

**St Martins Parish Council**

Minutes of a Meeting of the St Martins Parish Council held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.00 pm in St Martins Village Hall.

**PRESENT:** Cllr's Neil Arthan, Vivienne Fisher, Mark Hayball, Sophie Hughes-Saunier, Duncan Laing, Alan Langley, Nina Mistry, Natalie Rowley, Sue Schofield, George Smith, and Helen Williams.

Also in attendance, Shropshire Councillor Steve Davenport, one member of the public and the Parish Clerk.

**001/01/24.C Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr's John Hodgson and Glenn Pennington.

**Proposed, seconded, and carried that reasons given are accepted.**

Cllr Andrew Cast was absent.

**Parish Council Casual Vacancy**

No applications had been received for this casual vacancy.

Parish Clerk

Parish Clerk

**002.01/24.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.**

**003/01/24.C Minutes**

**Proposed:** Cllr Duncan Laing    **Seconded:** Cllr Sophie Hughes-Saunier

**Resolved: with three abstentions that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 having been previously circulated be approved and adopted as a true record.**

Chairman

**004/01/24.C Urgent Items**

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

**005/01/24.C Public Session**

The member of the public present did not wish to raise any issues therefore the council moved onto the next agenda item.

**006/01/24.C Parish Clerks Progress Report**

The Parish Clerk reported that unfortunately, during the Christmas and New Year period very little gets processed due to Councils and businesses being closed.

Now awaiting a report from the mole catcher from his visits to the football field at the rear of Stans Superstore.

Huw Manford had quoted £44.14 to repair the Village sign on the Overton Road at Ifton. This was agreed.

Parish Clerk

Parish Clerk

**007/01/24.C Police Report**

The latest police report (December) had not been received but on receipt would be circulated to all Cllr's.

The Chairman gave a brief verbal report on the Safer Roads Grant Scheme which he and the Parish Clerk had worked on. This had been circulated to all Cllr's prior to the meeting. If successful a further three Speed Indicator Devices (SIDS) will be positioned, two in the centre of the village and one on the exit of the village on Moors Bank. The parish council would make a grant of £1000 towards this application.

**Proposed:** Cllr Helen Williams      **Seconded:** Cllr Alan Langley

**Resolved: with one abstention, that this grant application is submitted to the Police & Crime Commissioner.**

Shropshire Council Highways would be informed of this application.

Parish Clerk

Parish Clerk

Parish Clerk

**008/01/24.C St Martins Recreation Partnership**

A further progress report had been received from Tessa Lanstein.

During January she planned to complete the following tasks:

- Finalise school questionnaire sample size & undertake surveys.
- Review online questionnaire replies; upload paper based replies as online questionnaires (to allow one stop shop for analysis of responses).
- Make contact with local and regional MUGA companies – design scope and outline costs and recommence discussions with Duncan Wright (The 3-18 Education Trust).
- Investigate Community Foundation for Staffs & Shropshire grant opportunity (link sent from Ande Joseph – St Martins Football Club)
- Will continue to respond to queries arising on St Martins Facebook page as required.

**009/01/24.C Highway Issues**

Damaged street name plates for Mount Bradford Lane and Kimberley Lane have still not been replaced. However, the damaged Grit Bin at the top end of Ifton View, reported back in July, has been replaced and replenished.

**010/01/24.C Street Lighting**

Scottish Power had still to connect power to the streetlight on Overton Road at the entrance to Garden Village. One of the pedestrian beacons by Stans Superstore, which had been repaired since the last meeting, was now out again.

Cllr Steve Davenport & Parish Clerk

**011/01/24.C Financial Matters**

**Accounts for Payment**

BACS	Staff	Salary & Expenses	£987.82
BACS	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£301.30
BACS	Nigel Thomas	Play Area Inspections	£26.00
BACS	Huw Manford	Litter Picking, etc.	£304.25
BACS	A G Royce	Grass/Hedge Cutting Contract	£4468.00
BACS	Stans Superstore	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr. Field Lease	£375.00
BACS	Coombe Management	Consultancy Work	£1,440.00
DR	HSBC	Bank Charges	£8.00
DD	Veolia	Bin Emptying	£33.91

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

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

Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk presented the third qtr. Bank Reconciliation at 31/12/2023 which was noted.

