

### St Martins Parish Council

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the St Martins Parish Council held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.00 pm in St Martins Village Hall.

**PRESENT:** Cllr's Neil Arthan, Nigel Court, Mark Hayball, Sophie Hughes-Saunier, Craig Jones, Duncan Laing, Steve Morris, Sue Schofield, George Smith and Helen Williams.

Also in attendance, Shropshire Cllr's Steve Davenport and the parish clerk.

068/04/25.C	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr's Andrew Cast, Alan Langley and Natalie Rowley.</p> <p><b>Proposed, seconded and carried that these apologies are accepted.</b> Cllr Peter Holmes apologies were received after the meeting. The police had also forwarded their apologies Cllr Nina Mistry was absent.</p>	Action     Parish Clerk
069/04/25.C	<p><b>Chairman's Report</b></p> <p>The Chairman noted that, as this was the final meeting of our period, he felt it appropriate to thank all councillors for their support and attention across the previous years and gave special thanks to the 3 councillors who were not seeking re-election.</p> <p>He then commented on a matter from the previous meeting and gave clarification on his response to a suggestion from a councillor.</p> <p>He concluded by advising that he would be resigning from the council at the end of the meeting to allow him to focus on seeking election to Shropshire County Council.</p> <p>Cllr Sue Schofield gave on behalf of all the council their appreciation for all the hard work he had put in as Chairman since his election.</p>	
070/04/25.C	<p><b>Declarations of Interest and Dispensations</b></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. <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>	
071/04/25.C	<p><b>Council Minutes</b></p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> that the minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 having been previously circulated be approved and adopted as a true record.</p>	Chairman

072/04/25.C	<b>Public Session</b>	With no members of the public present, the council moved on to the next item of business.	
073/04/25.C	<b>Urgent Items</b>	<p>The Parish Clerk reported that only eight of the existing Cllr's had sent in nomination papers for the elections on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. Therefore, there would be no election. Notices of co-option to fill the seven vacancies would be advertised when authorised by the Returning Officer.</p> <p>Cllr Steve Morris agreed to take over the administration of the parish councils Facebook.</p> <p>There were no other urgent items that related to financial, health and safety issues or issues that require immediate attention.</p>	
074/04/25.C	<b>Parish Clerk's Progress Report</b>	<p>The Parish Clerk reported that there were still several areas of non-progress that are still outstanding from previous meetings.</p> <p>However, Shropshire Councils Parks &amp; Countryside Sites Manager had reported that a team will be on site this week at Ifton Meadows to repair the broken fencing and install a new litter bin. In addition, they will also investigate where the mysterious form is coming from into the stream.</p> <p>Representatives from the Atlas Tower Group are looking at the only option they consider suitable in our area for an additional mobile phone mast was the allotment area.</p>	Parish Clerk
075/04/25.C	<b>Police Report</b>	The latest police report has been circulated to all Cllr's prior to the meeting. It was agreed that we ask the police whether we could include these reports on our website.	Parish Clerk
076/04/25.C	<b>Highway Issues</b>	All issues on highways are now being reported and listed on Shropshire Council's FixMyStreet. Shropshire Council had reported that they had attended to the balancing pool from Irvine Gardens which had been flooding Clarkes Lane after heavy rain. The damaged dog bin lid was under investigation along with our report of mud and grass on Nefod Lane from its junction at Esgob Bridge. With regards to our concern over an increase in dog fouling, especially by the Pinfold in Church Lane and in Cottage Lane by the Orchard and a request for extra dog bins in these areas, Shropshire Councils Dog Warden had reported that they are not installing any new bins currently and adding that there is a litter bin very close to these areas by which the public can use to dispose of bagged dog waste.	Parish Clerk

077/04/25.C

**Planning**

The following applications were considered.

**Reference:** 25/00764/VRW106 (validated: 28/03/2025)

**Address:** Former Ifton Heath Primary School, Overton Road, Ifton Heath, St Martins, Shropshire

**Proposal:** Deed of Variation to S106 attached to Planning Permission Ref: 20/02248/FUL

**Parish Council Decision:** **Defer until such times as Shropshire Council allow the parish council to view the online application.**

Parish  
Clerk

**Reference:** 25/00426/REM (validated: 14/03/2025)

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

**Proposal:** Approval of reserved matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) pursuant to 24/01317/OUT for the erection of 2no dwellinghouses and associated works

**Parish Council Decision:** **No comment as already reported that the parish council objected to this outline application.**

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The following planning decision and recommendations of the planning authority received since the last meeting were noted.

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

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

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

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

078/04/25.C

**Street Lighting**

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

Parish  
Clerk

Highline Electrical have still to install the two new lights in Oak Drive and upgrade the five columns following the annual inspection.

