

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SAVERNAKE PARISH COUNCIL 3<sup>RD</sup> MAY 2022  
MEETING HELD AT THE KATHARINE'S CHURCH, SAVERNAKE**

**PRESENT**

Guy Singleton (Chairman) (GS)	Councillor
Martin Phipps (MP)	Councillor
Nigel Eayrs (NE)	Councillor
Andrew Smithson (AS)	Councillor

Suzie Singleton (SS)	Parishioner & Secretary
----------------------	-------------------------

Some parishioners also attended	Rosemary Davies, Juliet Howard, Jason Lewis, Philip Lindsell, Neil Orpen, Tom Savernake, and Tim Weston
---------------------------------	---

ITEM		ACTION
1	<p><b>APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>Martin Phipps</p>	
2	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>There was one declaration of interest. GS said that he would abstain from discussion of point 17.</p>	
3	<p><b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were approved. A copy will be uploaded to the SPC website.</p>	GS/NB
4	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Parish Steward</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Although no-one had seen the Parish Steward working in the Parish the white gates did appear a bit cleaner so it was assumed that they had been cleaned by the Steward.</li> <li>- Cadley gulleys just south of Kingstones Farm entrance are in need of cleaning out so that will be put on the next Parish Steward schedule.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Clench Common - speed limit and traffic calming</u> GS had still to write to the schools, but planned to do that shortly. See also under 12</li> </ul>	GS  GS
5	<p><b>ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 26TH MAY 2022</b></p> <p>It was anticipated that, due to the Savernake Forest matter, and in light of the large number of people attending the recent Marlborough Town Council meeting, the APM was likely to be attended by several non-parishioners, as well as members of the Parish. The meeting would be held in the body of the church.</p>	

ITEM		ACTION
	It was agreed that a donation of £40 would be made to St Katharine's for the use of the Church for the APM, as well as a £10 donation for the use of the long room for today's SPC meeting.	
6	<p><b>PLANNING</b></p> <p>Planning Application (PL/2022/02473 - Trees at Savernake Hospital) a response had not been submitted before the consultation period closed.</p>	
7	<p><b>MARLBOROUGH AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (MANP)</b></p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan has been reviewed by the Inspector. If the inspector agrees with the plan, the next step will be to hold a referendum, the timing of this is in the hands of Wiltshire Council.</p>	
8	<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>28Mar - £738.31 – Wiltshire Council – Cadley road signs</li> <li>28Mar - £625.00 – Wiltshire Council – Forest Hill survey (25%)</li> <li>25Apr + £1,300.00 – Wiltshire Council – Precept</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 £ 6,618.88 and held as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Payments a/c: £ 118.83</li> <li>Interest a/c: £ 6,500.05</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Accounts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Total funds at date of meeting are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Precept a/c - £ 6,618.88</li> <li>CIL a/c - £ 0.00</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Budgeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Precept account: Expenses this year (2022-23) to date are £0.00 (0% of Income)</li> <li>- CIL account: No additional funds have been received and no additional payments made, funds are now fully depleted.</li> </ul> <p><b>Year-end Accounts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Year-end accounts have been circulated by email to all Councillors for formal sign-off in the meeting.</li> <li>- The Annual Accounts for FY 2021/2022 were agreed and NE would submit them to the auditor the day after the meeting.</li> </ul>	

ITEM		ACTION
9	<p><b>FOREST LIAISON OFFICER REPORT</b></p> <p>NE had been in touch with Rob Cullen of Forestry England who explained that the document which had been shared online and had roused so much debate, was in fact, an internal discussion document, taken out of context and treated as fact rather than ideas to be considered over the longer term. Rob is to make a presentation at the APM to clarify this.</p>	NE
10	<p><b>SPC RESPONSE TO RECENT MEDIA COVERAGE REGARDING SAVERNAKE FOREST</b></p> <p>A draft statement had been drawn up, stating the PC's position regarding the FE questionnaire and leaked information based on the information the PC had received to date. This is shown in Appendix A</p> <p>There was some discussion on the Forestry England questionnaire and between the councillors and also some parishioners who had attended the meeting.</p> <p>It was noted that Rob Cullen will be giving a presentation at the APM the following week, and that it was hoped he could clarify the reports that had been circulating of plans to close the forest and build a large car park.</p> <p>Sgt Cole and PCSO Camilleri would also be at the meeting to provide a report on the crime reports they had received.</p> <p>Tom Savernake emphasised that Savernake Forest was private property, not public lands.</p>	GS
11	<p><b>CRIME RATES IN SAVERNAKE FOREST</b></p> <p>AS said that he had been told of crimes being committed in the forest. Tom Savernake addressed the meeting to suggest that there was a great deal of crime happening in Savernake Forest. He believes that crime is exacerbated by any police attendance now needing to be from Devizes, that it was too easy for criminals to get away before they arrived, and that the Police seemed to have under recorded crimes within the Forest. One parishioner, Neil Orpen, who lived in the Forest told the meeting of an attack he and his daughter had been subjected to.</p>	
12	<p><b>CATG 5190</b></p> <p><u>Clench Common - speed limit and traffic calming</u></p> <p>MP had met Martin Cook from WC at Clench Common and he understood the problem, and agreed that road narrowing signs, or similar would be appropriate. The signs would be located on private land and funded by SPC.</p>	MP



ITEM		ACTION
16	<p><b>BROADBAND AT CADLEY</b></p> <p>Rosemary Davies distributed a printout that Alan sourced showing that most areas around the parish had quite decent broadband speeds, and only Cadley was shown as having particularly slow speeds.</p> <p>It was noted by some of our Parishioners attending the meeting that internet access within the Forest itself was even worse.</p> <p>AS said that he would contact WC to see if they were providing access to high speed broadband in the same way as he had heard that Berkshire were doing, he would also contact Ramsbury Estate to see if they could help improve the Broadband in Cadley.</p>	AS
17	<p><b>PARISH CLERK AND SECRETARIAL WORK</b></p> <p>NE proposed that SS be provided a stipend for the work she did preparing for and taking the minutes for SPC meetings. This was agreed at £40.00 per meeting.</p>	NE
18	<p><b>DATES OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>Annual Parish Meeting – 10<sup>th</sup> May 2022 7.30 St Katharine’s Church            12<sup>th</sup> July 2022            11<sup>th</sup> October 2022</p>	ALL

Signed . Guy Singleton .....

Date . 12<sup>th</sup> July 2022 .....

Name . *Guy Singleton* .....

**Appendix A**

**Statement by Savernake Parish Council on the proposed changes to Savernake Forest**

“The Parish Council generally supports the conservation aims of Forestry England, but considers that these should be balanced with maintaining full public access to the Forest.

The PC has no objection in principle to improvements to the Car Park and facilities at Postern Hill and understands that this might involve introducing a charge for the use of these facilities. The PC would strongly object to the complete closure of the Grand Avenue to vehicles, as this would reduce access to the less mobile and create problems elsewhere with visitors parking around the perimeter of the forest.

The PC asks that the FE and The Savernake Estate liaise with them and other local bodies before implementing any changes to access to or within the forest.”