**012/01/24.C Planning**

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

**Address:** Irvine Gardens, Hollands Drive, St Martins, Shropshire

**Proposal:** Modification of Section 106 agreement attached to (OS/07/15162/FUL)

**Parish Council Comment: After discussion, it was.**

**Proposed:** Cllr Alan Langley    **Seconded:** Cllr Helen Williams

**Resolved** with one abstention, that the Parish Council again supports this application. Previously Shropshire Councils Planning Department refused this application, on the grounds that the details of how the money secured is to be spent are vague with little reassurance that there would be a benefit to St Martins, despite the fact that the parish council had carried out a house to house survey on all properties in Irvine Gardens with the majority stating that they did not want a play area on this site as there was already a suitable site for all age groups on an area adjacent to St Martins Village Hall.

Parish Clerk

During the last few weeks, another survey has been carried out on what play facilities families would like in St Martins. Most teenagers so far contacted have stressed the importance of having a suitable Teenage Shelters with a roof, seating and hard standing area which will allow teenagers to learn the dynamics of relationships and understand what constitute a good friendship which helps youngsters to make successful relationship choice in the future.

Therefore, the Parish Council will spend the Open Space Capital Sum of £26,655.00 on a Teenage Shelter in an area of the existing play area next to St Martins Village Hall and will be covered by an additional CCTV from the Village Hall.

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**Reference:** 23/05518/FUL (validated: 22/12/2023)

**Address:** Bryn Awelon, Rhyn Lane, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7AY

**Proposal:** Proposed new single-storey rear extension to an existing dwelling

**Parish Council Decision: Support.**  
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Parish  
Clerk

**013/01/24.C Shropshire Council (SC).**

Shropshire Cllr Steve Davenport reported that one of the main priority projects for the parish council is still safety issues at Escob Bridge. Unfortunately, the water leak just before this bridge is from a spring which requires major work to repair that will involve road closures. A suitable date has yet to be agreed.

Cllr Steve  
Davenport

Cllrs expressed concern over the lack information available on the design of the work planned at Stans Roundabout in two weeks' time. Cllr Sue Schofield said she had received at least three phone calls from residents expressing concern over the night road closures in this area while the alterations to this roundabout are carried out.

**014/01/24.C Arthan's Pond/Allotments**

**To receive** a progress report from the Chairman on the future management of Arthan's Pond/Allotments.

*Agreed to move this item to the end of the meeting.*

**015/01/24.C Funding various projects through CIL.**

The Chairman reported that it was agreed that he would meet with Shropshire Officers "in the New Year" to work through application forms specific to Escob Bridge. He wrote to the lead officer Ffion Horton on 3rd January giving various dates for when they could meet. The outcome is ABSOLUTE SILENCE - which of course is most dispiriting, but not unexpected based on previous communications.

Cllr Steve  
Davenport

**016/01/24.C North Shropshire MP Helen Morgan**

We continue to forward any areas of concern to Helen Morgan MP

**017/01/24.C Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)**

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

**018/01/24.C Correspondence**

There were no items of correspondence.

**019/01/24.C Members Reports**

Cllr Helen Williams reported that all the white paint has now gone from the mini roundabout at the junction of Overton Road and the road to Gobowen adjacent to St Martins School. As we have many safety issues at this junction Shropshire Councils Highways would be asked for their urgent attention to having this painted white again as soon as possible.

Parish Clerk

Cllr Natalie Rowley expressed concern over parking issues by the school. There seems to be an increase of parents at the start and end of the school day now parking on the grass verges depositing mud on the road when leaving and damaging the grass verges. Cllr Alan Langley added that there also seems to be an increase during the day of visitors coming into school and parking on the road and laybys adjacent to the school when there are adequate spaces in the school main car park. The Head of the school would be notified of these concerns and asked if she could look into these issues and advise what steps, if possible, can be taken to resolve these issues.

Parish Clerk

Cllr Sophie Hughes-Saunier reported that the 3P footpath group didn't meet in December due to poor weather. They will be meeting on Sunday 14th January at 4 Firs Close.

**020/01/24.C Next Meeting**

Next meeting Full Council on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024 @ 19.00 in St Martins Village Hall.

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

***Resolved: that the press and public are excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 due to the confidential nature of the matter to be discussed.***

**014/01/24.C Arthan's Pond/Allotments**

The Chairman reported on the future management of Arthan's Pond/Allotments.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, and declared the meeting closed at 20.44 pm.

Signed ..... Date .....