Parish  
Clerk

079/04/25.C

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

BACS	Staff	Salary & Expenses	£1241.83
BACS	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£445.74
BACS	Nigel Thomas	Play Area Inspections	£26.00
BACS	Huw Manford	Litter Picking, etc.	£371.55
BACS	St Martins Village H	Room Hire	£24.00
BACS	Stans Superstore	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr. Field Lease	£375.00
BACS	Office Supplies	Stationery	£16.75
DR	HSBC	Bank Charges	£8.00
DD	Veolia	Bin Emptying	£37.10

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

Parish  
Clerk

**Income**

CCLA March Reinvestment £1,527.43

080/04/25.C

**Shropshire Council.**

Shropshire Cllr Steve Davenport reported that he had been informed by Shropshire Council Highways that the 20-mph speed limit by the school will be actioned by June.

Cllr Steve  
Davenport

081/04/25.C

**Funding various projects through CIL.**

The Chairman gave the following report.

Crossing by Stans. On 24th March I received a brief response from Jo Hardie the PA to Andy Wilde their Chief Officer, apologising for the delay in his response. The communication said Mr Wilde is liaising with officers and will respond without delay. Nothing more has been received.

Roadside lining. You may recall that at the last meeting I advised that Shropshire had promised, without any doubt, that the full works would be completed by mid March at the latest. On a Friday in mid March we saw that the surface of the mini roundabout had been repainted. On the following Tuesday the words 'Bus Stop' had been painted into the area by the school. I liaised with our new Cllr Steve Morris to revise the travelling and parking arrangements for the buses to match these works.

Despite the contractors attending on site on 2 separate occasions, the completion of the works is outstanding.

On 28th March, the school deputy head contacted me with her concerns as cars had started to again park in the area and were disrupting the bus parking arrangement. I explained that, without the legal signage restricting parking being installed, no offences were being committed.

So, on that same day I sent yet another mass email to all parties begging for either a response or urgent remedial action. No response has been received off any person.

May I also conclude my giving advice as to CIL monies and a matter I have previously brought before council.

This council has an OBLIGATION to spend the received funds. There is a nominal period of 3 years from receipt to spend. If that period is breached, then Shropshire have a right to demand the return of any unspent funds. My advice to the incoming council is PLEASE look at schemes. Do not be frightened in creating and funding schemes to help our community. Think laterally. Think long-term.

082/04/25.C	<p><b>St Martins Allotments</b></p> <p>The Parish Clerk reported that all allotment fees had now been received. However, he expressed concern that we still had had no official notice in writing that the St Martins Allotments Association had disbanded. In addition, the members were putting forward suggestions on the Facebook group where the balances of their fund should be spent.</p> <p><b>Resolved:</b> that the following email should be sent to the past Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary requesting as a matter of urgency we require a copy of their balance sheet as of the 31st March 2025 and the outstanding balances which we understand are in the region of £1600 paid into the parish council bank where an Allotment Cost Centre has already been set up to record the fees received for this next year.</p> <p>As regards the administration of the allotments the Parish Clerk reported that he had recently had a demonstration via Zoom on an allotment package by Scribe that links into our Scribe Accounts Package. An initial one-off set payment was £93 plus monthly payments of £12.</p> <p><b>Resolved: that the parish council sign up to this package.</b></p>	<p>Parish Clerk</p>
083/04/25.C	<p><b>Arthan's Pond</b></p>	
	<p>Cllr Sophie Hughes-Saunier, on behalf of Cllr Natalie Rowley gave a summary of the visit of the RoSPA inspection that took place recently. An in-depth report is awaited.</p>	<p>Cllr Natalie Rowley</p>
084/043/25.C	<p><b>Member of Parliament</b></p>	
	<p>There had been no urgent issues since the last meeting that required the attention of our MP Helen Morgan.</p>	
085/04/25.C	<p><b>Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)</b></p>	
	<p>All correspondence received from the County Secretary had previously been circulated to all Cllr's.</p>	
086/04/25.C	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p>	
	<p>There were no additional items of correspondence to report on</p>	
087/04/25.C	<p><b>Members Reports</b></p>	
	<p>Cllr Helen Williams reported a pothole on Ellesmere Road adjacent to the Hairdressers.</p>	<p>Parish Clerk</p>
	<p>Cllr Sue Schofield suggested that the Parish Clerk precis future reports from the SALC picking out subjects that are relevant to our parish.</p>	
	<p>Cllr Neil Arthan thanked the Chairman for all his hard work during his term of office.</p>	

Cllr Mark Hayball reported that a resident had cleaned the area around the seat in the Memorial Garden opposite the crossing by Stans Superstore.

Cllr Nigel Court reported a seat missing at the bottom of Moors Bank and questioned whether the local bus service could not go through the village instead of terminating by the school. He also expressed concern over the state of the fence between the football field at the rear of Stans Superstore and the adjoining field.

Cllr Sophie Hughes-Saunier reported that several residents in Little Common felt they were not part of the parish.

The Chairman felt that several highway bollards should be installed around the corner of Mount Bradford Lane and Ellesmere Road to stop adjoining residents parking vehicles on the grass verge.

Parish  
Clerk

Parish  
Clerk

088/04/25.C

### Next Meeting

Next meeting Annual Meeting of the Parish Council on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 @ 19.00 in St Martins Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.17 pm.

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date .....

Chairman