

**E21WQR MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 17 MAY 2018
MARLBOROUGH TOWN HALL, MARLBOROUGH**

COUNCILLORS PRESENT

Guy Singleton (Chairman)(GS)	Councillor
Neil Twentyman (GT)	Councillor
Andrew Smithson (AS)	Councillor
 Rosemary Davies (RD)	 Parish Clerk

Wilshire Council: Councillor Jane Davies (JD)
Nine parishioners

Item No.	
01/2018	<p>WELCOME</p> <p>GS welcomed everyone, including three guest speakers. He introduced the SPC Cllrs present and Cllr Jane Davies. He explained the need for up to two further councillors and stressed that currently there is no-one from the Clench Common area on SPC.</p>
02/2018	<p>ELECTION OF CHAIR TO THE PARISH COUNCIL</p> <p>GS was proposed by NT and seconded by AS, with all in favour and GS duly appointed.</p>
03/2018	<p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>Cllr Nigel Earys, Joan Davies, Suzanne Black, Tony and Anne Ashpitel.</p>
04/2018	<p>APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 8 MAY 2017</p> <p>GS proposed and AS seconded that the minutes of the previous AGM be accepted. All in favour and GS signed the minutes as an accurate record.</p>
05/2018	<p>UPDATE ON PARISH COUNCIL ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST YEAR</p> <p>GS explained SPC's participation on the Marlborough Development Plan steering group, which enables SPC to know and contribute to what is happening in Marlborough. He gave as an example SPC's objection to the design of a proposed hotel on the new housing development near Tesco. GS outlined proposals for development at Tottenham House and the additional satellite buildings, explaining SPC's concern that such buildings not be permitted to be sold separately from the main house, and that renovation of Tottenham House itself be completed. GS concluded by emphasising that the provision of parishioners' email addresses helps SPC to function efficiently.</p>
06/2018	<p>FINANCE REPORT</p> <p>NT, as treasurer, gave an overview SPC's finances for the year 2017/18. He detailed income of £1000 precept from Wiltshire Council and explained that outgoings remained on many similar items as previously, such as insurance, audit costs, room hire for meetings and with a contribution of £208 towards the Marlborough</p>

	<p>Neighbourhood Plan. There has been needed expenditure on the bus stop shelter at Savernake Hospital; postage costs of £48 and £135 for maintaining SPC's website. NT explained that the parish precept had not been increased in the nine years prior to this year's rise. However, SPC has recently had an unexpected windfall owing to the development of Seymour House (on the site of Furse Coppice), which provides a charge per square metre to the local council, meaning that SPC will be financially healthy in the coming year. Stressing that this money should be spent, NT requested parishioners' ideas for possible projects in the parish. A copy of the full accounts is available on the website.</p>
<p>07/2018</p>	<p>TALK BY TOM BLYTHE (TB) (FORESTRY COMMISSION) AND CHRISTOPHER HAWKINGS (CH) (STRUTT PARKER – REPRESENTING THE SAVERNAKE ESTATE) ON THE RE-INTRODUCTION OF CONSERVATION GRAZING INTO SAVERNAKE FOREST</p> <p>CS explained that there is a long lease to the Forestry Commission for the vast majority of the Savernake Estate. He gave an overview of what he considers as 'exciting changes' planned for Savernake Forest to be implemented by the Forestry Commission. The proposed scheme is government funded and involves the formation of six enclosures to hold cattle that will graze the fenced areas. These will help fulfil the forestry's conservation goals. Ultimately, the aim is to return the forest to a more open landscape as it was prior to the 17th and 18th centuries before the introduction of conifer plantations. TB explained that this new scheme builds on the earlier one run between the Grand Avenue and the A4 at Red Vein, and that cattle will again be penned there. He detailed that 15 hectares will be used to meet the objectives of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of grassland areas to keep down scrub • The care and protection of ancient trees • The preservation of the historic environment and • Public Access, (which will be maintained with cattle grids, gated main rides and stiles). <p>There will be an initial five-year phase and once this is embedded, a second phase will be introduced. TB explained that the only other such schemes operating are in Windsor Great Park and Epping Forest, and that those managing this scheme will be learning as they progress with it. He stressed that there would be no restriction on public access. In answering questions, TB explained that the cattle are likely to be rare breed, bought in the spring and sold on in the autumn. He said that the rights of dog walkers will be taken into account with clear signage indicating cattle sites. He explained where water is currently available and areas where water provision is problematic. TB said it is hoped to give visitors to the forest a 'better experience' and that there may be a new car park at the south end of the Grand Avenue.</p>
<p>08/2018</p>	<p>TALK BY GAVIN HILL FROM REDROW REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SALISBURY ROAD SITE</p> <p>GS introduced Gavin Hill (GH) from Redrow who gave an overview of the housing estate development by Tesco covering some of the difficulties encountered and progress to date. He explained that some £90,000 will go to Wiltshire Council for such things as footpaths and cycle paths. GH emphasised the technical challenges of the site eg two government fuel pipelines and the need to ensure no contamination of the aquifer owing to water extraction adjacent to the site. He said that the upper part</p>

	<p>of the site will be preserved as an enhanced habitat for conservation, recognising the importance of the old railway tunnel as a significant site for bats. GH explained that the highway works were now completed, and that sewage and gas lines will be laid simultaneously; nevertheless, a short section of footpath is still needed that may cause some further traffic disruption. In answering questions, GH said the site will take about three years to complete, and that there will be one entry in and out of the estate at the Tesco roundabout.</p> <p>GS thanked each speaker for their informative talks</p>
09/2018	<p>ANY MATTERS ARISING AND CLOSE</p> <p>GS explained SPC's attempts to try to reduce the speed limit up the hill to Savernake Hospital to 40 mph following a fatality on this section of the A4.</p> <p>GS thanked Cllr Jane Davies for attending and closed the meeting.</p>