

### St Martins Parish Council

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the St Martins Parish Council held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 7.00 pm in St Martins Village Hall.

**PRESENT:** Cllr's Nigel Court, Sophie Hughes-Saunier, Duncan Laing, Steve Morris, Natalie Rowley, Sue Schofield and Helen Williams.

Also in attendance, Shropshire Cllr's Brian Evans and Carl Rowley, PCSO Hughes, three members of the public and the parish clerk.

114/06/25.C	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>An apology for absence had been received from Cllr Craig Jones.</p> <p><b>Proposed, seconded and carried that this apology is accepted.</b></p>	<p>Action</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p>
115/06/25.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>	
116/06/25.C	<p><b>Parish Council Vacancies</b></p> <p>Applications had been received to fill two of the seven casual vacancies on the parish council. These were from Andrew Cast and Carl Rowley.</p> <p><b>Resolved: that both these applications are approved.</b></p> <p>The Chairman welcomed Andrew Cast and Carl Rowley to the meeting who both signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office.</p>	<p>Parish Clerk</p>
117/06/25.C	<p><b>Council Minutes</b></p> <p><b>Resolved: that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the parish council held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of May 2025 having been previously circulated be approved and adopted as a true record.</b></p>	<p>Chairman</p>
118/06/25.C	<p><b>Public Session</b></p> <p>No members of the public present wished to ask any questions of the Council concerning matters on the agenda. The council then moved on to the next item of business.</p>	
119/06/25.C	<p><b>Urgent Items</b></p> <p>There were no urgent items that related to financial, health and safety issues or issues that require immediate attention.</p>	

120/06/25.C

**Parish Clerk's Progress Report**

The Parish Clerk reported that the hanging baskets had now been put up thanks to the help from Highline Electrical with their Cherry Picker and Cllr Helen Williams who had collected these from Neil Rheade at his nursery and then assisted Highline Electrical in showing them the street lighting columns that these hang from.

Following an article in the latest Village Life, the Parish Clerk said he had received over 20 emails supporting Percy the Peacock who mainly is seen in School Lane.

After discussions with Cllr Steve Morris on the parish council Facebook we are now looking at policies on press and social media and updating our Freedom of Information Policy inline with the 2000 Act. Both these policies would be presented to council at the July meeting for adoption.

Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk then presented a report on the balances of our CIL money and stressed the importance of spending some of these balances. He had received quotations for two recycled plastic benches at £360 each. **This was agreed.**

Parish Clerk

He also reported on a proposal to have new Gateway Signs on the entrance to the village on the four main roads like those in Myddle and other villages in Shropshire. Est cost including installation was £10,000 subject to a site visit from the contractor. **This was also agreed.**

Parish Clerk

Areas of grass cutting in the village that had not been included in the contract were now being cut on a fortnightly basis.

Parish Clerk

The Chairman reported on a recent meeting he had with the Atlas Tower Group on a potential site for a mobile network mast on an unused patch of ground at the rear of the allotments and pond. This would be operated by Atlas on a 20-year lease with a rent of £2500 pa payable to the council. A further report was awaited. Cllr Andrew Cast suggested we ask for a map showing the coverage this would provide for the village.

Chairman &amp; Parish Clerk

Wrekin Housing Trust had cut back the hedge on Overton Road adjacent to Nos 7, 9, 11 and 13. They would now be asked to cut the top and rear side.

Parish Clerk

121/06/25.C

**Police Report**

The latest police report has been circulated to all Cllr's prior to the meeting. PCSO Hughes went through this report and updated members on our three community priorities, speeding, drugs and other traffic offences.

Parish Clerk

122/06/25.C

**Minor Contract Work**

Following the recent correspondence from our Handyman that due to work commitments he could not take on any other minor installation and maintenance work in the parish, the Parish Clerk said he had contacted two local contractors who were willing to quote for this type of work. They had both carried out work for other local councils including Oswestry Town Council. **This was agreed.**

Parish Clerk

123/06/25.C

**Highway Issues**

All issues on highways are now being reported and listed on Shropshire Council's FixMyStreet. Again, Cllr's expressed concern that this system does not work. Both our Shropshire Cllrs agreed to investigate this.

Shropshire  
Cllrs

Cllrs were asked to consider the installation of reflective verge road markers around the corner of Mount Bradford Lane and Ellesmere Road to stop vehicles parking on the grass verge. **This was agreed.**

Parish  
Clerk

124/06/25.C

**Planning**

The following applications were considered.

