

St Martins Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the St Martins Parish Council held on Thursday 8th of June 2023 at 7.00 pm in St Martins Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllr's Andrew Cast, Vivienne Fisher, Mark Hayball, Sophie Hughes-Saunier, Duncan Laing, Sue Schofield, George Smith and Helen Williams.

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

129/06/23.C Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr's Neil Arthan- (Holiday), John Hodgson (Family), Alan Langley (Hospital Appointment), Nina Mistry (Family), Glenn Pennington (Vehicle Issues) and Natalie Rowley (Working).

Proposed, seconded, and carried that these apologies are accepted, although Cllr Helen Williams expressed concern over the number of absent Cllr's.

An apology for absence had also been received from Tessa Lanstein. Cllr Lesley-Anne Roberts was absent.

130/06/23.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.**

131/06/23.C Minutes

Proposed: Cllr Duncan Laing **Seconded:** Cllr George Smith

Resolved: with one abstention that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 11th of May 2023 having been previously circulated be approved and adopted as a true record.

132/06/23.C Urgent Items

The following correspondence had been received from Tessa Lanstein. I'm so conscious that momentum has been lost over the last couple of months due to several factors. I'm estimating that to make decent progress in June and July, I will need to allocate approx. 20hrs each week and just wanted to check that you were happy with that rate of spend (£1k per week). Don't want to land a hefty invoice as a surprise at the end of July. Tasks to be completed over the next 8 weeks would include:

- more discussion with school / local clubs on diversity usage detail for business case
- resubmission of FF bid
- research and viability paper on non-FF pitch (spec, time and cost outline)

Action

Parish Clerk

Noted

Chairman

- continued activity on new land lease.

Please confirm (or not) that you are happy for me to allocate approx 20hrs a week for 8 weeks. Assuming so, do you wish to see a weekly timesheet to allow transparency and rate of spend info in addition to a monthly invoice?

After some discussion it was agreed with just over £9000 left in the consultancy budget for this project, Cllr's agreed to your request for working approx. 20 hrs each week in June & July. However, they have requested the following, So far just over £10,000 has been spent on your consultancy work, and although you produced a very detailed account of your time on the three previous invoices, we have no paper trail on what this money was spent on. Therefore, we would be most grateful to receive a written report on what this money was spent on showing where all the problems were on progressing this project forward, for example school, land lease and FF. They also requested a written report for June on the work that you will be undertaking so that we can present this at our July PC meeting, and a further report for July's work so that Cllr's can then see how far we have got at a special meeting at the beginning of August before deciding on the future of this project.

Parish
Clerk

Correspondence had also been received from Caroline Selby, PCC Secretary asking if the Parish Council would consider supporting St Martins Church in their endeavours to raise funds towards the cost of various repairs to the Church including guttering, downpipes, leadwork around the roof, masonry on the tower, mullions and windows, porch, and stairs to tower.

Cllrs requested more information including what sort of funding they were looking for.

Parish
Clerk

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

133/06/23.C Public Session

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

134/06/23.C Parish Clerk's Progress Report

With reference to the Speed Indicator Devices, it was agreed that we bring in Moorlock to try and resolve the issues as all four are now not working.

Parish
Clerk

Shropshire Council will again be asked to replace the damaged dog bin on Colliery Road and reposition it nearer the substation.

Parish
Clerk

Ray Parry Playgrounds will be asked to look at the broken chains to a swing plus a damaged spring to the bouncy animal in the main play area.

Parish
Clerk

The large entry gate to the play area, which was in a dangerous state, has been made safe pending the fixing of a new gate post. This work is still outstanding. Agreed we ask Huw Manford to look at this as a matter of urgency.

Parish
Clerk

The Parish Clerk stressed the urgency in setting up the Footpaths (Rights of Way) working group. Although Shropshire Council can provide tools and materials, including health and safety training, they do not have the manpower to carry out all but very urgent repairs.

Chairman

135/06/23.C Police Report

The latest police report (May) had been circulated to all Cllr's prior to the meeting. There were no police issues.

Noted

136/06/23.C St Martins Recreation Partnership

Already considered until item 132/06/23.C Urgent Items.

137/06/23.C Highway Issues

As there are still several outstanding highway issues it was agreed that the Parish Clerk arranges a site meeting with Nigel Tomkewycz, Shropshire Councils Highway Maintenance Technician.

Parish Clerk

Still no feedback on damaged street name plates reported by Cllr Sue Schofield at a recent meeting.

Parish Clerk

138/06/23.C Street Lighting

The Parish Clerk reported that he still had no further update from Shropshire Council on how they will fund the new cabling along Overton Road from the roundabout by Stans Superstore to The Keys PH.

Parish Clerk

Highline Electrical had carried out their annual inspection of all the street lighting owned by the parish council. There were no issues.

Noted

A request from a resident to have the street light adjacent to Kingsbury, School Lane recalibrated to stay on during hours of darkness, was approved.

Parish Clerk

A streetlight in Colliery Road was reported as being on all night.

