

St Martins Parish Council

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the St Martins Parish Council held on Thursday 13th June 2024 at 7.00 pm in St Martins Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllr's Neil Arthan, Andrew Cast, Nigel Court, Vivienne Fisher, Mark Hayball, Sophie Hughes-Saunier, Duncan Laing, Nina Mistry, Natalie Rowley, Sue Schofield, and George Smith.

Also in attendance, two members of the Public, Tessa Lanstein from Coombe Management and the Parish Clerk.

122/06/24.C Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr's Alan Langley and Helen Williams and Shropshire Cllr Steve Davenport.

Proposed, seconded and carried that these apologies are accepted.

Action

Parish Clerk

123/06/24.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.**

124/06/24.C Appointment of a Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuring municipal year.

Resolved: that Cllr Sue Schofield is appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council for the ensuring municipal Year. Cllr Sue Schofield then signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

125/06/24.C Parish Council Casual Vacancies

The Chairman welcomed our new Councillor Nigel Court. He thanked him for his commitment and knows that we will all enjoy working with and alongside him. Cllr Nigel Court then signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and his Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.

The Parish Clerk reminded Cllr's that there were still two vacancies on the Council.

Parish Clerk

126/06/24.C Minutes

Resolved: with three abstentions that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 9th of May 2024 having been previously circulated be approved and adopted as a true record.

Chairman

127/06/24.C Urgent Items

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

128/06/24.C Public Session

A member of the public asked for an update on the recreation partnership, especially the proposed 4G football pitch. Tessa Lanstein from Coombe Management said that she had been working with the Football Foundation (FF) for the past two years to get a full-sized pitch with a price tag of around 1.2m. Unfortunately, there was now no funding available from the FF. Following a recent survey there was still a demand for a MUGA which she was looking at prices and location with representatives from the school.

The owner of the Brynkinalt Estate stated that 12 acres of land promised by Brynkinalt Estate is subject to a legally binding S.106 agreement with Shropshire Council. The land is to be utilised by the Parish Council for community benefit and will be occupied on a 999-year lease. The detailed use of the land and the funding for the development is, and has always been, the responsibility of the Parish Council to arrange through various routes of funding. The land has been given for free.

He added that he understands it, the Parish Council's initial priority of developing a football pitch on the donated ground has proved difficult to fund and as a result they are now focusing on a MUGA. He said he would be delighted to attend a community meeting on this. In addition to the 12 acres of land donated to the community Brynkinalt has paid £725,000 in Community Infrastructure Levy to Shropshire Council.

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their interest and contribution to this project and Tessa Lanstein for her update. All three then left the meeting.

129/06/24.C Parish Clerk's Progress Report

These had all been covered under this month's agenda items.

Cllr Nina Mistry joined the meeting at 7.35 pm.

130/06/24.C Police Report

The latest police report has been circulated to all Cllr's prior to the meeting. In the absence of any police officers, the Chairman responded as follows to the request to consider any recommendations from SNT to try and put measures in place to make it safer for pupils at drop off/pick up times at the school.

The Chairman stated that he has been in contact with Derek Buchanan the head of Highways at Shropshire Council. He understands the need to improve safety at the school. He is supportive of any project. Specific to him is the re-signing of the Bus Stop to stop cars parking in the area and to stop them also parking on the pavement.

He promised faithfully to give an update to me last week and ready for this meeting. Despite me sending an extra “reminder email” there remains silence from his side.

I also received an email from our local PCSO Dave Hughes advising that he had spoken to the school and suggested that we work together to provide wooden planters which could be positioned along the edges of the grass verges. He wanted some kind of financial support for the purchases and advised that the school should handle the planting and maintenance. I immediately responded in positive terms but asked Dave for more information as to what would be our likely contribution. Despite that approach and 2 further emails, no response has been received.

131/06/24.C St Martins Recreation Partnership

This item had been covered under item 128/06.24.C

132/06/24.C Highway Issues

The Parish Clerk reported that all highway issues raised at the last meeting and on ones raised by Cllr’s since the last meeting are now recorded on the latest version of FixMyStreet. These are now being monitored.

