

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SAVERNAKE PARISH COUNCIL 16TH JULY 2025
MEETING HELD AT THE MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE, ST MARGARET'S MEAD

PRESENT

Guy Singleton (Chairman) (GS)

Martin Phipps (MP)

Nikki Boutal (NB)

Andrew Smithson (AS)

Councillor

Councillor

Councillor

Councillor

Suzie Singleton (SS)

Parishioner & Minute Taker

ITEM		ACTION
1	APOLOGIES Nigel Eayrs (SPC Councillor) Kym-Marie Cleasby (Wiltshire and Marlborough Councillor)	
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None	
3	APPROVAL OF MINUTES The minutes of the meeting on 13 th May 2026 were approved. A copy will be uploaded to the SPC website.	GS/SS
4	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS - None	
5	CRIME UPDATE The Police Crime Report covering the 2 nd quarter of 2026 had been circulated to the other councillors. It showed that there had been only 1 crimes and 2 incidents reported to the Police in the Savernake Parish area. 27 speed enforcements checks had been carried out in the Pewsey/Marlborough Areas including the A345 and A346. The update listed the locations of Community Consultations over the following few months, as well as a summary of several arrests for various crimes committed around the area over the last few months. A copy is attached to these Minutes.	
6	PLANNING UPDATE <u>26/03903 – Ballards Piece – Agricultural Vehicle Shed</u> SPC response - No objection MP noted that the shed was partly built and appeared to be used for the householder to store tractors lawnmowers and other equipment used on their property. It was not visible from the A4 and screened a reservoir behind it.	GS/MP

ITEM		ACTION																							
	GS noted that it was a retrospective application, ie the work had already been commenced, and was presumably due to enforcement action. The councillors discussed the application, and regretted that the applicant had already started work, but noted that they had not objected to previous Planning Applications for this matter which were in a similar location and saw no reason to object to it now, and therefore agreed that a No Objection response would be submitted.																								
7	FINANCE OFFICER’S REPORT Banking - Since the last meeting, a) Payments made / received:<table><tr><td>18 May</td><td>-£437.10</td><td>– Sign of the Times – Clench Common gates</td></tr><tr><td>09 Jun</td><td>-£4.25</td><td>– Lloyds Bank – Service charges</td></tr><tr><td>01 Jul</td><td>-£90.00</td><td>– Andrew Ross – Audit</td></tr><tr><td>01 Jul</td><td>-£223.59</td><td>– Community First - Insurance</td></tr><tr><td>10 Jul</td><td>-£4.25</td><td>– Lloyds Bank – Service charges</td></tr></table> b) Invoices received, in the process of payment: Nil - Total funds at date of meeting are £ 6,586 and are held as follows:<table><tr><td>Payments a/c :</td><td>£ 58.12</td></tr><tr><td>Interest a/c :</td><td>£ 6,527.49</td></tr></table> Accounts - Total funds at date of meeting are as follows:<table><tr><td>Precept a/c :</td><td>£ 6,585.61</td></tr><tr><td>CIL a/c :</td><td>£ 0.00</td></tr></table> Budgeting - Precept account: Expenses this year to date are £935.12 (72% of Income) - CIL account: No additional funds have been received and no additional payments made, funds are currently zero. Year-end Accounts - 2024-25 Year-end Accounts have been approved by the internal auditor, published on the website, submitted to the external auditor for final sign-off, and now confirmed by the external auditor as being exempt from the need for any further review.	18 May	-£437.10	– Sign of the Times – Clench Common gates	09 Jun	-£4.25	– Lloyds Bank – Service charges	01 Jul	-£90.00	– Andrew Ross – Audit	01 Jul	-£223.59	– Community First - Insurance	10 Jul	-£4.25	– Lloyds Bank – Service charges	Payments a/c :	£ 58.12	Interest a/c :	£ 6,527.49	Precept a/c :	£ 6,585.61	CIL a/c :	£ 0.00	
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8	REVIEW OF PARISH INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS The recent renewal of the PC's policy was discussed, and the fact that assets were possibly under insured was brought up. The assets – the Bus Shelters and the White Gates - were originally valued at cost, but this ignored the fact that labour to the gates had been provided by Councillors, and that replacement by a contractor would be significantly higher. The current insured value is £7,500, to which we need to add the gates at Clench Common. The replacement value, based on contractors carrying out the works are in the order of £5,200. It was agreed that all assets need to be identified to the insurers, so that any third party claims are covered. Councillors then discussed whether all items should be covered for replacement. It was agreed that the bus shelters should be but the white gates, whilst they help identify the communities and do influence driver behaviour, are potentially expensive to insure and not essential. Also, as the likelihood is that only one is likely to be damaged at a time, its replacement, if work is carried out by councillors, could be covered by the PC reserves. It was agreed that more information was needed from the insurers before Councillors could make an informed decision, and that MP would revert to the insurers and ask for quotes for the following options: A. Insure all assets based on contractor replacement costs – ie £5,200 B. Can we insure on the basis of bus shelters covered in full - £ 15,000, and that the White Gates are covered for materials only 10 x £1000 = £10,000 C. Can we insure on the basis of bus shelters covered in full - £ 15,000, and that the White Gates are not covered for replacement, but are noted as assets owned by the Council Once MP has the response from the insurers he will email the response to Councillors, and a decision can be made by email correspondence	MP/ALL
9	IT SS Reported on a webinar she had attended with regard to AI and to the fact that SPC should have an AI Policy. The Councillors present agreed that there was no need for AI to be used for such a small Parish but as it is ever present these days an AI Policy would clarify that and provide guidelines for any potential future use. SS to circulate the draft AI Policy for all Councillors to consider.	SS/ALL

