

ST PAUL MALMESBURY WITHOUT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25th February 2026 at 19:00 in Crudwell Village Hall

Present: Cllr Budgen (Chair), Hatherell (Vice-Chair), Briggs, Clogg, Ingham, Maslin, Merriman, Newman, Panting, Sorby, Stephens and Smith (WC-Sherston Division)

Public: None

123 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Jones

124 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

None

125 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME IN RESPECT OF ITEMS OF BUSINESS INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA

None

126 TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 28th JANUARY 2026

The minutes of the parish council meeting on the 28th January 2026 were adopted as a true record and signed accordingly.

127 TO RECEIVE REPORT #02.1 ON PLANNING UPDATES AND REVIEW NEW APPLICATIONS

Cllr Budgen presented Report #02.1. Full comments submitted by the council can be viewed online at Wiltshire Council under the relevant application reference.

Site	Reference	Comments
Land at Newlands Farm, Rodbourne Road, Corston, SN16 0HB	PL/2026/00442	No objection
Land adj. Filands Farm, Filands, SN16 9JN	PL/2026/00453	Objection
8 White Poplars, SN16 0FU	PL/2026/00726	No objection
Home Farm, Corston, SN16 0EW	PL/2026/00930	Holding comment pending further consultation

Action: Cllr Budgen & Clerk

128 FINANCIAL REPORTS

The RFO presented the accounts for the year to date. The bank statement dated 30th January was noted and showed balances of £5,776.67 and £43,065.94 and matched the reconciliation statement. The reconciliations and the original bank statements were signed as correct by the Vice Chair as evidence of verification. The RFO presented the payments schedule. The schedule was approved and Cllr Budgen signed the list of payments for authorisation as per supporting evidence; Cllr Stephens first authoriser, Cllr Clogg second authoriser.

Action: Cllrs Clogg, Stephens and Clerk

Payment No.	Payee Details	Reason	Amount (£)
1	Malmesbury Town Council	Donation to Malmesbury in Bloom 2026	£200.00
2	The Landscape Group Ltd	Waste collection January 2026	£468.00
3	Wiltshire Council	Sir Bernard Lovell Rd waiting restrictions contribution	£900.00

4	Timothy W Cowley	Repairs at Chippenham Road playing field	£1,335.00
5	Hathaway Landscapes Ltd	Grass cutting February 26	£232.50
		TOTAL	£3,135.50

129 TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT ON A REVIEW OF THE SCOPE OF THE INTERNAL AUDIT

Cllr Briggs proposed to repeat last year's process as there had been no changes to the council's policies, and all agreed for him to contact the internal auditor to act on the council's behalf. **Action: Cllr Briggs**

130 TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT ON THE RIVER MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP MEETING ON 29th JANUARY 2026

Cllr Sorby reported that the meeting had been well attended and a draft proposal for the River Management Project had been circulated. Although she raised the issue of persistent flooding of the Gauzebrook at Corston, as this flows into the Avon downstream of Malmesbury this was not of concern to this group. However, it was agreed that the stretch of river from Turtle Bridge along Foxley Road would affect the town. The group also suggested the idea to "adopt a drain" where residents can nominate themselves to look after a local drain, i.e. keep it flowing, clear leaves, debris etc.

131 TO AGREE WORDING OF JOINT LETTER REFERENCE HOUSEHOLDER REQUEST FOR A MINOR AMENDMENT TO THE FENCE LINE AT THE CORSTON LNR

Cllr Hatherell detailed the draft wording for an exchange of letters between the council and the householder for the minor change to the fence line. Cllr Jones has recommended the inclusion of Land Registry title numbers and plan, also that if the householder sells the property, they will inform any successor in title of the arrangement. The wording was agreed. **Action: Clerk**

132 TO NOTE REPORT #02.2 ON THE LHFIFG MEETING DATED 27th JANUARY

Cllr Budgen presented report #02.2. Owing to a very high estimate of cost for the proposed extension to the Milbourne footpath on C67, it had been decided that the project was not one for LHFIFG but should be the subject of a Substantive Highway Scheme request. However, owing to the low usage of the path it was thought it was unlikely to get approval. Owing to the improbably high estimate, it was agreed that Cllr Budgen would email the actual costs to date to the Highways Engineer. Cllr Briggs voiced health and safety concerns regarding the blind bend on this stretch of road. Cllr Clogg suggested that levelling off the verges would help walkers. **Action: Cllr Budgen**

133 TO CONSIDER RESUBMITTING A HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT REQUEST TO IMPROVE THE LIGHTING AND SURFACE OF THE PEDESTRIAN ROUTE FROM ST JOHN'S BRIDGE TO PARLIAMENT ROW, BURTON HILL