Parish Clerk

139/06/23.C Financial Matters**Accounts for Payment**

BACS	Staff	Salary & Expenses	£929.95
BACS	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£276.33
BACS	Nigel Thomas	Play Area Inspections	£26.00
BACS	Huw Manford	Litter Picking, etc.	£310.75
BACS	Highline Electrical	New Column	£1920.00
BACS	Highline Electrical	Annual Survey	£780.90
BACS	BHIB	Insurance	£1067.48
BACS	Contas	Dog Signs	£350.40
BACS	Shropshire Council	Street Lighting Energy 1 st Qtr	£1240.00
DR	HSBC	Bank Charges	£8.00
DD	Veolia	Bin Emptying	£50.87

Proposed: Cllr Duncan Laing **Seconded:** Cllr Helen Williams

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

Parish Clerk

The Chairman of Finance would present the revised Financial Risk Register, as recommended by our Internal Auditor, at the next meeting.

Cllr John Hodgson

He would also present a report on the current procedure for the approval and payment of all expenditure and administration and reporting of funds.

Cllr John Hodgson

The Parish Clerk reported that he had now setup the account with the CCLA and transferred £400,000.00 into this account.

Noted

140/06/23.C **Planning**

To consider the following planning applications.

Reference: 23/02026/FUL (validated: 12/05/2023)

Address: Proposed Development Of Industrial Units At, Bank Top Industrial Estate, St Martins, Shropshire

Proposal: Additional Use of Land for the Siting of up to 27 Containers

Parish Council Decision: Support as this would bring more employment to the area.

Parish Clerk

Reference: 23/01975/FUL (validated: 26/05/2023)

Address: Proposed Development Of Camping Pods To The South Of, Firs Close, St Martins, Shropshire

Proposal: Application under Section 73A of the Town And Country Planning Act 1990 for the erection of 12no camping pods, service building, pump house and associated driveways/parking area.

Parish Council Decision: Object

Cllr George Smith to contact John Hall from Concent Town Planning in Ellesmere to assist and compose suitable planning reasons why the parish council strongly object to this planning application.

Parish Clerk &
Cllr George Smith

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

Reference: 23/01178/FUL (validated: 17/03/2023)

Address: St Martins Business Park, Ellesmere Road, St Martins, Shropshire

Proposal: Change of Use of Light Industrial Site to development of 17 dwellings together with access road

Decision: Refuse

Reference: 23/01161/REM (validated: 24/03/2023)

Address: Land North East Ash Grove, Overton Road, St Martins, Shropshire

Proposal: Approval of reserved matters (landscaping) pursuant to 21/01657/OUT Outline application for the erection of a dwelling

Decision: Grant Permission

	Cllrs had still to consider a suitable location for the plaque that was attached to the Doctors Surgery, and now removed and held in the Village Hall.	All Cllrs
141/06/23.C	Discipline & Grievance Procedures	
	Cllrs confirmed and adopted NALC's current Discipline & Grievance procedures in relation to employees and note the correct procedure for handling complaints against the Council, including Councillors Code of Conduct. Agreed all Cllrs should have a new copy of the Code of Conduct and sign for.	Parish Clerk
142/06/23.C	Shropshire Council.	
	Shropshire Cllr Steve Davenport reported that he continues to push for action at Escob Bridge.	Cllr Steve Davenport
	Shropshire Councils draft recommendations pertaining to the repair and management of The Pinfold was approved.	Parish Clerk
	Cllrs expressed concern over the state of the grass verges throughout the village which had not been cut since April. Cllr Steve Davenport to follow up	Cllr Steve Davenport
143/06/23.C	Place Plan Review	
	The Parish Clerk would find out which areas are currently in the plan and Cllrs were reminded to bring forward any additional ones to be considered and included in this review by Monday 7th August 2023.	Parish Clerk & All Cllrs
	It was agreed that we should invite Rosie Corner, Place Plan Officer – Oswestry and Ellesmere to the July meeting.	Parish Clerk
144/06/23.C	North Shropshire MP Helen Morgan	
	We continue to forward any areas of concern to Helen Morgan MP for information. The current state of the grass cutting in the village would be brought to Helen's attention.	Parish Clerk
	Helen was also keen to set up a summer drop-in event for constituents to pop in and say hello in St Martins for the coming months. It would be lovely if you and any parish/county councillors were able to attend. I have copied in Mary, from my team, who will be organising dates.	Helen Morgan
145/06/23.C	Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)	
	All correspondence received from the County Secretary had previously been circulated to all Cllr's.	
146/06/23.C	Members Reports	
	Cllr Helen Williams reported that the hanging baskets are now up, and Nicole Chilvers had already started watering on the same day.	Parish Clerk

Cllr Sue Schofield enquired when the Moors Lane Chapel sign would be erected.

Parish Clerk
Parish Clerk

Cllr Sue Schofield also added that the Bus Shelter on Ellesmere Road that was recently repaired, has still not been painted.

Cllr Vivienne Fisher reported that the direction road sign opposite the Take-A-Ways was now obstructed by tree branches.

Parish Clerk

Cllr Vivienne Fisher also reported that the Voluntary Car Scheme was now up and running, majority of requests were to Chirk Surgery.

Noted

Cllr Mark Hayward asked if the hedge by the allotments could be cut back. This would be scheduled for September.

Parish Clerk

Cllr Mark Hayward also requested some road scrapings to fill in the potholes in the Allotment car park.

Cllr Steve Davenport

Cllr George Smith had now located further sites for Dog Warning Signs. Agreed he placed a further order.

Cllr George Smith

147/06/23.C Next Meeting

Next meeting Full Council on Thursday 13th July 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 20.26 pm.

Signed Date