

St Martins Parish Council

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the St Martins Parish Council held on Thursday 11th September 2025 at 7.00 pm in St Martins Village Hall.

PRESENT: Cllr's Nigel Court, David Davies, Sophie Hughes-Saunier, Craig Jones, Duncan Laing, Steve Morris, Carl Rowley, Sue Schofield and Helen Williams.

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

158/09/25.C	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr's Andrew Cast and Natalie Rowley.</p> <p>Proposed, seconded and carried that these apologies are accepted.</p>	<p>Action</p> <p>Parish Clerk</p>
159/09/25.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>	
166/09/25	<p>Police Report (It was agreed to bring this item forward)</p> <p>Again, members said that the recent police report was very comprehensive and informative. PCSO David Hughes said that we now need more volunteers to be trained up to join the community speed watch team. The new 20mph speed zone is now in operation outside the school. Excessive speed of traffic along Church Lane is still occurring along with vehicles entering the 40mph speed zone as you approach the village from the east on Overton Road. The Chairman thanked PCSO David Hughes for his attendance who then left the meeting.</p>	<p>Police</p>
160/09/25.C	<p>Appointment of Committees 2025/2026</p> <p>Executive Committee (5) – Deferred from May Meeting.</p> <p>The following members were appointed to the Executive Committee. Chairman Nigel Court, Vice Chairman Sue Schofield, Chairman of Finance Helen Williams, Craig Jones & Steve Morris.</p>	
161/09/25.C	<p>Parish Council Vacancies</p> <p>No further applications had been received to fill any of the four casual vacancies on the parish council.</p>	

162/09/25.C	Council Minutes Resolved: that the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on the 10th of July 2025 having been previously circulated be approved and adopted as a true record.	Chairman
163/09/25.C	Public Session The one member of the public present did not wish to raise any questions of the Council concerning matters on the agenda, the council then moved on to the next item of business.	
164/09/25.C	Urgent Items There were no urgent items that related to financial, health and safety issues or issues that require immediate attention.	Parish Clerk
165/09/25.C	Parish Clerk's Progress Report The proposal for a mobile phone mast on the allotment site will now be referred to the Executive Committee in addition to the S106 agreement donation of land to St Martins School. An application from St Martins School for Section 106 funding to support playground and facilities Development at the school has been forwarded to Shropshire Council's Head of Planning for further clarification. We are extremely grateful to Cllr Steve Morris on his investigation work on bus services in the village. As a result, the Parish Council are extremely concerned over the lack of communications from Powys CC to the changes to the T12 & X76 bus services with effect from the beginning of September. We understand that Powys CC have withdrawn the T12 service and that Tanat Valley Coaches will operate a new X76 but not between St Martins and Wrexham. In fact according to the timetable for this service which will now terminate at the top of Moors Bank and then run EMPTY and NOT IN SERVICE all the way up to Halls Corner in the village to do a 3 point turn again EMPTY and NOT IN SERVICE back to start again at Moors Bank missing out on 5 stops including a well-used stop by Stans Superstore. There would seem to be a reasonable potential revenue gain from stopping at the 5 existing stops in the village at virtually no extra cost to the operator. To date we have had no response from Tanat Valley Coaches. A new Youth Shelter has now been installed in the play area next to St Martins Village Hall and a replacement basket swing and repairs carried out by Ray Parry Playgrounds. Although the new 20 mph speed limit is now in force outside the school there is still yellow lining work outstanding in the bus stop and lay-by. Although members of the Diocese Maintenance & Property Services team recently met our Chairman and Cllr Helen Williams, and sympathised at the height of the vicarage hedge and trees adjacent to the rear of Church Gardens there is nothing that can be done about the height.	

Our grass cutting contractors have been informed not to cut the grass in Churchfields area due to excess dog fouling. Shropshire Council have been informed.

167/09/25.C

Highway Issues

All issues on highways are now being reported and listed on Shropshire Council's FixMyStreet.

Shropshire
Cllrs

Thanks to work by Shropshire Cllr Brian Evans, we now have a list and location of the 23 litter bins in the parish. However, Shropshire Council's Alliance Executive Manager of Street Scene Services, who is still based in Devon, has reported that Shropshire Council has currently suspended installing new street litter bins pending completion of a route optimisation exercise to enable the most effective use of existing resources. Once this exercise is complete towards the end of the summer, they may be able to review requests for additional litter bins, but this will be dependent on available resources and managing ongoing budget pressures.

168/09/25.C

Planning

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

Reference: 25/02850/TPO (validated: 18/07/2025)

Address: 5 Braeburn Close, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3FP

Proposal: Prune back by 3-4m over-extended branches in upper canopy of 1no Oak protected by the Shropshire Council (Land at Rhos Y Llan, St Martins) TPO 2020 (Ref: SC/00457/20)

Parish Council Decision: Already approved but supported by the PC.

