

### St Martins Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the St Martins Parish Council held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.00 pm in St Martins Village Hall.

**PRESENT:** Cllr's Neil Arthan, Andrew Cast, John Hodgson, Sophie Hughes-Saunier, Duncan Laing,

Alan Langley, Nina Mistry, Lesley-Anne Roberts, Sue Schofield, George Smith and Helen Williams.

Also, in attendance two members of the public. Tessa Lanstein and the Parish Clerk.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Action

#### 196/10/22.C Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr's Vivienne Fisher (family), Mark Hayball, Glenn Pennington (holiday), Lesley-Anne Roberts (family), Natalie Rowley (working) and Shropshire Cllr Steve Davenport.

**Proposed, seconded and carried that these apologies are accepted.**

Apologies for absence had also been received from the police.

#### 197/10/22.C Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

- a) Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting and which is not included in the register of interests. **None received.**
- b) To consider any applications for dispensation. **None received.**
- c) Declaration of any other interests in the agenda items. **None received.**

#### 198/10/22.C Minutes

**Proposed:** Cllr Alan Langley      **Seconded:** Cllr John Hodgson

**Resolved:** with five abstentions that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 having been previously circulated be approved and adopted as a true record.

Chairman

#### 199/10/22.C Urgent Items

There were no urgent items that related to financial, health and safety issues or issues that required immediate attention.

#### 200/10/22.C Public Session

A member of the public from Church Terrace expressed concern over issues relating to various residents housed in 3 Church Street by Star Housing. She added that she had spent a lot of money on her property and therefore was reluctant to move. Although their housing officers and police had visited this property, including the ambulance service, on numerous occasions over a number

of years relating to drug use, foul language and threatening behaviour, Cllr's had grave concerns on the happenings at this premise.

Article 8 of the human rights act is therefore being breached; "protection from noise and pollution nuisance". At a more human level the peaceful lives of these vulnerable elderly residents have been taken away due to the Star Housing policy of rehousing highly disruptive people alongside the elderly. Cllr's felt that evidence would help to take these offenders to court.

The unanimous view of the Parish Council was that we write to Star Housing, inform them of the impact of the current use of this housing and request that further resident placements are appropriate to this vulnerable, elderly community. The police would be asked to monitor the situation more and Star Housing ensure that no further problem residents are housed in this property

Parish  
Clerk

### 201/10/22.C Parish Clerk's Progress Report

The Parish Clerk reported that he had now received the following information from Corey Lane, Senior Conservation Office at SC with reference to the repairs required at the Pinfold. His fee to design and specify the repair of the asset would be £875.00 and would include the following services:

Carry out a condition assessment and measured survey of the asset, with allowance made to sample and analyse historic mortars and materials there present.

Prepare and produce A3 scaled digital drawings - drawings to evidentially record the existing condition of the asset and show proposed works in elevation, plan, and sectional detail.

Prepare and publish a written specification and associated schedule of work - to be used to obtain regulatory consent and support any subsequent package of work.

If required, additional cost analysis and project management duties can be commissioned separately thereafter at a cost of £85.00 per hour.

**Proposed:** Cllr Duncan Laing      **Seconded:** Cllr Nina Mistry

**Resolved:**      **that the Parish Council accept this quotation for this design and specify the repairs required.**

Parish  
Clerk

Sean Vallely from Primoris has confirmed that they did agree to widen a short stretch of footpath by the vets / takeaway to 2 m wide to bring it in line with the rest of the footpath. However, it will be in to next year (when they start phase 3) before they can carry this work out. They will keep us informed. They will in the meantime cut back the hedge along this stretch of road.

A blocked gulley adjacent the bus shelter on Overton Road has been reported to highways.

Parish  
Clerk

Every Tuesday morning a coffee & cake morning is held in St Martins Village Hall. This is run by Helen Williams and a number of volunteers.

As Helen is also the Chairman of the Parish Council an added benefit is that this is now turning out to be a Chairman of the Parish Councils surgery which is most useful. However, we must now act on these concerns that are raised by local residents. Recent issues included; street lights out by Stans, request double yellow lines outside the school, hedge on the entrance to Moors Bank Cul-de-Sac, lack of police action following 999 calls and traffic lights either side of Escob Bridge. All these have been reported to the relevant authorities.