ITEM		ACTION
10	PARISH STEWARD 14 th Oct, 12 th Nov, 10 th Dec	
11	FOREST LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT Felling is commencing in various parts of the forest which was planned early this year as part of the plan against ash die-back. In April volunteers planted Goat Willow Saplings to encourage breeding sites for the Purple Emperor butterflies at the Kite Pond. This has been a success with frequent sightings of the Purple Emperor around the monument. The Savernake Volunteers meet on the first Wednesday monthly. Volunteering is encouraged and if anyone is interested in joining, they should visit the Forestry England website and search 'Volunteering' Forestry England asked that everyone be aware of the fire hazard in the forest at this time.	
14	LHFIG <u>Clench Common</u> 3 of the gates and signs have been erected, only one is left to be placed. There is one invoice left to be paid which will be attended to shortly. <u>Savernake Hospital/Maurice Way</u> The work has been completed at Savernake Hospital as double yellow lines have now been put in place at Savernake Hospital.	NB/NE
15	Dates of next meetings: Thursday 8 th October 2026 14 th January 2027 6 th May 2027 APM 20 th May 2027 15 th July 2027 14 th October 2027	ALL

Signed

Date

Name



Savernake

Quarter 2 2026

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 April 2026- 30th June 2026.**

1 reported crime (**1** high value non-dwelling burglary to an outbuilding) and **2** 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

- The Speed Watch Enforcement Team have conducted at least 27 pro-active checks across the Pewsey/Marlborough sectors over the last quarter including targeted activity at areas previously identified as a concern such as at various points on the A345, A346 and A342. As a result of this activity;
 - 174 drivers have been offered to complete a speed awareness course.
 - 23 drivers have been issued with a fine and points on their licence for excess speed.
 - 7 drivers have been summonsed directly to court.

Recent updates

- The local Neighbourhood Team have recently received reports from residents in the Great Bedwyn area of concerns around the usage of illegal electric bikes on public highways and roads within the vicinity. On 16/06/2026, officers on patrol in the area to combat this issue, sighted an illegally modified electric bike being on the outskirts of Great Bedwyn heading in the direction of the A338. The rider was stopped by Police and the bike subsequently seized for destruction. Operation Jetsom is an on-going force-wide crackdown targeting illegal use of e-scooters and high-powered e-bikes aiming to improve public safety and tackle their association with anti-social behaviour and other related crime.

- On 27th February 2026, a theft occurred from a person at Café Nero, High Street, Marlborough. A female customer had her purse stolen from inside her handbag without her realising whilst she was a customer in the store. The bank cards in her purse were subsequently used fraudulently in Tesco, Marlborough and local buses. An investigation was commenced by local officers who conducted numerous CCTV trawling and other lines of



enquiry. PND facial recognition match from the CCTV footage is Tesco gave direct match to a prolific 35-year-old female from the Gloucester area. Local officers also identified her as being responsible for a similar incident in at Home Bargains in Swindon and Costa Coffee, Royal Wootton Bassett. The female was located and arrested in Swindon by Marlborough Officers in March and she was charged and remanded with numerous offences. The suspect was given a 4-month prison sentence for the Marlborough offences and a previous suspended prison sentence of 12 months imprisonment was also activated.