Reference: 25/02830/FUL (validated: 07/08/2025)

Address: 2 Beech Tree Lane, St Martins Moor, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7DB

Proposal: Construction of a Garden covered shelter/ Shed

Parish Council Decision: No objections but support the Canal & River Trusts comments on a condition that no outside lights should be allowed.

Reference: 25/02810/TPO (validated: 13/08/2025)

Address: 7 Inch Murrin, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3QH

Proposal: Fell 8no Leylandii & complete various works to 1no Lilac, 1no Leylandii, 1no Silver Birch, 1no Laburnum and 2no Plum (See Report) protected by The Council of the Borough of Oswestry (The Inch Murrin) TPO 2003 (Ref: OS/00060/03)

Parish Council Decision: Support.

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

Cllr Carl Rowley joined the meeting.

169/09/25.C

Financial Matters

Cllrs approved the Local Government Services Pay Agreement 2025/26 effective from 1st April 2025.

Parish Clerk

The following retrospectively accounts had been approved by the Chairman of Finance (all within approved budget).

Parish Clerk

BACS	A R Royce	Grass Cutting	£1875.00
BACS	SLCC	Clerks Training on Allotments	£54.00
BACS	RoSPA	Annual Inspection	£153.60
BACS	NAS	Membership	£85.00
BACS	Staff	Salary & Expenses	£1210.68
BACS	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£445.94
BACS	St Martins Village H	Room Hire	£24.00
BACS	Water Plus	Allotments Water	£146.54
BACS	N Chilvers	Watering	£1000.00
BACS	Shropshire Council	2 nd Qtr Street Lighting Energy	£1181.00
BACS	Ray Parry	Youth Pod Shelter	£16776.00
BACS	Ray Parry	Repairs to Basket Swing	£3939.60
BACS	Veolia	Euro 240 LTR Lift	£37.10

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

Parish Clerk

Accounts for Payment

BACS	Staff	Salary & Expenses	£1187.98
BACS	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£445.94
BACS	St Martins Village H	Room Hire	£24.00
BACS	Nigel Thomas	Play Area Inspections	£65.00
BACS	Huw Manford	Litter Picking, etc.	£672.40
BACS	SALC	Chairmans Training	£90.00
BACS	Water Plus	Allotments Water	£16.45

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

Parish Clerk

Income

CCLA

August Reinvestment

£1,594.77

Grants**Approved £1400.00 to St Martins Church**

Two separate applications from Ifton Bowling Club were deferred pending receipt of their last years accounts and bank statements.

An application from St Martins School towards play area facilities was deferred to the Executive Committee.

Parish
ClerkCllr Carl
RowleyExecutive
Committee

170/09/25.C

Street Lighting

Concern was expressed on the following, which would all be referred to Shropshire Councils head of Street Lighting & Traffic Signals Commissioner.

The streetlight on Overton Road at its junction with Garden Village was still not working, streetlight no 56 at the east end of Overton Road on all the time and now following the development on Ellesmere Road a streetlight was now in the middle of the footpath.

Although approval has been granted, we are still waiting for Shropshire Council to upgrade the pedestrian Zebra crossing to assigned Puffin Crossing on Overton Road by Stans Superstore.

Parish
Clerk

171/09/25.C

Shropshire Council.

Shropshire Cllr's Brian Evans and Carl Rowley updated members on the current financial position at Shropshire Council.

172/09/25.C

Allotments

It was agreed that Wyn Evans and Ian Edwards, both allotment holders would join Cllr David Davies to form an allotment committee reporting to the full council.

Parish
Clerk

173/09/25.C

Member of Parliament

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

174/09/25.C

Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)

All correspondence received from SALC had been circulated to all Cllr's.

175/09/25.C

Correspondence

There were no additional items of correspondence to report on.

176/09/25.C

Members Reports

Cllr Helen Williams reported that moles had again returned to the football pitch to the rear of Stans Superstore, the Dexter cows at Ifton Meadows have no grass to eat, no feed or water and require moving as a matter of urgency to an area where they can be fed and watered and that there was an issue at the Village Hall as Shropshire Council contractors no longer collect their recycling waste.

Parish
Clerk

Cllr Steve Morris reported graffiti on the bus shelter at the top of Moors Bank, a bollard was missing on the grass verge by Oak Drive, following the new development on Ellesmere Road a streetlight was now in the middle of the footpath and recent signage on a diversion was being ignored by many motorists.

Parish
Clerk

Cllr David Davies said he had cut the grass around many signs in the village.

Parish
Clerk

Cllr Sue Schofield she was looking for more sponsors to support future publications of the Village Life.

Cllr Duncan Laing reported sewerage on numerous occasions from Orchard Close overflowing into the brook along Cottage Lane.

Parish
Clerk

The Chairman reported various trip hazards on the roads and pavements in Morlas Meadows.

Parish
Clerk

177/09/25.C

Next Meeting

Next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 9th of October 2025 @ 19.00 in St Martins Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.58 pm.

Signed
Chairman

Date

Chairman