

St Martins Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the St Martins Parish Council held on Thursday 12th January 2023 at 7.00 pm in St Martins Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllr's Andrew Cast, Mark Hayball, John Hodgson, Duncan Laing, Glenn Pennington, Natalie Rowley, Sue Schofield, George Smith and Helen Williams.

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

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

001/01/23.C Apologies for Absence	Action
Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr's Neil Arthan (Medical Reasons), Vivienne Fisher (family), Sophie Hughes-Saunier (poorly), Alan Langle (working abroad), Nina Mistry (family) and Lesley-Anne Roberts (family).	
Proposed, seconded and carried that these apologies are accepted.	Parish Clerk
Apologies for absence had also been received from Cllr Steve Davenport.	
002/01/23.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.	
003/01/23.C Minutes	
Proposed: Cllr John Hodgson Seconded: Cllr Duncan Laing	
Resolved: with two abstentions that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 8 th December 2022 having been previously circulated be approved and adopted as a true record.	Chairman
004/01/23.C Urgent Items	
There were no urgent items that related to financial, health and safety issues or issues that required immediate attention.	
005/01/23.C Public Session	
<i>Agreed to bring forward item 012/01/23.C to allow the two members of the public to address the parish council.</i>	
Louise Morris reported that following the parish council email to the Wrexham Brass Band they received a visit from a member of Wrexham Brass band just before Christmas. He wished to discuss the handover of uniforms, music and	

selection of instruments as offered in the original email. The conversation unfortunately became a little heated as her husband, Edward, made it clear that an itinerary of the instruments being returned was of utmost importance to allow us to plan a way forward with Ifton Colliery Band. He made it clear the instruments available were of a sub-standard quality (the remainder of what they felt were not worth upgrading). He was adamant that an itinerary would not be made available and that should Wrexham Brass feel we are being difficult moving forward that they would simply dispose of everything available and that that would be an end to it. My husband also made it clear that as the original offer had been made directly to yourselves that Wrexham Brass needed to reply to your returned email to which he stated they probably would not. He said 3 dates would be made available to collect all items offered and should we not collect everything on the said dates again everything would be disposed of. He left our home, in temper, with the understanding that it was all in your hands, St Martins Parish council and that Wrexham Brass needed to reply to your email. Approximately 1 hour later he rang and left a message. It stated he had spoken with the MD and that off the top of his head (but not to hold him to it exactly) 1 instrument from each different section (some sections require 3 of said instrument) and 4 cornets of which 9 are required were available.

Agreed that the parish clerk should follow up our enquiry with the Charity Commission, obtain the list of trustees and if no satisfactory result is forthcoming then seek legal advice.

Parish
Clerk

With the two members of the public then leaving the meeting the parish council moved on to the next item.

006/01/23.C Parish Clerk's Progress Report

The parish clerk reported that there was very little to report this month as during the Christmas and New Year period very few offices or businesses are open, and most issues are covered on agenda items.

As regards the concern expressed at the December meeting over effluent escaping into the brook at the rear of Morlas Meadows, the parish clerk and Cllr Steve Davenport had consulted with the site manager of Primoris Homes who explained how the sewerage and storm water, which are through separate pipes are discharged from the site and there was no evidence of effluent escaping.

The parish clerk stressed the importance of Cllr's using their mobile phones to take photos of any incidents like this in the future and for reference purposes use the free app 'What3Words' on their mobile phones to report an accurate location.

All Cllr's

007/01/23C Police Report

The latest police report (December) had been circulated to all Cllr's prior to the meeting. No police issues were raised.

008/01/23.C St Martins Recreation Partnership

Although there had been no meeting of the Recreation Partnership since the last meeting, Tessa Lanstein had advised members of the Recreation Partnership that

the Football Foundation have been sent an email lodging our intention to proceed with the 3G football pitch project on existing school land.

The additional land negotiations are taking too long, and the Football Club representatives have received sufficient hints in the last few weeks from the Football Foundation / Football Association that the funding of a 3G pitch, in and around our patch, will go elsewhere if we don't get our application in pronto.

The 3G pitch can be accommodated on existing school land without compromising other sports curriculum provision; a decision was made this morning with the School and Trust management team to proceed with this revised option as Plan A, to ensure this amazing development opportunity isn't missed.