Parish Clerk

**202/10/22.C Police Report**

The police had sent their apologies. The September police report had been circulated to all Cllr's prior to the meeting. They welcomed the new format.

Cllrs were encouraged to complete the Cyber Crime survey which had been circulated to all Cllr's.

All Cllr's

**203/10/22.C St Martins Recreation Partnership**

Tessa Lanstein gave a brief report on the present situation. It was suggested that we would require the assistance of our Solicitors to advise on leasehold agreements with various organisations that are currently in place.

**Proposed:** Cllr Helen Williams      **Seconded:** Cllr Neil Arthan

**Resolved:** with one abstention, that the Parish Council contacts our Solicitor at Surrey Hills to seek legal advice on the leasehold agreements currently in place.

**204/10/22.C Doctors Surgery**

The Chairman reported that due to a legal problem over the ownership of two of the car parking spaces, the sale of the property by auction through Halls has been delayed until January next year.

**205/10/22.C Highway Issues**

All recent highway issues are now being reported via Shropshire Council's Highways department at Whittington and then logged on their 'Fixmystreet'. Repairs still outstanding include the fire hydrant cover on Overton Road and the damaged post sticking out of the grass verge on the junction of Halls Corner.

Parish Clerk

**206/10/22.C Speed Indicator Devices**

The Parish Clerk reported that an order had been placed with Highline Electrical to replace the solar panels and batteries at the four locations.

Parish Clerk

**207/10/22.C Financial Matters**

<b>207/10/01/22.C</b>		<b>Accounts for Payment</b>	
BACS	E Davies	Salary & Expenses	£855.64
BACS	HMRC	Month 07 PAYE & NI	£255.26

BACS	Nigel Thomas	Play Area Inspections	£24.00
BACS	Huw Manford	Litter Picking, etc.	£274.79
BACS	Nicole Chilvers	Watering	£800.00
BACS	A G Royce	Hedge Cutting, Allotments	£125.00
BACS	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit of Accounts	£360.00
BACS	Vision ICT	Website Changes	£42.00
DD	Veolia	Bin Emptying	£33.75

**Proposed:** Cllr Duncan Laing    **Seconded:** Cllr John Hodgson

**Resolved**    **that the above payments be agreed in accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.**

Parish  
Clerk

The Village Life Editorial Committee had requested a 10% increase in this year's donation towards their printing costs. Bearing in mind the costs of printing the magazine are likely to increase as they have more copies printed due to the increasing number of homes being built in the village. They also anticipate the Printers increasing their costs during the next few months.

In previous years we have benefitted from being award grants towards printing costs from Three Parishes Big Local, however, this funding has now ceased.

**Proposed:** Cllr Helen Williams    **Seconded:** Cllr Andrew Cast

**Resolved**    **with one vote against and one abstention, that this grant is increased to £1000.**

Parish  
Clerk

#### 207/10/02/22.C      **Grant to this Year's Queens Jubilee Celebrations**

Still waiting for a breakdown of the accounts against the £1000 grant from the parish council towards the above event.

Parish  
Clerk

#### 207/10/03/22.C      **Working from Home Allowance**

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it was **Proposed, Seconded** and **Resolved** that due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the public and press should not be present.

**Proposed:** Cllr Duncan Laing    **Seconded:** Cllr Alan Langley

**Resolved**    **that in line with the latest NALC recommendations the Working from Home Allowance is increased to £312 per annum.**

Parish  
Clerk

#### 207/10/04/22.C      **External Audit of Accounts**

It was noted that PKF Littlejohn had completed their external audit of our accounts and reported as follows:

On the basis of our review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in our opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

**207/10/05/22.C Hanging Baskets**

Cllr's again were pleased with the hanging baskets this year and resolved that Neil Rheade should carry on with this service next year subject to an acceptable quotation.

