

### St Martins Parish Council

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

**PRESENT:** Cllr's Nigel Court, Mark Hayball, Sophie Hughes-Saunier, Natalie Rowley, Sue Schofield and Helen Williams.

Also in attendance, Shropshire Cllr Steve Davenport, three members of the Public and the Parish Clerk.

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman Cllr Sue Schofield took the chair. The start of the meeting was delayed by five minutes as at the appointed start time the meeting was not quorate.

145/07/24.C	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr's Neil Arthan, Andrew Cast, Vivienne Fisher, Duncan Laing, Alan Langley, Nina Mistry and George Smith.	Action
	<b>Proposed, seconded and carried that these apologies are accepted.</b>		Parish Clerk
146/07/24.C	<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations</b>	<p>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. <b>None received.</b></p> <p>b) To consider any applications for dispensation. <b>None received.</b></p> <p>c) Declaration of any other interests in the agenda items. <b>None received.</b></p>	
147/07/24.C	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Resolved:</b> with one abstention that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> of June 2024 having been previously circulated be approved and adopted as a true record.	Chairman
148/07/24.C	<b>Urgent Items</b>	The Parish Clerk reported that he had received another application for one of the two casual vacancies on the parish council. This was from Peter Holmes whose application had been circulated to all Cllr's prior to the meeting.	
	<b>Resolved:</b> with one abstention that Peter Holmes's application is approved.		Parish Clerk
	The Chairman then welcomed Peter Holmes to the meeting who then signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and his Declarations of Interest and Dispensations.		
	There were no other urgent items that related to financial, health and safety issues or issues that required immediate attention.		

**149/07/24.C Public Session**

Two members of the public explained their background to a proposed application to build a property in the village. Both had local connections and families in the village. Cllrs supported this proposed development subject to seeing the full planning application.

**150/07/24.C Parish Clerk's Progress Report**

The play area adjacent to St Martins Village Hall receives a fortnightly inspection by a qualified RoSPA inspector. RoSPA also carry out an Annual Inspection in June and as a result they picked up a loose safety map under one of the swings. As a result, on Health & Safety grounds this swing has been removed and Ray Parry Playgrounds have been instructed to look at what repairs are required before this swing can be put back in place.

Cllr Vivienne Fisher has reported that the health group in Oswestry doesn't exist now, and to be fair it was a bit dysfunctional . A soon as the election is over, I will email the elected M.P. as they chair the meeting.

In addition, she has been asked to join the Plas Ffynon Patient Participation group in Oswestry. She is going to attend the first meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July which she hopes will be more proactive.

Our thanks go again this year to Neil Rheade for planting up our hanging baskets and the Memorial Garden. Thanks also go to Mark Birch ad NoCole Chilvers who carry out the weekly watering of these baskets.

Received an automated message to notify me that we (PKF Littlejohn-External Auditors) have received and logged the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Form 3 for St Martins Parish Council and the AGAR is now in the queue for processing.

Several complaints had been received over disturbances to residents on the Morlas Meadows Estate concerning children accessing the school through this estate. This situation is being monitored.

**151/07/24.C Police Report**

The latest police report has been circulated to all Cllr's prior to the meeting.

Our chairman had forwarded the following report on what measures can be put in place to make it safer for pupils at drop off/pick up times at the school. Over the past 5 weeks I have communicated with Derek Buchanan the Head of Highways at Shropshire Council. 4 weeks ago, during a telephone conversation, he promised faithfully to respond with his observations and plans as to how Shropshire would address the issue of cars parking in the Bus Stop by the school. One week passed and as I had not received any communication, I again wrote; he apologized for the delay and again faithfully promised to respond to me within the following 7 days.

That date passed but without any communication. I again wrote on 28th June, but my email was immediately actioned with a “Sorry but I am now on holiday” and it pointed me towards his deputy Harry Guest (a person that he had previously advised was being involved and was included with emails).

So, on 1st July I wrote to Harry asking for an update and expressing my concern as to the continual delays. Harry responded to me on Monday 8th giving suggestions for how lessening traffic parking in the Bus Stop next to the school could be achieved and I have asked for more precise details.

Now to Sue Lovecy Headmistress from the school.

On 19th June, following an exchange of positive information between ourselves, I asked for a date when we could meet to progress her request for financial support for the installation of large planters for the verges around the roadside.

Shropshire Cllr Steve Davenport also expressed his support in a round-robin email. On 8th July Ms. Lovecy responded and we have agreed to meet on site this coming Monday. It is inevitable that she will want to progress our previous outline support for the provision of planters. The basis of the initial enquiry was that if this Parish Council could assist in the purchase (and here I imagine that the “assistance” equates to “can we fully fund”), then the school would provide both the initial planting and ongoing upkeep and maintenance.

