# 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)

Martin Phipps (MP)

Nigel Eayrs (NE)

Andrew Smithson (AS)

Councillor

Councillor

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

İTEM		ACTION
1	APOLOGIES	
	Martin Phipps	
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	There was one declaration of interest. GS said that he would abstain from discussion of point 17.	
3	APPROVAL OF MINUTES	
	The minutes of the meeting on 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2022 were approved. A copy will uploaded to the SPC website.	GS/NB
4	<ul> <li>MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS</li> <li>Parish Steward         <ul> <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>Clench Common - speed limit and traffic calming         <ul> <li>GS had still to write to the schools, but planned to do that shortly. See also under 12</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	GS
5	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 26TH MAY 2022  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.	

ITEM		Астіс			
	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	PLANNING				
	Planning Application (PL/2022/02473 - Trees at Savernake Hospital) a				
	response had not been submitted before the consultation period closed.				
7	MARLBOROUGH AREA NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (MANP)				
	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.				
8	FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT				
	Banking				
	- Since the last meeting,				
	a) Payments made / received:				
	28Mar - £738.31 – Wiltshire Council – Cadley road signs				
	28Mar - £625.00 – Wiltshire Council – Forest Hill survey (25%)				
	25Apr + £1,300.00 – Wiltshire Council – Precept				
	b) Invoices received, in the process of payment:				
	Nil				
	- Total funds at date of meeting are £ 6,618.88 and held as follows:				
	Payments a/c: £ 118.83				
	Interest a/c: £ 6,500.05				
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	Accounts				
	- Total funds at date of meeting are as follows:				
	Precept a/c - £ 6,618.88				
	CIL a/c - £ 0.00				
	Budgeting				
	- Precept account: Expenses this year (2022-23) to date are £0.00 (0% of				
	Income)				
	- CIL account: No additional funds have been received and no additional				
	payments made, funds are now fully depleted.				
	Year-end Accounts				
	- Year-end accounts have been circulated by email to all Councillors for				
	formal sign-off in the meeting.				
	- The Annual Accounts for FY 2021/2022 were agreed and NE would				
	submit them to the auditor the day after the meeting.				
	And the state of t				

İTEM		Action
9	FOREST LIAISON OFFICER REPORT  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.	NE
10	SPC RESPONSE TO RECENT MEDIA COVERAGE REGARDING SAVERNAKE FOREST	
	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	GS
	There was some discussion on the Forestry England questionnaire and between the councillors and also some parishioners who had attended the meeting.	
	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.	
	Sgt Cole and PCSO Camilleri would also be at the meeting to provide a report on the crime reports they had received.	
	Tom Savernake emphasised that Savernake Forest was private property, not public lands.	
11	CRIME RATES IN SAVERNAKE FOREST	
	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.	
12	CATG 5190	
	Clench Common - speed limit and traffic calming  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.	MP

İTEM		Action
	GS had now heard back from the Ramsbury Estate. They have contacted all of their tenants in the area to keep an eye out for speeding drivers. Also that Ridgeway Sprayers have offered to help fund white gates at Clench Common, and given permission. Ramsbury Estate have agreed Subject to agreeing the appropriate positions, for them to be installed on Estate land.	
	Forest Hill The PC had received the Atkins report on speeds at Forest Hill and was very disappointed that they did not consider the speed there a problem. MP had drafted a response to this matter. GS suggested that the survey should be appealed, and that he believed consideration should be given to putting pressure on Wiltshire Council to change their instructions to Atkins – if their survey complies with their guidelines then the guidelines need to be reviewed as there are other councils in Wiltshire complaining about this problem. WC's policy on speed limits needs to be checked.	MP/GS
13	EXPENSES POLICY  NE showed the councillors a revised version of the Expenses Policy and Claim  Form and it was accepted, the policy to be placed on the website.	ALL
14	PLATINUM JUBILEE  NB said that some residents in Clench Common had arranged a party on Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> June for local residents.	
	GS intended to hold a BBQ on the green at Cadley, also on Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> June. He would supply an oil drum BBQ for parishioners to cook food that they would bring themselves, so removing the need to provide food for an unknown number of people.	
	Notification of these two events would be put on the website and emailed out where we had email addresses. Clench Common and Cadley residents would also be leafleted about these events.	GS
	It was agreed that the Parish Council would support these two events which meant that they would be covered by the Council's insurance policy, but a risk assessment did need to be undertaken.	GS
15	RADIO SWINDON 105.5 GS had received a message from MTC Town Clerk to say that Radio Swindon had submitted an Application to extend their broadcasting license to cover Marlborough, to include specific Marlborough area programmes, and that to do so they had identified Savernake Hospital as an ideal location to set up a small forwarding transmitter. MTC were notifying SPC as Savernake Hospital is within Savernake Parish.	GS

# **SAVERNAKE PARISH COUNCIL**

İTEM		ACTION
16	BROADBAND AT CADLEY 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.  It was noted by some of our Parishioners attending the meeting that internet access within the Forest itself was even worse.  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.	AS
17	PARISH CLERK AND SECRETARIAL WORK  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.	NE
18	DATES OF NEXT MEETING  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	ALL

Signed	. Guy Singleton	Date	. 12 <sup>th</sup> July 2022
Name	. Guv Sinaleton		

# 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."