Parish Clerk

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

Parish Clerk

133/06/24.C St Martins Amenities Fund

The Parish Clerk reported that following further discussions with Juan Hernandez, Shropshire Council’s new Alliance Executive Lead Manager for Street Scene, KIER will carry out their final cut on selected amenity and grass verge areas as soon as possible so that our appointed contractor can start work on our Pilot/Trial scheme based on a two-week cycle of cuts. This will be closely monitored. An overall measure of success will be to reduce the total number of service request and enquiries from their current level by carrying out a resident satisfaction survey with standards achieved, overall level of performance in line with the specification and overall environmental impact.

Parish Clerk

134/06/24.C Street Lighting

The Parish Clerk reported that all the redundant street lighting columns on Ellesmere Road had now been removed but still some outstanding on Overton Road.

Parish Clerk

New streetlights installed in Cottage Lane and Coopers Lane, were now working.

135/06/24.C Financial Matters

Accounts for Payment (These had all been approved by the Chairman of Finance prior to the meeting)

BACS	Staff	Salary & Expenses	£986.57
BACS	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£301.30
BACS	Nigel Thomas	Play Area Inspections	£26.00
BACS	Huw Manford	Litter Picking, etc.	£319.55
BACS	Clear Councils	Insurance	£1090.98
BACS	St Martins Village H	Room Hire	£24.00
BACS	Shropshire Council	Street Lighting Energy	£1128.48
BACS	SALC	Affiliation Fees	£1389.97
BACS	Neil Rheade	Hanging Baskets Etc	£1078.00
DR	HSBC	Bank Charges	£8.00
DD	Veolia	Bin Emptying	£53.89

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

Parish
Clerk

136/06/24.C

Planning

To consider the following application deferred from the last meeting.

Reference: 24/01433/FUL (validated: 26/04/2024)

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

Proposal: Extensions to main house and change of use part of paddock to domestic curtilage.

Parish Council Decision: Support

To consider the following applications.

Reference: 24/01911/FUL (validated: 15/05/2024)

Address: 12 Moors Bank, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7BE

Proposal: Single storey extension to rear together with internal alterations

Parish Council Decision: Support

Reference: 24/02033/FUL (validated: 24/05/2024)

Address: 9 Glynmorlas, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3EE

Proposal: Proposed removal of existing store and replacement with timber and reclaimed brick and slate side extension to create lounge and dining room

Parish Council Decision: Support

To receive and comment as necessary on the planning decisions and recommendations of the planning authority listed in the schedule below.

Reference: 24/01433/FUL (validated: 26/04/2024)

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

Proposal: Extensions to main house and change of use part of paddock to domestic curtilage.

Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: 24/01583/FUL (validated: 22/04/2024)

Address: 56 Greenfields, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3AH

Proposal: Single storey extension to the rear to assist living conditions for a disabled occupant

Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: 24/01585/FUL (validated: 22/04/2024)

Address: 56 Greenfields, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3AH

Proposal: Two storey extension to side to assist living conditions for a disabled occupant

Decision: Grant Permission

137/06/24.C Shropshire Council.

Shropshire Cllr Steve Davenport had sent his apologies.

138/06/24.C Biodiversity Policy

Resolved with one abstention to adopt a St Martins Parish Council Biodiversity Policy (Previously circulated)

139/06/24.C Arthan's Pond/Allotments

The Chairman gave a progress report on the future management of Arthan's Pond/Allotments. The Allotments Association have received the revised Contract, but nothing more has been progressed. He has again written to Mr. Philbin of Oswestry Pools but again, zero response.

Chairman

140/06/24.C Funding various projects through CIL

The Chairman gave the following report on the current position of funding various projects in the parish through CIL. You will all have received the response from Mr. Edward West of Shropshire Council which was extremely negative towards our approach to working with them regarding safety improvements at Escob Bridge. With all the previous positive vibes from Shropshire Officers and County Councillors, I was extremely disappointed with his comments. I copied Councillor Steve Davenport in on my mail to you all and he has now written to myself and Mr. West, requesting a site meeting as he cannot accept the position. I am also going to involve Councillor Chris Schofield who is the Portfolio holder for highways in this area. Therefore, can we please place this matter in abeyance until matters progress outside of this chamber.

Chairman

141/06/24.C North Shropshire MP Helen Morgan

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

Parish Clerk

142/06/24.C Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)

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

143/06/24.C Members Reports

A pothole was reported in School Lane at its junction with Overton Road.

An update was received on the current position over Shropshire Councils Rights of Way Officers.

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Natalie Rowley on her appointment as a candidate in the forthcoming General Election.

144/06/24.C Next Meeting

Next meeting Full Council on Thursday 11th July 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 20.28 pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date