Cllr Budgen reported that three requests had recently been received regarding this pedestrian route and it was agreed that these should be submitted to the LHFIFG with the Highways Officer, Steve Hind, copied in. **Action: Clerk**

134 TO CONSIDER COLLABORATING WITH WC, HULLAVINGTON PC, EA AND OTHERS TO PRODUCE A CATCHMENT-WIDE PLAN THAT CONSIDERS NATURAL FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR THE GAUZE BROOK

Cllr Hatherell reported that a parish councillor from Hullavington had been in touch regarding some exploratory discussions with officers at Wiltshire Council about potential approaches to addressing the flooding issues along the Gauzebrook. WC officers have indicated that there is support in principle for developing a more joined-up, catchment-wide plan that considers natural flood management and nature-based solutions. A meeting is planned to bring together interested parties to ensure coordination and avoid duplication. Hullavington PC has asked whether SPMW PC would be interested in collaborating on a joint, catchment-wide approach. A shared effort could help ensure that any eventual plan is coherent, effective and beneficial for all communities along the stream. All agreed this was an excellent initiative that would get to the source of the problem. **Action: Clerk**

135 TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT TO JOIN WITH MTC IN SHARED DEFIBRILLATOR/CPR TYPE TRAINING AT A COST OF £175

Cllr Clogg reported that a Milbourne resident had asked about CPR training. MTC plan to hold a training session, with a recognised trainer, at a cost of £175 that SPMW could join and share the costs. As there are defibrillators in Corston, Cowbridge and Rodbourne, the council could advertise to see if there are other interested residents. Councillors agreed to pay up to £100 for the shared training.

Action: Cllr Clogg and Clerk

136 TO CONSIDER APPOINTING A FLOOD WARDEN TO THE COUNCIL

Cllr Hatherell reported that having a flood warden (FW) was sensible and he and the clerk had researched and had also contacted MTC regarding FW duties. The information needs to be tailored to this parish. The FW information would be included in the Community Emergency Plan and the FW would liaise with the local emergency services. It was agreed that more work needed to be done to pull all the information together, including liaison with farmers and landowners, before bringing back to the council.

Action: Cllr Hatherell and Clerk

137 TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT ON THE UPCOMING CONSULTATION FOR THE LOCAL CYCLING & WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME

The consultation on the draft Malmesbury Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan is now live and will remain open for comments until Monday 23rd March (23:59). Residents, businesses, schools and community groups are invited to take part and help to shape safer, greener, better-connected routes for everyone. The consultation can be accessed via this link: <https://malmesburylcwip.commonplace.is/>

Cllr Maslin reported that the local stakeholder group had made various suggestions to ensure the end product would be a considerably more ambitious plan. If the plan is supported by the local community, WC can access funding for it. Posters promoting the consultation were distributed for display on noticeboards and it is also on the website. It was agreed that a social media presence will be discussed at the next PWP meeting.

138 TO RECEIVE VERBAL REPORTS ON HIGHWAYS, PLAYING FIELDS, FOOTPATHS, PATIENTS PARTICIPATION GROUP, PERSONNEL COMMITTEE, FINANCE COMMITTEE, PROJECTS WORKING PARTY & WEBSITE WORKING PARTY

Highways - Cllr Hatherell reported that Parish Stewards are still on pothole duty. He has completed the form with the top 5 priority single gullies for the Discretionary Gully Service visit due between 23-27 February.

Playing Fields – Cllr Hatherell reported that both the playing fields had been checked and are in good order. He has fitted the replacement bin, with ownership sticker, at Chippenham Road playing field. All identified RoSPA tasks items have been completed except work to the two owl figures on the bench seat. The work at the Corston War Memorial is still to be completed. The clerk was asked to contact the contractors about the February grass cut.

Action: Clerk

Footpaths – nothing to report.

Patients Participation Group – nothing to report, the next meeting is in April.

Personnel Committee – nothing to report.

Finance Committee - Cllr Briggs reported that the Finance Committee is considering a review of the council’s existing banking arrangements.

Projects Working Party (PWP)

Cllr Hatherell reported that additional quotations for more appropriate finger posts for Rodbourne, as it is a Conservation Area, are awaited. Three quotations have been received for Mill Lane street signs, awaiting a picture from the company that provided the lowest quotation. Information regarding the Community Asset Transfer of three pieces of land in Corston had just been received, the clerk was asked to forward the documents to PWP members for their review. Notes of the PWP meetings are available to councillors from the clerk.

Website Working Party – nothing to report.

The meeting closed at 20:30

The next meeting will be held at 19:00 on Wednesday 25th March 2026 at Crudwell Village Hall

..... Chair Dated