She will continue to pursue the land negotiations activity in parallel with the Football Foundation activity. She is awaiting a response from Iain Hill-Trevor to a request for the original school land transfer documentation and actions to be completed by the Shropshire Property / Education team before engaging with Surrey Hills legal team to get solid advice on how hard they can negotiate the terms of the leasehold (or freehold as listed in one document).

009/01/23.C Highway Issues

There were no updates to report on previous highway issues.

010/01/23.C Escob Bridge

Following recent repairs to the road at Escob Bridge the installation of three roadside bollards has now further reduced the width of the approach road to this bridge from the St Martins direction creating more chances of further incidents at this bridge.

The duty of care to highway users is set out in Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980, which simply provides that "the highway authority is under a duty to maintain the highway".

The key matters concerning Escob Bridge is its aged construction is insufficient to match the current needs of vehicle usage (i.e. without modification it is dangerous) due to continuing heavy loads, for example regular daily use by Ridgeway Plant Machinery and Articulated Timber Wagons plus the sheer number of vehicles requiring constant access to Shropshire's largest and continually growing village, as well as the new and expanding Bank Top Industrial Estate.

It therefore makes the case for either Traffic Lights or even, at the furthest extreme, the construction of a new bridge. We feel certain that the cost of traffic lights compared to the cost of new bridge would focus the minds of Shropshire Council towards supporting the lesser of the two cost options.

Case law 'Rider -v- Rider' relates and I quote.

'It is a duty to put and keep the highway in such a state that it does not entail danger to those who use it in the manner ordinarily to be expected.'

Proving such can be difficult as the test for ‘dangerousness’ is objective. Having said that, a bridge which is only usable by one vehicle at a time due to its width, would be easier to prove as being dangerous.

The Parish Council understand the situation Shropshire Council has on finances, especially on highways. However, the parish council could fund this through their Neighbourhood Fund. Therefore, Victoria Doran, the Highways Manager for our area would be asked to provide an estimate for the supply and erection of one set of traffic lights at either side of this bridge with their contractors KIER. To add to an improvement in this area it would be an advantage on safety grounds to extend the 40-mph zone before this bridge when approaching from the Gledrid direction.

Parish
Clerk

011/01/23.C Speed Indicator Devices

Highline Electrical had now fitted the new larger solar panels and replacement batteries.

012/01/23.C Ifton Colliery Band

See agenda item 005/01/23.C above.

013/01/23.C Financial Matters

013/01/01/23.C Accounts for Payment

BACS	Staff	Salary & Expenses	£927.50
BACS	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£276.53
BACS	Nigel Thomas	Play Area Inspections	£24.00
BACS	Huw Manford	Litter Picking, etc.	£274.79
BACS	Highline Electrical	Replacement Solar Panels/Batteries	£2385.60
BACS	Office Express	Office Printer Cartridges	£472.67
BACS	Shropshire Council	3 rd Qtr Street Lighting Energy	£1347.83
BACS	Stans Superstore	4 th Qtr Field Lease	£375.00
DR	HSBC	Bank Charges	£8.00
DD	Veolia	Bin Emptying	£32.18

Proposed: Cllr Duncan Laing **Seconded:** Cllr Andrew Cast

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

Parish
Clerk

013/01/02/23.C Amenities, Parks and Open Spaces contracts.

Cllrs reviewed the following contracts,

Handyman Duties
Play Area Inspections
Grass & Hedge Cutting
Hanging Baskets including watering

New three-year contracts for all the above from the 1st April 2023 would be considered by the finance committee later this month.

014/01/23.C Street Lighting

Shropshire Council Street Lighting Department have confirmed that orders have been placed with Scottish Power to carry out column/cable replacement works to all the lights Shropshire Council own and maintain along Ellesmere Road. This work is scheduled to be completed by the end of February 2023.

As regards Overton Road it has been established that new cables are required all along this road from the roundabout by Stans Superstore to The Keys PH. A survey is due to take place next week.

Parish
Clerk

015/01/23.C Planning

To consider planning applications deferred from the last meeting.

Reference: 22/05319/FUL (validated: 08/12/2022)

Address: Proposed Agricultural Building To The North Of, Street Dinas, St Martins, Shropshire

Proposal: Erection of agricultural storage building and all associated works (re-submission)

Parish Council Decision: The Parish Council again strongly object to this (re-submission) application on the following grounds;

Totally inappropriate development for the area based on the size of the erection, far larger than required for the suggested use and have a roller shutter door. However, we believe the applicant tends to over specify/engineer projects. Also, if they are storing a lawnmower at this site, it is a long walk/ride (if a ride on mower) to their property, creating risks to motorists/ walkers on the route, and we are sure it's not legal to drive an uninsured/registered /taxed mower on the public highway.

