

St Martins Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the St Martins Parish Council held on Thursday 9th February 2023 at 7.00 pm in St Martins Village Hall.

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

Also in attendance, Shropshire Cllr Steve Davenport and the Parish Clerk.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

030/02/23.C Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr's Neil Arthan (Medical Reasons), Vivienne Fisher (Hospital App), Alan Langley (working abroad) and Lesley-Anne Roberts.

Proposed, seconded and carried that these apologies are accepted.

Apologies for absence had also been received from Tessa Lanstein

031/02/23.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.**

032/02/23.C Minutes

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

Resolved: **with two abstentions that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 12th January 2023 having been previously circulated be approved and adopted as a true record.**

033/02/23.C Finance Committee

Proposed: Cllr Helen Williams **Seconded:** Cllr Glenn Pennington

Resolved: **that the minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on Monday 23rd January 2023 having been previously circulated be noted and adopted as a true record.**

Cllr Glenn Pennington asked for an update on the bank balances which the Parish Clerk gave.

Action

Parish Clerk

Chairman

Chairman

034/02/23.C Precept 2023/24

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

Resolved: **that the recommendation of the Finance Committee to set a precept for the financial year 2023/24 of £57,948 be approved.**

Parish
Clerk

035/02/23.C Urgent Items

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

036/02/23.C Public Session

With no members of the public present the parish council moved on to the next item.

037/02/23.C Parish Clerk's Progress Report

The parish clerk reported that he was still waiting for the estimate from Shropshire Council for the repairs to the Pinfold.

Parish
Clerk

Concerns had been expressed from residents on Bower Farm Drive on whose responsibility it was to maintain the hedges at the rear of their gardens.

Parish
Clerk

A report had been received from a meeting held in the autumn with Cllrs Sue Schofield and Sophie Hughes-Saunier and the Parish Clerk and Cllrs from Gobowen to discuss a potential joint project to create an avenue of trees along the B5069 between Gobowen and St Martins. The following next steps were agreed but were not allocated to anyone.

To make a record (on a map) of the existing trees along this road by species and location, and then to contact Shaun Burkey (Shropshire Council) to discuss appropriate tree species for the project.

With reference to the Speed Indicator Devices, Andy from Highline Electrical had now fitted the new larger solar panels and replacement batteries. However, there was still a problem with these devices. Andy had now confirmed that he had contacted Eden Taylor from Morelock who had informed him that the current failure of these devices could be the regulators waiting for the 5v differential. Only does it the once, and the sign can be off for 4 of 5 days in the winter until it reaches it. He suggested Waiting for a few days and see if they come back on. If not, Andy would contact Eden again.

Parish
Clerk

038/02/23C Police Report

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

039/02/23.C St Martins Recreation Partnership

Although there had been no meeting of the Recreation Partnership since the last meeting, Tessa Lanstein had reported that following on from her telephone call yesterday with Cllr George Smith she confirmed that in principle she supports the idea of putting a considerable sum of the allocated Project funding into a high interest scheme for a year. She can confirm a sensible amount by early March once she has finished understanding the costs over and above what the Football Foundation will cover e.g. additional surveys and specialist reports.

Parish Clerk

On a more general note, by way of an update to the PC: work is currently ongoing with the Football Foundation to confirm early engagement and get the Joining Agreement signed between the School Trust and the Football Foundation.

Cllrs were then asked to consider a further extension of the contract of the programme manager and whether the cost of this contract should come out of the Ear Marked Reserves for this project or General Reserves. A further extension was agreed. Cllr Glenn Pennington pointed out that back in March 2020 the Oswestry Community 3PBL agreed a grant of £20,000 towards consultancy work on this project.

Parish Clerk

040/02/23.C Highway Issues

There were no updates to report on previous highway issues. A location had been forwarded to Shropshire Council Highways for approval to erect the signpost for Moors Lane Chapel.

