

### St Martins Parish Council

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the St Martins Parish Council held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.00 pm in St Martins Village Hall.

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

Also in attendance, Shropshire Cllr's Steve Davenport, PCSO Peter Roberts, one member of the public and the parish clerk.

001/01/25.C	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	Action
	Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr's Neil Arthan, Andrew Cast, Peter Holmes, Alan Langley and Sue Schofield.	
	<b>Proposed, seconded and carried that these apologies are accepted.</b>	Parish Clerk
002/01/25.C	<b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations</b>	
	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>	
	b) To consider any applications for dispensation. <b>None received.</b>	
	c) Declaration of any other interests in the agenda items. <b>None received.</b>	
003/01/25.C	<b>Parish Council Vacancies</b>	
	The Parish Clerk reported that there were still two vacancies on the parish council. Application forms can be obtained from the Parish Clerk.	
004/01/25.C	<b>Council Minutes</b>	
	<b>Resolved:</b> with two abstentions that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> of December 2024 having been previously circulated be approved and adopted as a true record.	Chairman
005/01/25.C	<b>Urgent Items</b>	
	There were no urgent items that related to financial, health and safety issues or issues that require immediate attention.	
006/01/25.C	<b>Public Session</b>	
	The one member of the public present raised concerns over the state of the roads in the parish regarding excessive speed of vehicles, especially from Moors Lane to the junction by the school. It was pointed out by the Chairman and many Cllr's on the attempts the parish council had taken over many years to reduce the speed through the village including setting up a volunteer speed watch team, speed indicator devices (SID's) on the entrance to the village on all four main roads, a	

20 mph speed limit by the school and West Mercia Police carrying out speed surveys in priority locations. Unfortunately, Shropshire Council require detailed justification before they will consider any action. The Parish Clerk was requested to contract the supplier of the SID's to see if any data is recorded in these devices.

Parish  
Clerk

#### 007/01/25.C **Parish Clerk's Progress Report**

Unfortunately, during the Christmas and New Year period very little gets processed due to Councils and businesses being closed. The Parish Council have agreed to install an additional defibrillator in the village. This is now on order and will be positioned on the outside wall of Lens Fish & Chip Shop. The Parish Council have also agreed to replace the public notice board inside the bus shelter on Ellesmere Road following vandalism to the lock.

#### 008/01/25.C **Police Report**

The latest police report has been circulated to all Cllr's prior to the meeting. Cllrs felt this month's report from the police was again very good. PCSO Peter Roberts updated the meeting on the following,

Speeding would continue to be a focus on the team going into the New Year with hopefully more activity carried out around this priority. Two Speed Surveys have been completed during December, given the time of year and weather lucky to complete, with no offences recorded on the dates completed. Other traffic offences continue to be monitored and action taken where appropriate to combat these issues. During December (and looked at previously) the team have looked at issues around the misuse of the mini roundabout at the Overton Road, Ellesmere Road and Green Lane junctions. 6 vehicles were stopped on one day within the space of 30-40 minutes as drivers had failed to adhere to the roundabout sign / markings. On these occasions verbal warnings were given and all blew negative on breath test. Further patrolling, education and / or enforcement will be taking place at this location as some of the manoeuvres fell below the standard expected of road users.

On drug issues, intelligence and information continues to be collected for any drug issues identified in St Martins and is constantly evolving and being reviewed / assessed. Hi-visibility patrols continue to take place in locations identified as being subject to drug abuse or activities and this will continue to happen, and offenders dealt with appropriately. The Chairman thanked Peter for his attendance and contribution to the meeting. Peter then left the meeting.

#### 009/01/25.C **Highway Issues**

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

Parish  
Clerk

In addition, he was still waiting for Juan Hernandez, Shropshire Council's Alliance Executive Manager to present a report on the Pilot/Trial grass cutting scheme. In addition, we are also waiting for Shropshire Council to provide evidence where their current contractor state that they still cut 6000sq m of grass in the village.

Parish  
Clerk

010/01/25.C

**Kimberley Lane**

The Chairman gave the following progress report on proposals to install improved signage at either end of this lane. The previously discussed suggested signage upgrade was distributed to Harry Guest of Shropshire Highways just before New Year. My email said "This is what we are proposing. If you have any concerns, then please let me know before the end of January. We will issue the works order on 1st February. There will be nothing for you to do".

Chairman

011/01/25.C

**Street Lighting**

Apart from two lights on Overton Road still not working, all other lights owned and maintained by Shropshire Council were now working.

Parish Clerk

012/01/25.C

**Financial Matters****Accounts for Payment**

BACS	Staff	Salary & Expenses	£1189.83
BACS	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£386.25
BACS	Nigel Thomas	Play Area Inspections	£39.00
BACS	Huw Manford	Litter Picking, etc.	£319.55
BACS	St Martins Village H	Room Hire	£24.00
BACS	Highline Electrical	Street Lighting Repairs	£43.20
BACS	Stans Superstore	4 <sup>th</sup> Qtr. Field Lease	£375.00
BACS	A G Royce	Annual Grass & Hedge Cutting	£4468.00
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	December Reinvestment	£1,701.46
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013/01/25.C

**Budget/Precept 2025/2026**

**Resolved to approve the recommendation of the Finance Committee to set a budget of £112,485.00 and a precept of £62,042.00 for the financial year 2025/2026. This again represented a zero increase in the parish precept.**

Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk reported that the shortfall between budget and precept is covered by interest from CCLA and HSBC plus our 2024 proportion of CIL money.

014/01/25.C

**Planning**

**To consider** the following application,

**Reference:** 24/04783/VAR (validated: 19/12/2024)

**Address:** Ifton Hall Farm, Ifton Heath, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3DN

**Proposal:** Variation of Condition No. 2 attached to permission 18/05230/FUL dated 19 August 2019

**Parish Council Decision: Support.**

Parish  
Clerk

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Cllrs noted the following planning decision and recommendation of the planning authority received since the last meeting.

**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 structure

**Decision: Grant Permission**

**015/01/25.C Shropshire Council.**

Shropshire Cllr Steve Davenport updated the meeting on the following matters, Pothole repairs in the parish and an update on the various safety issues planned outside the school.

**016/01/25.C Funding various projects through CIL.**

The Chairman reported that you will recall from my report to the previous meeting about progress on the Puffin Crossing by Stans, funded by Shropshire CIL reserves. Over the Christmas period I received an email from a new officer responsible for CIL funding, showing a generally supportive position and asking if the PC could provide some financial input. Knowing that CIL only covers capital costs and there was a cost element for feasibility, I responded positively and asked for a precise indication of costs. I have not yet received any response.

Chairman

**017/01/25.C Member of Parliament**

There had been no urgent issues since the last meeting that required the attention of our MP Helen Morgan.

**018/01/25.C Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)**

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

**019/01/25.C Correspondence**

There were no additional items of correspondence to report on.

020/01/25.C

**Members Reports**

Scramble bikes were again being reported as a problem up and down Moors Lane.

The Dog Bin had been damaged again at Ifton Meadows.

A Cllr asked for an update on the repairs to the Pinfold.

It was reported on how successful the volunteer car scheme had been and as result more volunteer drivers would be welcome.

Parish  
Clerk

Parish  
Clerk  
Parish  
Clerk

021/01/25.C

**Next Meeting**

Next meeting Full Council on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2025 @ 19.00 in St Martins Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.04 pm.

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date .....

Chairman