

St Martins Parish Council

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the St Martins Parish Council held on Thursday 10th October 2024 at 7.00 pm in St Martins Village Hall.

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

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

189/10/24.C	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr's Neil Arthan, Andrew Cast, Peter Holmes, Alan Langley and Nina Mistry.</p>	Action
	<p>Proposed, seconded and carried that these apologies are accepted.</p>	Parish Clerk
190/10/24.C	<p>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations</p> <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. None received.</p> <p>b) To consider any applications for dispensation. None received.</p> <p>c) Declaration of any other interests in the agenda items. None received.</p>	Parish Clerk
191/10/24.C	<p>Parish Council Vacancies</p> <p>A notice had been put up in the notice boards advertising the vacancy following the resignation of Cllr Vivienne Fisher.</p>	
192/10/24.C	<p>Minutes</p> <p>Resolved: with one abstention that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 12th of September 2024 having been previously circulated be approved and adopted as a true record.</p>	Chairman
193/10/24.C	<p>Urgent Items</p> <p>There were no urgent items that related to financial, health and safety issues or issues that required immediate attention.</p>	
194/10/24.C	<p>Public Session</p> <p>One member of the public explained their background to a proposed planning application in Moors Lane to erect a two-storey rear extension to their property while another member of the public explained their reasons for the erection of a replacement dwelling following the demolition of existing property at Ifton Heath.</p>	

195/10/24.C Parish Clerk's Progress Report

Repairs to the safety matting under one of the swings and a replacement board to one of the skateboard equipment had been repaired.

A meeting is scheduled for next week with the Atlas Tower Group to look at suitable sites for mobile masts in the village.

Discussions are still taking place with Shropshire Council over the state of Ifton Meadows including the increase in cattle in this area, which are not all Dexters.

A Cllr paid tribute to John Sands, a long-standing Cllr who had recently passed away.

196/10/24.C Police Report

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

Cllrs confirmed that their main police parish priorities were the same as previously reported in September, Speeding of Traffic through the village, Vehicles parking on and blocking pavements and lack of visible police presence in the parish. There was also the concern over drug use and distribution in the Village.

Parish
Clerk

The Chairman reported that during recent discussions with PC Mike Hogg a new type of video speed device was mentioned which unfortunately West Mercia had only one for their whole area. Agreed that we should enquire whether these devices could be purchased, and at what price, shared between our adjoining parishes and whether they could be operated by our speed watch team or restricted to the police.

Parish
Clerk

The Chairman added that the 14 planters are due to be delivered tomorrow and placed at intervals along the grass verge adjacent to the school. This should eliminate the parking of parents parking in this area at the beginning and close of the school day and go a long way to improving safety in this area.

Chairman

197/10/24.C Highway Issues

The Parish Clerk reported that he was in negotiations with Shropshire Council following a concern from a resident because after eight years Orchard Close, off Cottage Lane had not yet been adopted.

Parish
Clerk

Another complaint had been received from a resident on the lack of road sweeping in the village, although some areas had been swept early this week.

Parish
Clerk

198/10/24.C St Martins Amenities Fund

A meeting was held earlier this week with Juan Hernandez, Shropshire Council's Alliance Executive Manager, on the progress of the Pilot/Trial grass cutting scheme. He was now working on a report which subject to our providing some additional evidence from residents on the improved performance of this service, then we would be able to appoint a contractor for a three-year period.

Parish
Clerk

They had not yet appointed their own contractor for next year, but indications were that they would only have the finances to carry out a monthly cut.

199/10/24.C Street Lighting

It was reported that several lights owned by Shropshire Council along Overton Road and Ellesmere Road were either not working or the timing was out. Shropshire Council would be asked to carry out an emergency check of all these lights before the clocks change at the end of this month.

Parish Clerk

Following the recent annual survey of all the street lighting owned by the parish council, by Highline Electrical, they have now been asked to provide a quotation for the lights that they highlighted in their report that required immediate action.

Parish Clerk

200/10/24.C Financial Matters

Accounts for Payment

BACS	Staff	Salary & Expenses	£1110.32
BACS	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£301.30
BACS	Nigel Thomas	Play Area Inspections	£26.00
BACS	Huw Manford	Litter Picking, etc.	£319.55
BACS	Coombe Manage't	Consultancy Work	£660.00
BACS	Ray Parry	Play Area Repairs	£4,188.00
BACS	Vision ICT	Website Email Address	£24.00
BACS	St Martins Village H	Room Hire	£24.00
BACS	Stans Superstore	3 rd 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	September Reinvestment	£1,820.84.
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201/10/24.C Planning

To consider the following application,

Reference: 24/03645/FUL (validated: 23/09/2024)

Address: 1 Sunnyside, Gledrid, Chirk, Wrexham, Shropshire, LL14 5DL

Proposal: Proposed oak framed front porch with new entrance doorway and reconfigured front boundary wall. New window to first floor bedroom to match existing bathroom window.

