

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SAVERNAKE PARISH COUNCIL 11TH OCTOBER 2023
MEETING HELD AT THE MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE, ST MARGARET’S MEAD**

PRESENT

Guy Singleton (Chairman) (GS)	Councillor
Martin Phipps (MP)	Councillor
Andrew Smithson (AS)	Councillor
Nikki Boutal (NB)	Councillor
Suzie Singleton (SS)	Parishioner & Minute Taker
 Tom Savernake (TS)	 Member of the Public

ITEM		ACTION
1	APOLOGIES Nigel Eayrs, Councillor	
2	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.	
3	APPROVAL OF MINUTES The minutes of the meeting on 5 th July 2023 were approved. A copy will be uploaded to the SPC website.	GS/SS
4	MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS There were no matters arising from last month’s meeting.	
5	PARISH STEWARD The Parish Steward has cleaned the footpaths around the bus stops in Cadley and cleared the leaves from the bus shelter, cleaned the road gullies covers at Clench Common and cleaned the concrete bus stop pad at Clench Common. GS has met the Parish Steward a couple of times now. He has confirmed that the gullies are not covered by the Parish Stewards round but are cleared separately. He could not give a date for when they were due to be at Cadley and Granham Farm to clear the gullies, but understood that it should be done shortly. He said that whenever he is at Clench Common he clears the footpath leading to the bus stop, and checks the tops of road gullies are clear – the flooding occurs if the tops of the gullies are blocked. NB asked if anyone knew whether the stewards dealt with overgrown footpaths such as at Clench Common. MP noted that he tried to keep the footpath between the cricket club entrance and the White Road but that the footpath at the far side of the road was still very overgrown. It was agreed that overgrown footpaths could cause a safety issue with pedestrians, particularly anyone less steady on their feet or using a pushchair or wheel chair.	GS

ITEM		ACTION
	<p>For now it was agreed to keep reporting these issues on the My Wilts system but that it would be looked into. GS to contact CT to ask how to arrange to get the footpaths clear.</p>	GS
6	<p>PLANNING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>23/07857 - Lodge Cottage – Deadline 19/10/23</u> The Application was discussed and it was agreed by all councillors present that it was not appropriate to increase the size of the annex, which was converted from a garage, by adding a 2 story extension and dormer windows. <p>It was not considered appropriate to turn the ex-garage into an independent property but that it should remain only as an annex to the main house. It was agreed that the PC would write and object – GS to send objection wording to AS for submission.</p>	
7	<p>FOREST LIAISON OFFICER REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on the A346 is about half completed and therefore the traffic management is likely to continue into November. Most of the diseased trees are being felled and chipped, however some have been identified for selective treatment to make them safe which does not involve complete felling. These are trees with significant ecological value or high potential for bat roosts. • Timber harvesting will start soon, initial site visits and pre commencement meetings have been made, and FE are aiming to take advantage of the remaining dry October weather as much as possible. Work will start in the areas where the ground is most sensitive in order to get those areas done in good weather. It is more than likely the work will have to be paused at some point due to rain, and contractors will try to work sensitively around soft ground wherever possible. Maps and interpretations will be published on the FE website soon to communicate to the public about this work. • The Savernake Volunteers group continues to meet monthly, averaging about 6 volunteers each month. Work has focused on haloing around veteran trees, initially around Thornhill and more recently on Long Harry. 	NE
8	<p>FINANCE OFFICER’S REPORT</p> <p>Banking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Since The Last Meeting, a) Payments Made / Received: 06 Oct - 35.00 – ICO – Annual Data Protection Fee 20 Jul - 50.00 – SMH Singleton – Secretarial Services 	

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	<p>b) Invoices Received, In The Process Of Payment: Nil</p> <p>– Total Funds At Date Of Meeting Are £ 6,677 And Are Held As Follows: Payments A/C : £ 57.12 Interest A/C : £ 6,619.95</p> <p>Accounts</p> <p>– Total Funds At Date Of Meeting Are As Follows: Precept A/C : £ 6,677.07 CIL A/C : £ 0.00</p>	
	<p>Budgeting</p> <p>– Precept account: Expenses this year (2023-24) to date are £513.85 (39% of Income)</p> <p>– CIL account: No additional funds have been received and no additional payments made, funds are currently zero.</p>	
9	<p>WEBSITE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Parish Council Policies</u> Some of the policies had not yet been updated as reviewed on the website. NE had previously confirmed that he had reviewed all policies with regard to Finance. At the meeting MP and NB reconfirmed, as they had done at the last meeting, that their sections were fine and AS looked through them at the meeting and also confirmed he was happy with his sections. <p>As GS had previously reviewed them all, the remaining policies can now be marked as reviewed and updated copies uploaded to the website.</p>	SS
10	<p>LHFIG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Clench Common - speed limit and traffic calming</u> GS has still been unable to contact Ramsbury Estate about their offer, in conjunction with Ridgeway Sprayers to supply and fit gates at the Wootton Rivers end of the road. NB is going to contact Ridgeway Sprayers about their offer to sponsor the white gates and name signs to see if they are still willing to do so. GS will also try again to contact Ramsbury Estate. <p>MP will ask for an update of the quotes for the name signs he had received a few months ago. He will also submit a request to LHFIG for them to approve the siting of Road Narrowing signs, (the siting of the Clench Common name signs having already been agreed). The Councillors agreed that SPC will fund the road narrowing signs if they are at a similar cost to the school crossing signs which were erected at Cadley which should speed them through the LHFIG process.</p>	GS MP

ITEM		ACTION						
	<p>GS has sourced brackets to attach the name signs to the existing derestriction sign posts at the junction with the A345.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Forest Hill</u> MP said that the new road markings which had been previously agreed with LHFIG and WC have been marked on the road in chalk, and therefore he believes the work should be carried out shortly. <p>Whilst not strictly an LHFIG matter, Suzanne Black had reported the overgrown footpath SAVE2 leading to Forest Hill on MyWilts in June but this was only dealt with in September, when she escalated the request and it was picked up by WC and MTC Councillor Caroline Thomas.</p> <p>It is understood that the path was trimmed in the late spring, but the work was not sufficient for the path to remain clear until the winter, WC need to cut it back harder in the spring or to maintain it during the summer months. It is not acceptable to have to chase such matters, WC should be checking and maintaining the paths.</p>	GS						
	<p>After the end of the formal meeting, there was an informal discussion with Tom Savernake regarding crime and policing within Savernake Forest. TS was told that he was welcome to attend the next PC meeting where this matter could be discussed as part of the Council's 'Crime and Police Update'.</p>							
11	<p>DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>10th January 2024</td> <td>10th July 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8th May 2024</td> <td>9th October 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>APM 22nd May 2024</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	10 th January 2024	10 th July 2024	8 th May 2024	9 th October 2024	APM 22 nd May 2024		ALL
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Signed ... *Guy Singleton*

Date ... 10th January 2024

Name ... **Guy Singleton**