MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SAVERNAKE PARISH COUNCIL 16TH JULY 2026
MEETING HELD AT THE MARLBOROUGH COMMUNITY & YOUTH CENTRE, ST MARGARET'S MEAD

PRESENT

Guy Singleton (Chairman) (GS)	Councillor
Martin Phipps (MP)	Councillor
Nikki Boutal (NB)	Councillor
Andrew Smithson (AS)	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 13th 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 2nd 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 stared 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: 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 b) Invoices received, in the process of payment: Nil - Total funds at date of meeting are £ 6,586 and are held as follows: Payments a/c : £ 58.12 Interest a/c : £ 6,527.49 **Accounts** - Total funds at date of meeting are as follows: Precept a/c : £ 6,585.61 CIL a/c : £ 0.00 **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.	

ITEM		ACTION
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** 14th Oct, 12th Nov, 10th 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 8th October 2026 — 14th January 2027 6th May 2027 — APM 20th May 2027 15th July 2027 — 14th October 2027	ALL

Signed … *Guy Singleton* ..... Date … 8th October 2026 .....

Name … Guy Singleton .....

WILTSHIRE POLICE PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

Savernake

Quarter 3 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 July 2026- 30th September 2026.**

1 reported crime and **0** 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 **20** pro-active checks in the **Marlborough** area over the last quarter including targeted activity at areas previously identified as a concern such as Poulton Hill, Ogbourne St Andrew, Avebury and Aldbourne. As a result of this activity;

- **138 drivers have been offered to complete a speed awareness course.**
- **31 drivers have been issued with a fine and points on their licence for excess speed.**
- **1 driver has been summonsed directly to court.**

Recent updates

- The summer period has been an extremely busy one for Wiltshire Police as a whole. Although the summer is typically our busiest period, alongside forces across the country, we have experienced significantly higher levels of demand than we would ordinarily expect or anticipate. In June this year, we recorded over 12,000 incident logs across Wiltshire - a 7.4% increase compared to the previous year and a 9.1% increase on 999 call volumes. During **Saturday 27th June 2026**, we experienced 578 calls to 999 – this is the highest volume of emergency calls in a 24-hour period we have ever recorded. The unprecedented levels of demand have also been felt by our emergency service colleagues at Dorset and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service and the

South West Ambulance Service, which has likely been exacerbated by the extremely hot weather conditions.

- Following third party concerns being raised in Marlborough, the team have been working with a local retailer and the licensing department to ensure that retail thefts that were previously going unreported to Police are now being correctly reported to allow for investigations to take place. We have since made several arrests in relation to juveniles being involved in the theft of items such as alcohol and the Youth Justice Service are currently assisting with specialist interventions to support the young persons involved. In addition, on 03/09/2026 a 57-year-old male was arrested in relation to a theft of alcohol from Waitrose, Marlborough on 22/08/2026 and for 3 x Fail to appear warrants relating to previous retail offences in Marlborough. The suspect was issued a 40-week custodial sentence, suspended for 12 months.

- In September, Wiltshire Police supported the national 'Rural Crime Week of Action' with a programme of targeted enforcement, prevention and community engagement activity designed to protect rural communities, disrupt organised criminality and prevent acris across the county. The force have now embedded dedicated officers trained in wildlife and heritage crimes within local policing teams. Over the past two years, Wiltshire Police have;

- Made 44 arrests linked to rural crime offences
- Charged 38 offenders with various offences
- Seized 19 vehicles linked to rural crime activity
- Increased arrests/charges and vehicle seizures relating to rural crime by more than 500% over the past four years.

- Local Neighbourhood Police Officers from the **Devizes Area Neighbourhood Team** have also attended key local events such as the **Devizes**, **Aldbourne** and **Pewsey Carnivals**. All were extremely well attended, and we would like to thank our communities for their efforts in arranging and supporting such important community events. Officers will also be in attendance at events happening in the near future including the **Marlborough Mop Fayres** and **Remembrance Sunday Parades** across our area.

Community consultations

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 **Devizes Area Neighbourhood Team** are next due to have use of the **Mobile Police Station Vehicle** from the week commencing **Monday 19th October 2026**. Throughout the week the vehicle will be utilised across the Devizes, Marlborough and Pewsey areas and details regarding the timings and locations will be shared on our Facebook and Community Messenger sites in due course.