. An Organised Crime Group appear to be targeting isolated large estates. The offenders have specifically targeted safes within properties containing high value items such as jewellery and cash. We are urging our residents to check their home security and to report any suspicious activity regarding persons or vehicles to us as soon as possible. Officers from the local neighbourhood policing teams have been increasing patrols in the area and have since managed to locate a stolen vehicle from one of the burglaries which has been returned to its rightful owner undamaged. Enquiries are on-going in relation to this investigation.

### **Community consultations**

Further community engagements happening in the local area will be advertised in due course. If you are aware of any other local community events in the area, please let us know via our email address- **devizesareanpt@wiltshire.police.uk**

The following engagements scheduled for the local area are as follows;

- **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026- 11:00-12:00- The Royal Oak, Wootton Rivers**
- **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026- 10:30-11:30- Meadow Court, Pewsey**
- **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026- 11:00-12:00- The Royal Oak, Wootton Rivers**

### Planning Applications decided on up to January 2026

Planning Application No:	25/04899
Location	<b>Levetts Farm</b>
Description	Demolish and replace garage
Consultation deadline	
Date of SPC Comment	19/11/2025
SPC Comment	No Objection
Decision Deadline	17/04/2026
Date of Decision	
Decision	

Planning Application No:	ACV/00017
Location	<b>Postern Campsite</b>
Description	Nominated to be listed as an Asset of Community Value.
Consultation deadline	12/01/2026
Date of SPC Comment	05/01/2026
SPC Comment	Support
Decision Deadline	02/02/2026
Date of Decision	
Decision	