Parish Clerk

As regards the suggestion of more 30 mph repeater signs in the village, Derek Buchanan from Shropshire Council had stated that 30mph repeater signs are not allowed/ are against Traffic Regs in a 30mph speed limit with street lighting and can make the current speed limit un-reinforceable.

On the issue of Dog Fouling again Derek Buchanan had reported that he has passed our signs for comment/ any specific rules to our street scene team (who deal with this) and will forward comment which he expects back in the next week. No issues with regard proposed signs and just needs approval with Jason Hughes. Once approval gained then can discuss/ agree erecting them.

Parish Clerk

041/02/23.C Street Name Plates

Cllrs noted the following condition of various street name plates reported by Cllr Sue Schofield which had now all been listed on Shropshire Councils 'FixMyStreet'

Parish Clerk

- The street name adjacent to 1 Moors Bank is missing and the frame is broken.
- The Street name at the junction of Kimberly Lane and Ellesmere Road has fallen of its mount which is rotting wood and has seen better days.
- The Street name at the junction of Mount Bradford and Coopers Lane is still there but the frame/mount is so twisted and bent it could fall apart very easily.

042/02/23.C Escob Bridge

The Parish Clerk and Shropshire Cllr Steve Davenport had been in various discussions with officers at Shropshire Council on the proposal to install traffic lights either side of this bridge. Derek Buchanan from Shropshire Council had stated that he agree to move forward permanent traffic signal proposal once the funding is confirmed (CIL/ Neighbourhood funding) no confirmation/ response yet about funding allocation. He proposed that they firstly carry a feasibility study to understand as to what is possible/ what the key risk are and what the scheme/ options may look like/ are, which will then enable a preliminary estimate to be placed on the project. Upon agreement of the scheme option, we can then get an updated cost estimate (for design and construction) and hopefully move on to detailed design/ delivery.

Parish
Clerk &
Cllr Steve
Davenport

043/02/23.C Ifton Colliery Band

The trustees, committee and members of City of Wrexham Brass Band had forwarded the latest update by email on the 24th January 2023.

Further to previous correspondence and to kindly update you on matters, we are currently waiting on the Charity Commissions' recommendations on the requirements and internal reporting to be carried out following the Band's vote to gift certain assets to the village on the basis these are used to retain a banding heritage in the area. We will also update Edward Morris directly, so he is aware and revert back to you on hearing from them. Please note this band is run by its trustees and members in strict accordance with the rules and laws of the Charity Commission and so it is vital that we act on their instructions.

Though your response was unclear on this part, we trust you will accept our offer and we will come back to you as soon as we are able. If you do not wish to take up our offer however, please advise.

044/02/23.C Financial Matters**Accounts for Payment**

BACS	Staff	Salary & Expenses	£927.70
BACS	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£276.33
BACS	Nigel Thomas	Play Area Inspections	£24.00
BACS	Huw Manford	Litter Picking, etc.	£295.31
BACS	Coombe Manage	Contract Work, Rec Project	£4710.00
BACS	Highline Electrical	Replacement Solar Panels/Batteries	£2385.60
DR	HSBC	Bank Charges	£8.00
DD	Veolia	Bin Emptying	£32.18

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

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

Parish
Clerk

045/02/23.C Street Lighting

Shropshire Council Street Lighting Department have confirmed that Scottish Power had started 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.

Parish Clerk

As regards Overton Road, following a recent site visit and a thorough night patrol Shropshire Council Street Lighting Officers had identified the columns as being out, the majority of these require lantern replacements and orders for these works have been issued to Kier to complete.

Parish Clerk

Columns numbered 34 to 41 require the private network cable supplying these columns to be replaced as it has deteriorated beyond economic repair. They also noted that a many of these columns are concrete construction and require replacement. They are currently costing the replacement of the concrete columns and network cable and should have a cost to give Jason Hughes for his consideration.

Parish Clerk

As regards the streetlight opposite no. 23 Cherry Tree Drive, Andy from Highline Electrical has found that the cable which is supplied from the village memorial garden is damaged somewhere in its length so is blowing fuses. He recommended a new light installed on the opposite side of the road (Cherry Tree Drive side) as there is a Scottish power main there. Budget Cost £2,700 + VAT.