My personal position is that the scheme is a perfect ‘Public / Private Partnership’ and ticks all the boxes for our involvement and support within village activities. I am also aware that it would be good to get something in place before the children return to school after the summer holidays.

My request of Council tonight is that we agree to fund the planters (even without a precise cost) and use our existing reserves from our substantial Amenities Fund pot. It would then allow me to approach my meeting with Ms. Lovecy in a proactive and positive manner and show that our Parish Council is supportive of the school and their pupils and for us to simply agree on the type and quality of planters we would order. This was agreed.

Parish  
Clerk

**152/07/24.C St Martins Recreation Partnership**

There was no report.

**153/07/24.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. Wrekin Housing Trust would be asked to attend to a hedge at no’s 7 to 13 Ceirog Way. This hedge was recently cut on the property inside by their maintenance team. However, the other side that backs onto a footpath adjacent to Overton Road was not cut, and as a result pedestrians must now walk on the highway to avoid it.

Parish  
Clerk

Parish  
Clerk

**154/07/24.C St Martins Amenities Fund**

The Parish Clerk reported that our appointed contractor has already started work on our Pilot/Trial scheme based on a two-week cycle of cuts. This is now being closely monitored in line with the specification and overall environmental impact.

Parish Clerk

**155/07/24.C Street Lighting**

It was reported that light no 20 on Overton Road was still not working.

Parish Clerk

**156/07/24.C Financial Matters**

**Accounts for Payment**

BACS	Nicola Chilvers	Watering Contract	£900.00
BACS	Staff	Salary & Expenses	£1009.07
BACS	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£301.30
BACS	Nigel Thomas	Play Area Inspections	£26.00
BACS	Huw Manford	Litter Picking, etc.	£334.55
BACS	A G Royce	Grass Cutting Pilot	£595.00
BACS	St Martins Village	H Room Hire	£24.00
BACS	Stans Superstore	2 <sup>nd</sup> Qtr. Field Lease	£375.00
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

**Income**

CCLA	June Reinvestment	£1,859.42
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**157/07/24.C Planning**

**To consider** the following application,

**Reference:** 24/02151/FUL (validated: 06/06/2024)

**Address:** Conversion Of Agricultural Building At Wigginton Grange, Wigginton, St Martins, Shropshire

**Proposal:** Conversion of redundant agricultural outbuilding into a dwelling.

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

**Address:** Proposed Residential Development Land NE Of Sunnyside, Ellesmere Road, St Martins, Shropshire

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

**Decision: Grant Permission**

**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

**Decision:** Grant Permission

**158/07/24.C Shropshire Council.**

Shropshire Cllr Steve Davenport had sent his apologies.

Cllr's raised the outstanding issues over installing a one-way system on Kimberley Lane, the poor condition of Colliery Road and 20mph zone outside the school.

**159/07/24.C Arthan's Pond/Allotments**

The Chairman had forwarded the following progress report on the future management of Arthan's Pond/Allotments.

We submitted a revised lease to the Association some time back. They apologized for a delay in responding. Last week I received a response with their comments and noting many requiring changes.

It is most frustrating that the Association seems to think that THEY are leading the terms of the Lease, not this Council.

In a spirit of cooperation and attempting to support the group, I have submitted their observations back to our legal advisors and await their comments.

Chairman

**160/07/24.C Funding various projects through CIL**

The Chairman had forwarded the following report on the current position of funding various projects in the parish through CIL.

There is nothing more to report since our last meeting. It is hoped that I, together with Shropshire Cllr Steve Davenport, can arrange to meet Shropshire Officer Edward West to discuss his seeming rejection of works at Escob Bridge and funding via their extremely large CIL funding pot.

Chairman

**161/07/24.C Foodbank**

Cllr Vivienne Fisher had enquired through the Parish Clerk why our village foodbank had closed as she would be willing to help have another one set up. The Rev David Cassidy had stated in an email that the foodbank in Gobowen had been helping a family of 7 from St Martins for some time and asked if there was any way St Martins PC could help them financially.

**Resolved: to make a grant of £200 towards Gobowen Foodbank.**

Cllrs added that there was also the Oswestry & Borders Foodbank.

Parish  
Clerk

**162/07/24.C Rights of Way**

Cllr Sophie Hughes-Saunier gave an update report on work on the footpaths in the parish including a programme of replacement ‘Kissing Gates’ including costings. Agreed in principle that funding for these would come from our CIL fund.

Cllr  
Sophie  
Hughes-  
Saunier

**163/07/24.C Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)**

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

**164/07/24.C Correspondence**

No correspondence had been received that had not been included in any of the above agenda items.

**165/07/24.C Members Reports**

There were no reports.

**166/07/24.C Next Meeting**

Next meeting Full Council on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September 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