- On 20th April, a 49-year-old female Chinese national was arrested in the High Street, Marlborough for selling counterfeit tobacco. The female was found in possession of goods to the retail value of approximately £3000 which were subsequently seized. The female was charged and remanded to Court. She was issued with a Community Order and 20 days of Community Work/Rehabilitation Activity. Work has been on-going with Trading Standards in respect to this matter due to linked incidents reported in other areas of the County.
- A 52-year-old male from the West Midlands area was identified by local officers as being responsible for a theft from Waitrose, Marlborough on 21st March. The male was dealt with via a direct postal requisition/summons to Court. He has since been sentenced to 35 weeks imprisonment combined with offences committed in other areas of the country.
- On the 7th of May 2026, a theft occurred at TH Whites, Marlborough. Local officers attended and conducted initial enquiries and were able to identify the male as prolific offender from the Salisbury area. The 43-year-old male was subsequently arrested and remanded to court. He was issued with a two-week prison sentence as well as a recall to prison due to a breach of his licence conditions. As a result, he is likely to be serving time in custody until at least November 2026.
- On the 24th of May 2026, a theft occurred at Majestic Wines, Marlborough. Local officers on patrol in town centre attended the incident. They identified the male suspect from CCTV, and the suspect has since been dealt with via postal requisition/summons to court. The matter is due to be heard on 02/07/2026 at Swindon Magistrates Court. A further offence involving the same suspect also came to light at Waitrose, Marlborough which has also been dealt with via direct summons to court.
- On Monday 8th June 2026, a high value bilking/making off without payment occurred from a petrol station in the Melksham area. Local officers sighted the vehicle in Marlborough, and the suspects were subsequently apprehended on the A4 between Marlborough and Hungerford with the assistance of specialist traffic units. A 48-year-old male and a 27-year-old male both from Reading, Berkshire were subsequently arrested, charged and remanded for making off without payment. The rear of the vehicle contained multiple large tanks of suspected stolen fuel and has been linked to other offences across the Country- estimated



to be in the £1000's of pounds worth of fuel. Both suspects have since been charged and will be attending Court in due course.

- A 43-year-old male from Marlborough is due in Swindon Crown Court on 03/7/26 after being arrested and charged on 11/04/2026 for various offences relating to businesses in the Marlborough area including Landmark, Budgens and Waitrose. The offences include multiple thefts, making off without payment, driving whilst disqualified, displaying a false registration mark on a vehicle and possession of a bladed article.

- The week commencing Monday 22nd June was dedicated to the latest edition of '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:

- **36 arrests made**
- **122 disruptions made to active drug supply networks in the County**
- **10 drug warrants executed**
- **12 licensed premises checked**
- **25 stop and searches conducted**
- **Large quantity of controlled drugs including 26kg of Cannabis seized, 232g of Ketamine, 692.37g of Cocaine, 100 MDMA tablets as well as Heroin, Amphetamine and Psilocybin ('Magic Mushrooms').**
- **£47,705 in cash seized**
- **8 weapons were seized- including 1 firearm, 1 extendable baton and 5 Samurai swords.**

Other news

- We would like to wish Inspector Simon Garrett a fond farewell as he takes up a new role as the Inspector of the Chippenham Area Neighbourhood Team. We welcome aboard Inspector Andy Lemon, who has since joined us as the new Inspector for the Devizes Area Neighbourhood Team. Inspector Lemon has held the rank of Inspector for the last 10 years and has gained 24 years of experience in Wiltshire across both uniform and detective roles. Inspector Lemon is also the current Tactical Rural Crime Lead for the Force.

Community Engagements

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 Marlborough area are as follows;



- **Wednesday 15th July 2026 - 10:00-12:00 Marlborough Leisure Centre**
- **Wednesday 12th August 2026 - 10:00-12:00 Nationwide, High Street, Marlborough**
- **Tuesday 8th September 2026 - 10:00-12:00 Waitrose Café, High Street, Marlborough**

Our local neighbourhood team will continue to have use of the Mobile Police Station on a rotational basis (approximately every 6 weeks) and the vehicle will be utilised across the Devizes, Marlborough and Pewsey area, at specific locations which will also be advertised in due course. Local officers have been conducting several community engagements in the local area recently including Nationwide, Waitrose, as well as a visit to the St Katherine's School Fayre in May. The local NPT have also been working closely with our partner agencies to ensure public safety for the recent Summer Solstice event held at Avebury.