

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the St Martins Parish Council held on Thursday 10th July 2025 at 7.00 pm in St Martins Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllr's Nigel Court, Craig Jones, Duncan Laing, Steve Morris, Carl Rowley, Sue Schofield and Helen Williams.

Also in attendance, Shropshire Cllr's Brian Evans and Carl Rowley, one member of the public and the parish clerk.

135/07/25.C	Apologies for Absence Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr's Andrew Cast, Sophie Hughes-Saunier and Natalie Rowley. Proposed, seconded and carried that these apologies are accepted. The police had also sent in their apologies.	Action
136/07/25.C	Declarations of Interest and Dispensations 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. b) To consider any applications for dispensation. None received. c) Declaration of any other interests in the agenda items. None received. The Parish Clerk reminded members that some had still to register to the Shropshire Council new online system for registering their interests.	Parish Clerk
137/07/25.C	Parish Council Vacancies An application had been received to fill one of the five casual vacancies on the parish council. This was from David Davies. Resolved: that this application is approved. The Chairman welcomed David Davies to the meeting who signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office.	Parish Clerk
138/07/25.C	Council Minutes Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on the 12th of June 2025 having been previously circulated be approved and adopted as a true record.	Chairman

139/07/25.C

Public Session

The one member of the public, a resident of Morlas Meadows, raised his concerns that Primoris does not appear to be prepared to meet the requirements of the planning approval regarding the landscaping of the public open spaces.

Parish Clerk

With no more questions of the Council concerning matters on the agenda, the council then moved on to the next item of business.

140/07/25.C

Urgent Items

There were no urgent items that related to financial, health and safety issues or issues that require immediate attention.

141/07/25.C

Parish Clerk's Progress Report

Shropshire Council have confirmed that there is no provision in their plans for extra litter bins. Shropshire Councillor Brian Evans agreed to investigate this.

A housing dispute had been referred to Star Housing.

Moles had returned to the field behind Stans Superstore.

The youth shelter was on order through Ray Parry Playgrounds.

A broken tree branch in the Memorial Garden had been removed by Benbow Bros.

Meeting still to be arranged with Shropshire Council's highways technician to agree on the position of the village gateway signs, reflective verge markers and two benches.

Parish Clerk

142/07/25.C

Police Report

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

143/07/25.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 again.

Shropshire Cllrs

144/07/25.C

Planning

To consider any planning application(s) received since the last meeting.

There are none.

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

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

Decision: Refuse

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.

Decision: Grant Permission

145/07/25.C

Financial Matters

Accounts approved since last meeting

BACS	Neil Rheade	Hanging Baskets & Memorial Gar	£1078.00
BACS	Clear Councils	Insurance	£1299.60
BACS	Vision ICT	Cllr Email Account	£26.00
BACS	D M Payroll Ser	Staff Payroll	£120.00
BACS	N. Chilvers	Watering	£800.00
BACS	Office Express	Office Stationery	£101.42
BACS	Benbow Brothers	Urgent Tree Attention	£432.00

Cllr Steve Morris enquired whether the contractors who carry out the watering have business insurance for the vehicle being used when watering from the highway and Public Liability Insurance too. PLI of course isn't vehicle related,

Parish
Clerk

Accounts for Payment

BACS	A R Royce	Grass Cutting	£1905.00
BACS	Staff	Salary & Expenses	£1210.48
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	Stans Superstore	2 nd Qtr Field Lease	£375.00
BACS	Vision ICT	Cllr Email Accounts	£264.00
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

It was noted that as from July HSBC had dropped any bank charges.

A grant application from St Martins Parish Church was deferred pending receipt of a copy of the latest set of annual accounts showing the organisations income, expenditure and level of balances.

Parish
Clerk

Income

CCLA	June Reinvestment	£1,622.31
Shropshire Council	Neighbourhood Fund	£32,703.64

146/07/25.C	Street Lighting Still one light on Overton Road, at its junction with Garden Village which was still not working. In addition, another light which was owned and maintained by Shropshire Council at the east end of Overton Road was now not working, and a light in the same area obstructed by tree branches.	Parish Clerk
147/07/25.C	Shropshire Council. Shropshire Cllr Carl Rowley reported on planned road closures in the parish and next week would be their first full council meeting since the elections. As regards Shropshire Council's proposed new approach to partnership working with Town and Parish councils, it was agreed that more direct contact details with officers in all departments would be a good starting point. Following an enquiry from Cllr Carl Rowley at the previous meeting on whether the parish council had ever considered setting up a Neighbourhood Plan, the Parish Clerk confirmed that recently the Government had ended support for such plans Cllr Sue Schofield again asked if Shropshire Council had a policy on controlling Ragwort.	Parish Clerk Cllr Carl Rowley
148/07/25.C	Council Policies The following Council Policies had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. Press & Media Policy, Social Media Policy and Freedom of Information Policy. Resolved: that these policies are approved and adopted by the Parish Council. The parish council thanked Cllr Steve Morris for his work on this.	Cllr Carl Rowley Parish Clerk
149/07/25.C	Brynkinalt Land Adjacent to St Martins School With reference to the section 106 agreement on Morlas Meadows and following discussions with both the School and Iain Hill Trevor, who is still keen to complete the transfer to either the parish council or school, Cllr Carl Rowley agreed to again speak with Iain Hill Trevor to get from him his proposed wording of what agreement he was looking for. On receipt of this the parish council would again consult the solicitors who dealt with this in the past.	Cllr Carl Rowley & Parish Clerk
150/07/25.C	RoSPA Members were asked to consider the report and action required from the latest RoSPA inspection of the Carrot and Carp ponds. The report contained several recommendations ranging from high to low risk. Quotations would be required before any consideration could be made on opening the pond areas. Until we decide what direction we are taking with the pond, we cannot sanction any public access.	Parish Clerk

151/07/25.C	Allotments	It was agreed that the organisational responsibilities for the Allotments including the Scribe Software recently purchased would be the responsibility of the Parish Clerk. Cllr's David Davies and Sophie Hughes-Saunier were appointed to a small Allotment sub-committee. Terms of Reference to be drawn up and agreed by Council.	Parish Clerk
152/07/25.C	Remembrance Day	It was agreed that Cllr Sue Scholfield again looks after the organisation details and schedule of events for Remembrance Sunday on November 9th, 2025.	Cllr Sue Schofield
153/07/25.C	Member of Parliament	There had been no urgent issues since the last meeting that required the attention of our MP Helen Morgan.	
154/07/25.C	Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)	All correspondence received from SALC had been circulated to all Cllr's.	
155/07/25.C	Correspondence	There were no additional items of correspondence to report on.	
156/07/25.C	Members Reports	Cllr Carl Rowley reported on the work being undertaken on the bowling club pavilion and asked if the parish council would consider a grant for this work. He added that road signs on Overton Road require replacement signs including poles. Cllr Steve Morris asked for an update on the lining outside the school and suggested the 40 mph is extended to the other side of Escob bridge. Cllr Helen Williams reported that the hedge at No. 68 New Ifton requires attention as it is obstructing the footpath on Overton Road.. The Chairman requested an audit of street nameplates as some required replacing. He added that the footpath hedge adjacent to Overton Road on the Primoris site requires cutting back.	Parish Clerk Parish Clerk Parish Clerk
157/07/25.C	Next Meeting	Next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 11th September 2025 @ 19.00 in St Martins Village Hall. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.58 pm. Signed Date Chairman	Chairman