Parish
Clerk

At this point Cllr Helen Williams had to leave the meeting, Cllr Sue Schofield, as Vice-Chairman took over the meeting.

Reference: 22/05531/FUL (validated: 09/12/2022)

Address: Land to Rear 3 Trevor Avenue, St Martins, Shropshire, SY11 2AW

Proposal: Erection of 1No. dormer bungalow and formation of vehicular access

Parish Council Decision: Although the Parish Council have no objections to this application, they have concerns over the access on to a single track (one way) road and feel that it is an over development for the size of the plot.

Parish
Clerk

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

Reference: 22/04876/FUL (validated: 26/10/2022)

Address: 1 Moors Bank, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7BE

Proposal: Erection of single detached garage with storage above

Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: 22/00507/VAR (validated: 31/01/2022)

Address: Land At Rhosyllan Farm, St Martins, Shropshire

Proposal: Variation of Condition No.2 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 19/03995/FUL dated 26.10.20 to omit the footway and to include

entrance wall

Decision: Grant Permission

Cllr Helen Williams returned to the Chair.

016/01/23.C Shropshire Council.

Ffion Horton, Shropshire Council's Service Development Programme Manager had informed Cllr Steve Davenport that she has asked for an update as the trial hole permit for the roundabout by Stans Superstore was refused due to a Severn Trent Water job, when resubmitting it's also been refused due to a clash on both Ellesmere Road and Overton Road.

She had added that they are working with permitting to get a date in for the trial holes to happen. I've asked for a meeting this week so we can get a date asap. Once I have an update, I will give you an update.

Cllrs reported a pothole in the centre of this junction.

Cllr Steve Davenport

Parish Clerk

017/01/23.C EV charge points

With Cllr Sophie Hughes-Saunier sending her apologies for this meeting it was agreed to defer a discussion on the installation of possible EV charge points in St Martins until the next meeting

Cllr Sophie Hughes-Saunier

018/01/23.C Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)

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

019/01/23.C North Shropshire MP Helen Morgan

We continue to forward any areas of concern to Helen Morgan MP for information.

Parish Clerk

020/01/23.C Ifton School Development

Cllr George Smith said there was nothing to report. Next meeting scheduled for the 22nd of February 2023.

Cllr George Smith

021/01/23.C Correspondence

There were no items of correspondence to report on that had not been covered on this meeting's agenda.

022/01/23.C Members Reports

Cllr Natalie Rowley reported that despite recent highway works at Escob bridge on the B5070 there are a number of pot holes on the left hand side of the road as you approach Escob Bridge from the Gledrid direction just before the give way sign that require urgent attention.

Parish Clerk

Cllr John Hodgson asked if any action had been taken reference his previous concern over safety issues outside the school.

Cllr Steve Davenport

Cllr George Smith said that at the last meeting he suggested installing Dog Fouling signs across the village. He asked if Cllrs could do a walk of their particular area and report back with an idea of where such signs could be located. No suggestions had been forthcoming. On a recent walk around the village he also became aware of several adhesive signs stuck to lamp-posts noting that the road was a 30 mph limit. He added that whoever designed and installed them had not thought it through. A label sized at 7" x 5" with only one third of it visible due to it being wrapped around a circular post is crazy.

The Parish Clerk agreed to look into this matter through Shropshire Council Highway Department.

Parish Clerk

Cllr George Smith also enquired what had happened to the Moors Lane Chapel sign we purchased for them some months ago. The Parish Clerk said he would contact Cllr Nina Mistry over this.

Parish Clerk

Cllr Helen Williams reported that last night of number of Cllrs met with Maria Moore, Specialist Travel Officer South & VCS from the Shropshire Council Passenger Transport Group who reported that her team will provide the support and paperwork to get a Community Cars Scheme up and running. Early days yet but they plan to hold another meeting soon .

Cllr Vivienne Fisher

023/01/23.C Next Meeting

Cllrs approved the schedule of meeting dates for 2023.

Next meeting Full Council meeting on Thursday 9th February 2023 @ 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 20.27 pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date