Parish Council Decision: Support

Reference: 24/03602/FUL (validated: 20/09/2024)

Address: 2 Moors Lane, St Martins Moor, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7BQ

Proposal: Erection of two storey rear extension, re-roofing, re-rendering and insulation of existing walls following demolition of conservatory and utility.

Parish Council Decision: Support

Reference: 24/03619/FUL (validated: 19/09/2024)

Address: Malthouse, Ifton Heath, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3DL

Proposal: Erection of replacement dwelling following demolition of existing together with alterations and improvements to existing vehicular access

Parish Council Decision: Support

Cllr's noted the following planning decision and recommendations of the planning authority listed in the schedule below.

Reference: 24/02632/FUL (validated: 10/07/2024)

Address: 12 Baytree Close, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3QQ

Proposal: Extension to side and rear of dwelling

Decision: Grant Permission

202/10/24.C Shropshire Council.

Shropshire Cllr Steve Davenport updated the meeting on the following matters,

Mobile coverage in the village.

Double yellow lines outside the school.

Speeding of vehicles, especially by the pedestrian crossing by Stans.

Drainage work carried out recently.

Road patching.

Oil spillage by the school.

Issues over installing a one-way system on Kimberley Lane,

203/10/24.C Funding various projects through CIL.

The Chairman reported on the current position of funding various projects in the parish through CIL. The roadside planters are being delivered tomorrow. All parties have been notified. The school maintenance manager oversees the final location positions. Once positioned they will come under the total control of the school.

Following extensive discussions and communications, Shropshire have at last confirmed that they will shortly issue the TRO (traffic restriction orders) to designate the 3 bus parking areas a "Bus Stops". As previously identified to Council, these will restrict the parking of vehicles other than buses across specific times in the day and week. It is hoped that the orders and associated roadside parking lines will be completed before the end of the year.

It is also expected that the long-awaited Shropshire-led scheme of speed restrictions around the school will be completed in the New Year.

Once that has been completed, I will again meet with the school to evaluate if these measures have improved the safety of their pupils.

As regards Kimberley Lane, we need to consult the residents in this area to agree what can be done, at this stage as a temporary measure, to restrict vehicles using this lane as a 'Rat Run' between Overton Road and Ellesmere Road.

204/10/24.C Rights of Way

The Chairman reported that he had received a follow-up email from Tim Jones at Ridgway Rentals, as follows:

We have not blocked off the existing foot path, as the path ends at Colliery cottage. We have, however, restricted the public from walking up our driveway for health and safety reasons. Because RIDGWAY has a commitment to working with local residents, I did agree that we would endeavor to come up with a plan to give access to walkers across Little Ifton land to colliery road. We also want to do something to minimise local flooding and improve the drainage from the brook. I think this may get worse following the housing development on Overton Road.

I hope to come up with some constructive ideas in the next 2 weeks and will discuss them with you shortly. In the meantime, despite our signs, walkers are walking up our drive, among large HGV lorries waiting to be unloaded. For safety reasons we are constructing a fence alongside the established footpath to Colliery Cottage to encourage walkers not to enter our driveway.

I am sure you will get some complaints, but we are only acting in the best interests of the public and their safety. I hope to be in touch soon, if you need to talk in the meantime just give me a call.

205/10/24.C Member of Parliament

The Chairman and Cllr Helen Williams reported on a recent meeting they with other Town/Parish Council in our area with MP Helen Morgan to discuss the operation of Shropshire Council.

206/10/24.C Arthan's Pond/Allotments

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

He had been in communication with Alison Davie, Chairman of the Allotments Association, who acknowledged my request, via Sophie to have a list of their members to allow us to write directly to them. However, due to her fear of breaching GDPR, she was not minded to accede to my request. I can understand her reluctance. Instead, she has written to each member, seeking their permission for their details to be passed to us. However, she has provided me with the annual fees paid by each member for use of our land. That was extremely kind of her, and it will certainly help us to go forwards.

If the database is provided, then I have a letter waiting to be sent. The basic content is that (1) They will have access to the land without any payment to us until 31st March 2025. (2) Any new agreement will commence 1st April 2025. (3) I see no reason for us to increase the rent above the level that they paid for 2024.

My approach will intentionally be one of friendship and cooperation.

As for the Pond, there is nothing new to report, apart from an approach via our website portal, asking about the area and would we be interested in selling. I replied that the area was not for sale but if there was a genuine interest in taking control of the fishing element, then I would be happy to meet. There had been no further communications from the enquirer.

207/10/24.C Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)

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

208/10/24.C Correspondence

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

209/10/24.C Members Reports

A Cllr said they had received reports of a high-pitched beeping sound coming from the school, this was an issue in the warmer weather when windows were open at night. They suspect it's some form of alarm.

Another resident had shared with them concern over restriction on getting through the public alleyway between Moors Bank and the horse’s field. They had walked it this week and was able to get through unimpeded so they will monitor it.

There was an incident along Overton Road on Thursday, well wishes to the person injured and noted the police were in attendance.

210/10/24.C Next Meeting

Next meeting Full Council on Thursday 14th November 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 20.55 pm.

Signed Date
Chairman