

## St Martins Parish Council

Minutes of a Meeting of the St Martins Parish Council held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 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, Sue Schofield, George Smith, and Helen Williams.

Also in attendance, Shropshire Cllr Steve Davenport, two members of the police and four members of the public and the Parish Clerk.

### 074/04/24.C Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Andrew Cast and Natalie Rowley.

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

Parish  
Clerk

### 075/04/24.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. Cllr Sophie Hughes-Saunier declared an interest in item 065/03/24 (Allotments).

### 076/04/24.C Parish Council Casual Vacancy

There are now three vacancies on the parish council. Further notices would be put up, including an article in the parish newsletter.

### 077/04/24.C Minutes

**Resolved:** with five abstentions that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024 having been previously circulated be approved and adopted as a true record.

Chairman

### 078/04/24.C Urgent Items

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

### 079/04/24.C Public Session

Keith Butterton thanked the Parish Council for their recent grant towards the Graham Edwards Memorial Football Tournament in aid of Leukemia research. No other members of the public present wished to raise any issues therefore the council moved onto the next agenda item.

**080/04/24.C Parish Clerks Progress Report**

Still no response from Sue Lovecy, Head of St Martins School on several issues raised at the last meeting over safety issues and parking outside the school. All other progress issues were covered on agenda items.

**081/04/24.C Police Report**

The latest police report (March) had been received and circulated to all Cllr's prior to the meeting. Following Cllr's concern over the increase in the number of various incidents recorded in the monthly police report, Michael Hogg who was the newly appointed neighbourhood officer for Oswestry Rural North which covers our area, who was in attendance with PCSO David Hughes explained that only four incidents were crime related and in some incidents were from people outside the parish. They now hoped to carry out more visits to the parish.

Concern was raised over the speed of traffic taking a shortcut down School Lane and Cottage Lane. Investigations would be made to see if these areas could be classified as 'Quite Lane Status'

*Cllr Sophie Hughes-Saunier joined the meeting at 19.15.*

**082/04/24.C St Martins Recreation Partnership**

The following update report had been received from the Project Manager on the MUGA project.

Engagement with the school pupils (survey completion / usage feedback) is almost concluded: I attended 2 assemblies (Yrs 10 & 11 and Yrs 7 & 8) to share our project outline and their opinions of whether they would use a MUGA outside of school hours. Each pupil will be given an opportunity to complete the full paper questionnaire / online version by the middle of next week; at which point I can conclude the survey upload / analysis to report back to the PC and The 3-18 Education Trust. The assemblies were enlightening: not quite, but almost 50 of the 4 year groups were not interested in having a MUGA available! I found this astounding and would suggest that club usage is more likely than family/friends usage is the way forward. I will present the full findings in due course but thought that snapshot was worth sharing.

I have received 2 MUGA supplier company's proposals (3<sup>rd</sup> company did not attend due to personnel injury – will reconvene the session if required for 3 quotes). Ballpark draft estimates are £450K for just the MUGA/floodlights ie. not including any planning, project management, other specialist services fees. I will share these with Duncan (only got the second quote yesterday!) and we can understand whether the specification is appropriate or whether a cheaper installation would suffice. In addition, I am scheduling a meeting with St Martins School to determine minimum curriculum requirements; plus other "wish list" items which we should explore if possible within our chosen specification.

Parish  
Clerk

Uploading of the paper questionnaires continues; thank you to Helen for manning a table at the School Parents evening last month and gathering more questionnaire replies.

The Chairman & I have been following up on a comment made by a villager, when we were in Stan's gathering questionnaire replies, stating that the Ifton Miners Institute for Welfare & Recreation Ground (IMIWRG) should be available, in perpetuity, for recreational facilities for the village. We attended an initial introductions meeting with Institute Trustees to try to understand whether an opportunity exists to create future outdoor facilities on the footprint; particularly whether funding grants may be available from The Coal Mining Charity (CISWO). The Trustees have limited knowledge of current status and we await more information from their planned April meeting with a CISWO representative.

