

St Martins Parish Council

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the St Martins Parish Council held on Thursday 13th November 2025 at 7.00 pm in St Martins Village Hall.

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

Also in attendance, Shropshire Cllr Carl Rowley, PC Mike Hogg, 2 members of the public and the parish clerk.

211/11/25.C	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>All members were present.</p>	Action
212/11/25.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</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>	
213/11/25.C	<p>Parish Council Vacancies</p> <p>Application to fill the casual vacancies on the parish council had been received from Campbell Cunningham, Tracy Evans, Mark Herbert, Alan Langley and Elaine Phillips.</p> <p>Resolved: with one abstention that all five applicants are approved.</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed Campbell Cunningham, Tracy Evans and Alan Langley, who were all present to the meeting after they had signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office.</p>	Parish Clerk
214/11/25.C	<p>Council Minutes</p> <p>Resolved: with one abstention that the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on the 9th of October 2025 having been previously circulated be approved and adopted as a true record.</p>	Chairman
215/11/25.C	<p>Executive Committee</p> <p>The parish clerk gave a report on a recent meeting of the Executive Committee. There were no actions that were referred to Council.</p>	
216/11/25.C	<p>Public Session</p> <p>A member of the public questioned the accuracy of a recent report in the Village Life by the Clerk to the Council on the incidents of dog fouling in Churchfields. After giving his report, he left the meeting.</p>	

Cllr Sue Schofield joined the meeting.

217/11/25.C

Urgent Items

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

218/11/25.C

Parish Clerk's Progress Report

There is still an issue in the Churchfields area due to excess dog fouling. Shropshire Council have been informed.

All other issues from the last meeting are covered in the agenda.

219/11/25.C

Police Report

The Chairman welcomed PC Mike Hogg to the meeting. PC Mike Hogg reported that the three main community priorities for St Martins that will be in place until March 2026 are Speeding, Drugs and other traffic offences. During October three Speed Surveys and four Speed Enforcement operations were carried out in St Martins Parish. 14 vehicles were recorded as exceeding the speed limit and were processed for prosecution. There were no reports of drug related incidents via the phone system during October although the team continues to be committed to addressing this priority. On traffic offences there were two reports of suspected drink related incidents. Police surgeries are held at St Martins Village Hall. Dates to be advised. The Chairman thanked Mike Hogg for his attendance and again an excellent Council report which had been circulated to all members.

220/11/25.C

Highway Issues

All issues on highways are now being reported and listed on Shropshire Council's FixMyStreet. There was still an issue with unfinished work to the yellow lining outside the school.

Shropshire
Cllrs

221/11/25.C

Planning

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

Reference: 25/03975/FUL (validated: 23/10/2025)

Address: Glanywern, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3HJ

Proposal: Erection of a slurry store and all associated works

Parish Council Decision: Support

Parish
Clerk

Reference: 25/03296/FUL (validated: 14/10/2025)

Address: 37 Moors Bank, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7BG

Proposal: Drop kerb access

Parish Council Decision: Support

Parish
Clerk

Shropshire Councils Planning Department had reported back on previous applications at Fach Farmhouse. Both the applications are not subject to public consultation; they are only issued for information purposes.

222/11/25.C

Financial Matters

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

BACS	A. G. Royce	Grass Cutting	£1,875.00
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Resolved that the above payment be agreed in accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

Parish
Clerk

Accounts for Payment

BACS	Staff	Salary & Expenses	£1406.77
BACS	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£559.75
BACS	St Martins Village	H Room Hire	£24.00
BACS	Nigel Thomas	Play Area Inspections	£26.00
BACS	Huw Manford	Litter Picking, etc.	£336.20
BACS	Valley Security	Road Closure Duties	£498.18
BACS	Office Express	Printer Cartridges	£601.48
BACS	Timber Direct	Allotment Raised Beds	£900.00
BACS	Meraki	Remembrance Day Sheets	£117.00
DD	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

Income

CCLA	October Reinvestment	£1,479.79
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Grants

As regards the two separate applications from Ifton Bowling Club which were deferred pending receipt of their last years accounts and bank statements, the Parish Clerk confirmed that these had been received. In addition, Shropshire Councils Developer Contributions Team (CIL) had confirmed that our neighbourhood portion CIL funds can be utilised as per the applications to ensure the longevity of the local sports club.