**Reference:** 25/01667/FUL (validated: 06/05/2025)

**Address:** Meirion House, Coopers Lane, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3QB

**Proposal:** Subservient side and rear extension with internal remodel.

**Parish Council Decision: Support**

Parish  
Clerk

**Reference:** 25/01782/CPE (validated: 21/05/2025)

**Address:** 20 Churchfields, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3HZ

**Proposal:** Application for Lawful Development Certificate for the existing solid roof conservatory

**Parish Council Decision: Support**

Parish  
Clerk

125/06/25.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

126/06/25.C

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

BACS	Staff	Salary & Expenses	£1214.28
BACS	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£445.74
BACS	Nigel Thomas	Play Area Inspections	£26.00
BACS	Huw Manford	Litter Picking, etc.	£336.20
BACS	St Martins Village H	Room Hire	£24.00
BACS	Shropshire Council	1 <sup>st</sup> Qtr. Street Lighting Energy	£1181.00
BACS	Scribe	Allotments Package	£241.20
BACS	Highline Electrical	Install Hanging Baskets	£144.00
BACS	GHP Legal	Allotment Agreements	£3997.20
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	May Reinvestment	£1,611.48
------	------------------	-----------

127/06/25.C	<p><b>Shropshire Council.</b></p> <p>Shropshire Cllr Carl Rowley reported with reference to the section 106 agreement on Morlas Meadows he has been in touch with both the School and Iain Hill Trevor, but he wanted to approach this with an open mind, as there seems to be a breakdown in communication and possibly relationship with the main stakeholders in this transfer. With Morlas Meadows now very near completion, Iain Hill Trevor is keen to complete the transfer.</p> <p>Shropshire Cllr Carl Rowley reported on the number of potholes repaired in the parish in the last month but there were still over 200 outstanding.</p> <p>He added that he had been approached for funding for Ifton Bowling Club and St Martins Village Hall. Grant application forms would be forwarded to him.</p> <p>Cllr Sue Schofield asked if Shropshire Council had a policy on controlling Ragwort.</p> <p>Following the latest correspondence from Shropshire Council on a proposed new approach to Partnership with Town and Parish Councils, Cllrs were asked to consider what areas could be considered in our parish for partnership working and report back at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Cllr Carl Rowley</p> <p>Cllr Carl Rowley</p> <p>Cllr Carl Rowley</p> <p>All Cllrs</p>
128/06/25.C	<p><b>Youth Shelter, St Martins Play Area</b></p> <p>Following a survey last year on play area equipment a large proportion of the children said they would like a youth shelter in the play area adjacent to St Martins Village Hall. Following discussions with the Chairman of Finance the Parish Clerk had obtained two designs and quotations from Ray Parry Playgrounds. After discussion it was agreed to go for the Steel Pod Shelter with 5 benches that seats up to 10.</p> <p><b>Resolved: to accept the quotation, including installation, of £13,980.</b></p>	<p>Parish Clerk</p>
129/06/25.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>	
130/06/25.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>	
131/06/25.C	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>The Parish Clerk read out a card from Joyce Sands thanking everyone for the presentation she received for the Unsung Hero award at the last meeting. There were no other additional items of correspondence to report on</p>	

132/06/25.C

**Members Reports**

Cllr Helen Williams expressed concern that Shropshire Council do not take notice of any comments parish councils make on planning applications referring to the Ifton Green development. She also expressed concern that a planning application at 9 Cottage Fields had been approved which had removed all the front garden into a tarmac area.

Parish  
Clerk

Cllr Helen Williams also reported that the area around the bus shelter and litter bin on Overton Road needs clearing and although Wrekin Housing Trust had cut back the hedge overhanging the footpath on Overton Road from no's 7, 9, 11 & 13 they still needed to cut the top and inside facing the houses.

Parish  
Clerk

Cllr Andrew Cast expressed concern over the amount of litter that had been shredded along the grass verges from Bank Top to Gledrid following Shropshire Councils recent verge cutting.

Parish  
Clerk

Cllr Steve Morris said that several road and street signs in the village were in urgent need of cleaning and extra litter bins required in many areas of the village, especially Ellesmere Road.

Parish  
Clerk

Cllr Natalie asked when the 20mph limit around the school would be installed.

Parish  
Clerk

The Chairman gave an update on the latest Shrewsbury and Telford hospital plans.

133/06/25.C

**Next Meeting**

Next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025 @ 19.00 in St Martins Village Hall.

134/06/25.C

**Closed Session**

**Resolved that:** In accordance with s1(2) Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960, members of the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting on the grounds that the following items to be considered involve the likely disclosure of confidential information.

**134/06/01/25.C Accounts - Outstanding Invoice**

**Resolved:** with 3 abstentions, that an outstanding invoice relating to legal advice is approved.

Parish  
Clerk

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 21.00 pm.

Signed .....  
Chairman

Date .....

Chairman