**083/04/24.C Highway Issues**

Still a number of pot holes that have recently been reported have yet to be repaired including the state of the mud on the road in Bradford Lane and damage to the grass verges in this area, reported at the last meeting.

Parish Clerk

Still no progress report on any investigations taking place on the safety issues at Escob Bridge.

**084/04/24.C St Martins Amenities Fund**

Although the Parish Council had received three quotations for extra four weekly grass cutting in the village, due to the lack of Shropshire Council not sticking to their schedule of cuts, a decision was deferred. The Parish Clerk would try and arrange a site meeting with the new Shropshire Council Alliance Executive Lead Manager for Street Scene, who had been in post since 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024. This may prove difficult as at present he was based in Devon.

Parish Clerk

The Chairman had obtained costing for replacement damaged street nameplates of £180 each. Agreed to purchase these as and when required.

Parish Clerk

**085/04/24.C Street Lighting**

Scottish Power had still to connect power to the streetlight on Overton Road at the entrance to Garden Village and one in Mount Bradford Lane.

Parish Clerk

Shropshire Council are to check the poor standard of erecting the new streetlights on Overton & Ellesmere Roads. The main issue was that columns are not set up vertically. They have confirmed that the old redundant columns on Ellesmere Road will be removed by the end of the month.

Parish Clerk

Highline Electrical have also confirmed that the new lights in School Lane will be installed by the end of the month.

Parish Clerk

**086/04/24.C Financial Matters****Accounts for Payment**

BACS	Staff	Salary & Expenses	£1014.76
BACS	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£301.10
BACS	Nigel Thomas	Play Area Inspections	£26.00
BACS	Huw Manford	Litter Picking, etc.	£304.25
BACS	Stans Superstore	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr. Field Lease	£375.00
BACS	Coombe Management	Consultancy Work	£1290.00
BACS	St Martins Village Hall	Room Hire	£264.00
BACS	Cllr Vivienne Fisher	Land Registry Query	£30.00
DR	HSBC	Bank Charges	£8.00
DD	Veolia	Bin Emptying	£35.93

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

Parish Clerk

The year end bank reconciliation (subject to internal audit) was noted.  
A grant request from St Martins Allotments Association was deferred.

**087/04/24.C Planning**

**To consider** any planning applications deferred from the last meeting.

**Reference:** 24/00502/FUL (validated: 15/02/2024)

**Address:** Smithy Cottage, Overton Road, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire,

**Proposal:** Erection of detached garage

**Parish Council Decision: Support**

Parish Clerk

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**Reference:** 24/00628/OUT (validated: 21/02/2024)

**Address:** 55 New Ifton, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3AE

**Proposal:** Erection of single two storey detached dwelling

**Parish Council Decision: Support.**

Parish Clerk

**Schedule of additional planning applications**

**To comment** on planning applications not listed above that are received after the date of publication of this agenda due to response time frames set by Shropshire Council.

**Reference:** 24/01317/OUT (validated: 01/04/2024)

**Address:** Land Adj Sunnyside, Ellesmere Road, St Martins, SY11 3BT

**Proposal:** Outline planning application (all matters reserved) for the erection of up to 2 x dwellinghouses and associated works.

**Parish Council Decision:** Object on the grounds over over-development on what is a relatively small area of land and with a clear lack of outside space for residents. It was noted that the whole area had been cleared prior to the application, which was contrary to custom and practice with similar developments. Various precise points were noted, and questions posed to assessing Shropshire officers within our response.

Parish Clerk

The following planning decisions were noted.