Resolved with one abstention that in accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations the two grants of £7800 and £10500 to Ifton Bowling Club be approved.

Parish
Clerk

Cllr Sue Schofield asked if the parish council would consider giving a grant towards children's boxes of chocolates to be given out when the lights on the Xmas tree are switched on. Stans Superstore had agreed to give a discount on these boxes. After some discussion a grant of up to £300 was agreed.

Cllr Sue
Schofield

It was also agreed that we should look at more Xmas lights for the village for next year.

Cllr Helen
Williams

223/11/25.C Street Lighting

Jason Hughes, Shropshire Council's Street Lighting & Traffic Commissioner had now reviewed our issues raised at previous meetings and can confirm the following:

- Streetlight at Overton Road/Garden Village Junction – This unit remains non-operational. It has been revisited, and further works are required to identify a cable fault. This may involve extensive excavation to locate the issue, and a full cable replacement is likely. I've followed up to ensure this is prioritised for resolution.
- Streetlight No. 56 (East End of Overton Road) – This light being on continuously suggests a photocell fault. It is being attended to today (Friday 10th) for repair.
- Streetlight in Footpath (Ellesmere Road Development) – This appears to be a legacy column now obstructing pedestrian access due to the recent development. I'm liaising with the Highways Development Control team to assess relocation options.
- Zebra Crossing Upgrade near Stans Superstore – While approval has been granted for the conversion to a Puffin Crossing, we are still awaiting scheduling confirmation from the design team and contractor. I've requested an update on the expected timeline and will share details once received.

In addition, it was reported that the damaged streetlight by the school was still leaning and the streetlight on Overton Road opposite the junction to New Ifton was not working.

Parish
Clerk

224/11/25.C Shropshire Council.

Shropshire Cllr Carl Rowley updated members again on the current financial position at Shropshire Council. He added that a working group will be set up to manage the pond area in Churchfields. All children are now back at school following the recent fire with no financial help from Shropshire Council.

225/11/25.C New Councillor Induction Pack

The Parish Clerk and Chairman are still working on the contents of a welcome pack for new Councillors which will be available through the parish council's website.

Parish
Clerk

226/11/25.C Member of Parliament

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

227/11/25.C Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)

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

228/11/25.C

Correspondence

There were no additional items of correspondence to report on.

229/11/25.C

Members Reports

Cllr Helen Williams explained the problems we experienced this year with putting up and taking down the hanging baskets. She suggested we look at installing more planters for next year. Agreed agenda item in December.

Parish
Clerk

Cllr Tracy Evans reported that pedestrians are having difficulty walking on the footpath along Overton Road due to the hedge at 68 Overton Road overhanging this footpath. In addition, drivers of vehicles exiting New Ifton onto Overton Road have complained that your hedge is now blocking their view, which is a serious safety issue. The owner would be contacted on this.

Parish
Clerk

Cllr Alan Langley reported that there is now an increase in traffic using School Lane as a short cut.

Police

Cllr Duncan reported an alarm ringing constantly at the Old School House.

Parish
Clerk

Cllr David Davies updated members on the Allotments. The water was now switched off for the winter. Arthan's Pond and a BMX track would be put on the December agenda.

Parish
Clerk

Cllr Natalie Rowley said the new 20mph signs on Moors Bank were in the wrong position and overgrown by tree branches.

Parish
Clerk

230/11/25.C

Next Meeting

Next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 11th of December 2025 @ 19.00 in St Martins Village Hall.

Before closing the meeting Cllr Sophie Hughes-Saunier gave notice of her resignation as a St Martins Parish Councillor.

The Chairman on behalf of the council thanked her for all her help and support over the past 6 years.

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

Signed
Chairman

Date

Chairman