Proposed: Cllr Sue Scofield **Seconded:** Cllr Mark Hayball

Resolved that this light is replaced.

Parish Clerk

046/02/23.C Planning

To consider planning applications deferred from the last meeting.

Reference: 23/00131/FUL (validated: 20/01/2023)

Address: Walnut Cottage, Clarkes Lane, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3ES

Proposal: Erection of 2.5 bay oak framed garage with storage above

Decision: Support

Parish Clerk

Reference: 23/00380/FUL (validated: 30/01/2023)

Address: 14 Morlas Meadows, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3FJ

Proposal: Conversion of garage to gain additional bedroom and en-suite

Decision: Strongly object to this application as it is over development on a recent new estate and could set a precedent and something that could be used as an example or rule to be followed by other home owners on this estate in the future. There were two abstentions and one vote against this decision.

Parish Clerk

Cllrs noted the following planning decisions and recommendations of the planning authority.

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

Decision: Grant Permission

Cllr George Smith brought to the attention of the meeting that the planning application for the erection of 4 no camping pods on land off Firs Close had been withdrawn. Further information would be requested from Shropshire Council.

Parish
Clerk

047/02/23.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. Recent trial holes were for Severn Trent Water.

Cllr Steve
Davenport

Cllr Steve Davenport reported that he had made no further progress as yet on resolving the safety issues outside the school.

Cllr Steve
Davenport

The pothole in the centre of the junction by Stans Superstore had been repaired.

048/02/23.C EV charge points

As regards the installation of possible EV charge points in St Martins, the Chairman expressed concern that there were limited places in St Martins for such points and suggested Cllr Sophie Hughes-Saunier arranges for a survey is carried out by the suppliers of these charging points and then comes back to the parish council.

Cllr
Sophie
Hughes-
Saunier

049/02/23.C Three Parishes

The Chairman reported on a recent meeting of the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the three parishes, St Martins, Selattyn and Gobowen and Weston Rhyn. The outcome was that all three wished to work together on such issues as planning, street lighting energy and repairs (all three use Highline Electrical), training and in the future hopefully the voluntary car scheme. Green issues were also a priority. A follow up meeting would be held in March.

Chairman

050/02/23.C Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)

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

051/02/23.C North Shropshire MP Helen Morgan

We continue to forward any areas of concern to Helen Morgan MP for information. Helen continues to monitor the street lighting issues with Shropshire Council.

Parish
Clerk

052/21/23.C Ifton School Development

Cllr George Smith gave the following report, over the past couple of days there had been an exchange of emails between Mr Tim Catterly, a member of the stakeholders committee and the developers. He identified areas of concern and non-conformity to previous site development assurances in a somewhat pointed manner. His concerns were immediately responded to by the Managing Director of the developers and shortly afterwards by the site constructors. Both actions were conciliatory and apologetic, but no doubt finer detail will be discussed at the forthcoming Stakeholders meeting.

Cllr
George
Smith

He had also requested an update from the developer’s admin secretary. She had advised that all 35 plots have foundations poured and 32 are up to ground level with damp proof course and three courses of brick. The road has been kerbed and tarmacked for Phase 1 of the development to allow for the heavy machinery i.e. Crane to deliver the timber frame. The road sewage work has commenced, and the overhead electrical diversion has been arranged for late February.

053/02/23.C Correspondence

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

054/02/23.C Members Reports

Cllr Natalie Rowley reported that progress is being made on Broadband issues with Openreach for Moors Lane and Moors Bank.

Parish
Clerk

Cllr Sue Schofield asked if the dog bin could be moved to the opposite site of Overton Road away from the hairdressers.

Parish
Clerk

Cllr Nina Mistry reported that the litter bin on Moors Lane is not being emptied on a regular basis.

Parish
Clerk

055/02/23.C Next Meeting

Next meeting Full Council meeting on Thursday 9th March 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 20.20 pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date