**Reference:** 24/00107/FUL (validated: 24/01/2024)

**Address:** 102 New Ifton, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3AJ

**Proposal:** Proposed pitched garage roof to existing garage and installation of flush mounted pv panels

**Decision:** **Grant Permission**

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**Reference:** 24/00502/FUL (validated: 15/02/2024)

**Address:** Smithy Cottage, Overton Road, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3AS

**Proposal:** Erection of detached garage

**Decision:** **Grant Permission**

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**Reference:** 24/00439/FUL (validated: 09/02/2024)

**Address:** Pretoria House, Kimberley Lane, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3BB

**Proposal:** Erection of dwelling and garage with new vehicular access

**Decision:** **Grant Permission**

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**Reference:** 24/00260/FUL (validated: 23/01/2024)

**Address:** Greenfields Farm, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3HH

**Proposal:** Single storey side extensions and new oak frame porch to the front elevation

**Decision:** Withdrawn

**088/04/24.C Shropshire Council (SC).**

Shropshire Cllr Steve Davenport reported that Shropshire Council had started to clear the footpath from Gobowen to St Martins so that pram and wheelchair users can use it. He had received a request for a bus shelter on the corner of Moors Lane and he was chasing up the issue of flooding following the improvement work on the corner of Ellesmere and Overton Roads.

**089/04/24.C Arthan's Pond/Allotments**

The draft lease had been given to the Allotments Officers. Various issues were noted. The Officers had taken the lease away for consideration and response by their professional advisors. Until the lease is agreed and signed, we were content to allow them access. However, until the lease is signed, we cannot consider their recent application for grant support.

**090/04/24.C Funding various projects through CIL**

The Chairman gave the following update. As you will know, this matter has been laborious in the extreme and with direct discussions going back to November. There have been continual exchanges of correspondence over the period, and I have kept fellow Councillors and Edward up to date with everything. The recent developments are as follows: On 22 March I received an email from Shropshire Officer Rosie Corner as follows: I have the costs back from WSP:

The Feasibility Report would be circa £30,000. This includes a comprehensive report informed by a multi-disciplinary investigation that addresses the following concerns as identified by Shropshire Cllr Davenport and the Parish:

- Escob Bridge – review of the structural integrity of the asset;
- Escob Bridge – transport modelling review;
- Escob Bridge – investigation into recorded travelling speeds and usage;
- Escob Bridge – investigation into the feasibility of installing an arrangement of permanent signals (‘Shuttle System’) on the bridge;
- Escob Bridge – review into the existing traffic calming and speeding arrangements in the immediate vicinity of the bridge;
- Escob Bridge – Road Safety Stage 1 audit;
- Escob Bridge – area wide review of signage;
- Escob Bridge – checking & reviews.

I am currently in discussions with the core members of SC’s Internal Infrastructure Group to provide feedback on the potential for CIL funding for this project. I will report back as soon as I am able. That same day I responded:

Everything is noted and understood. From my side, our next Council meeting is on 11th April and is the time we identify and allocate our finance budgets for the forthcoming year. It would be wonderful if you could provide the result from the Internal Infrastructure Group before that date. It would certainly help us in being precise with our forecasting, especially if the CIL funding is approved and allows the feasibility study to proceed.

On 6th April I wrote: You will see from my below mail that an update by 11th April was requested. May I please ask for your response. Our meeting really is the critical one of our year and without your kind guidance, we may find ourselves with all kinds of problems.

On 8th April the following was received. We will be responding to you with feedback from the Internal Infrastructure Group (IIG) as soon as possible.

Please note that due to the governance procedures which are in place, all the IIG will be able to give at this stage an indication of whether or not an Expression of Interest for CIL Local is likely to succeed **when the CIL Local fund reopens for bids.**

We have been in close discussion for over 6 months and at every stage, Cllr Davenport and I have pressed and pressed for action. Can I advise that at NO TIME has anybody commented that this CIL Local Fund was date sensitive or closing or had closed for bids. It is mightily frustrating to now read the words: It is as if the inaction by Shropshire Officers was intentional; they knew of the key fact and decided that doing nothing would suit whatever procedures they use.

**091/04/24.C North Shropshire MP Helen Morgan**

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

**092/04/24.C Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)**

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

**093/04/24.C Correspondence**

There were no items of correspondence.

**094/04/24.C Members Reports**

Cllrs reported the following,  
Broken grid in Cottage Lane.  
Now registered over 100 users of the Voluntary Car Scheme since Christmas.

Parish  
Clerk

**095/04/24.C Next Meeting**

Annual Meeting of St Martins Parish Council on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024@  
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 20.30 pm.

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

Chairman