Parish  
Clerk

**208/10/22.C Street Lighting**

With reference to the long outstanding repairs to Shropshire Council's (SC) lights along Ellesmere Road SC had confirmed that work will start on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2022. Additional lights out in three locations along Overton Road would be reported to SC.

Parish  
Clerk

**209/10/22.C Planning**

**To consider** any new planning applications received since the last meeting

**Reference:** 22/03927/FUL (validated: 06/09/2022)

**Address:** Upper Wigginton House, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3HN

**Proposal:** Convert existing barn to single holiday let accommodation with garage to replace existing car port.

**Reference:** 22/04226/FUL (validated: 22/09/2022)

**Address:** 10 Kinalt Crescent, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3BF

**Proposal:** Conversion of two existing garage spaces into a bedroom, entrance lobby (including space for a through floor lift) and a utility/toilet area.

A number of Cllr's stated that they had been unable to view the above applications prior to the meeting as the SC online site was showing various reasons as unable to open or withdrawn. **Resolved** to enquire why this was happening and request a deferment on both applications until the November meeting

Parish  
Clerk

The following planning decisions and recommendations of the planning authority were noted.

**Reference:** 22/03344/FUL (validated: 19/07/2022)

**Address:** Ash Cottage, Ifton Heath, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3EA

**Proposal:** Erection of a first floor extension and slight enlargement of existing side extension footprint (resubmission)

**Decision:** Grant Permission

**Reference:** 21/05360/VAR (validated: 15/11/2021)

**Address:** School House, Overton Road, Ifton Heath, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3DH

**Proposal:** Variation on Condition No's 2 and 11 attached to planning permission 20/02248/FUL dated 5 November 2021

**Decision:** Grant Permission

**Reference:** 22/03515/FUL (validated: 01/08/2022)

**Address:** Holly Cottage, Street Dinas, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3HB

**Proposal:** Erection of private use storage building and all associated works

**Decision:** Refuse

Parish  
Clerk

Cllr George Smith gave a comprehensive update on the development off Firs Close. Now awaiting the retrospective planning application.

**210/10/22.C Shropshire Council.**

There was no report as Shropshire Cllr Steve Davenport had sent his apologies. Still waiting for a second design for improvements to the mini roundabout by Stans Superstore and when bore holes will be carried out in this area. Still concerns being reported on vehicle near misses either side of Escob bridge, the latest being two HGV.s.

Cllr Steve  
Davenport

Cllr's Sophie Hughes-Saunier and Sue Schofield had recently met with Cllr's from Gobowen PC over their proposals for tree planting along the road between St Martins and Gobowen.

**211/10/22.C Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)**

All correspondence received from the County Secretary had been previously circulated to all Cllr's.

**212/10/22.C Remembrance Sunday**

Cllr Sue Schofield and the Parish Clerk reported that all arrangements are now in hand for this year's Remembrance Sunday. Only outstanding issue is the ordering of the wreaths.

Parish  
Clerk

**213/10/22.C North Shropshire MP Helen Morgan**

Following Helen Morgan's concerns she had received regarding parking issues that have been raised to her from a constituent living in Cottage Lane, we were still waiting for a response from Star Housing.

Parish  
Clerk

**214/10/22.C Ifton School Development**

Cllr George Smith reported that there had been no meeting since our last meeting. He was still waiting for a copy their last meeting of the Stakeholders Group.

**215/10/22.C** Members Reports

Cllr Sue Schofield reported on a question raised by the Vicar on Warm Hubs asking if there are any warm hubs being set up in the village, we were considering offering say a Wednesday Morning as a start and is there any grant for a group who offer warm hubs - for cost of heating ? as someone said there was in Weston Rhyn. Agreed to put this as an agenda item at the November meeting.

Cllr Nina Mistry expressed concern over the hedge being cut back on the corner of Moors Lane, parking issues at this junction and the speed of traffic down Moors Bank. As regards parking in Moors Lane at its junction with Moors Bank it was suggested a polite notice is put on the windscreen of the offending cars. The police would also be informed.

Parish Clerk

**216/10/22.C** Next Meeting

Full Council meeting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 @ 19.00 in St Martins Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 20.52.

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date .....