

ST MARTINS PARISH COUNCIL

Email: clerk@stmartinsparishcouncil.gov.uk Website: www.stmartinsparishcouncil.gov.uk

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C.JANUARY.26

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the St Martins Parish Council held on Thursday 15th January 2026 at 7.00 pm in St Martins Village Hall.

Attendance:

Parish Councillors: Cllr Nigel Court (Chairman), Cllr Sue Schofield (Vice Chairman), Cllr Andrew Cast, Cllr David Davies, Cllr Tracy Evans, Cllr Craig Jones, Cllr Duncan Laing, Cllr Elaine Philips, Cllr Carl Rowley, Cllr Helen Williams.

Members of the Public: Seven members of the public were in attendance.

Others: SC Ward Cllr Carl Rowley, PCSO Sarah Williams, Edward Davies – Parish Clerk.

001/01/26.C Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr's Campbell Cunningham, Mark Herbert, Alan Langley, Steve Morris and Shropshire Cllr Brian Evans.

Proposed, seconded and carried that these apologies are accepted.

Action

Parish Clerk

002/01/26.C Parish Council Vacancies

Members considered an application from Sue Evans to fill the one casual vacancy. This was accepted. The Chairman welcomed Sue Evans to the meeting who then signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

003/01/26.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**
- b) To consider any applications for dispensation. **None received.**
- c) Declaration of any other interests in the agenda items. **None received.**

004/01/26.C Council Minutes

Resolved: with five abstentions that the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on the 11th of December 2025 having been previously circulated be approved and adopted as a true record.

Chairman

005/01/26.C Public Session

The owners of Ridgway Rentals outlined their proposals for future development on their land off Overton Road at Little Ifton Farm, St Martins. The first phase would be a small development of new houses and barn conversions. The second phase would be a larger development off Colliery Road between their plant hire site and the new Old Ifton School development. A small diversion of a public footpath would be required. Other members of the public questioned the amended plans on Land at Griffin House Farm to the south of St Martins. The Chairman said this would be looked at later under the planning agenda item 012/01/26.C.

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At this point it was agreed to bring the police report forward.

009/01/26.C Police Report

The Chairman welcomed PCSO Sarah Williams to the meeting.

Sarah gave a progress report on the parish Community Priorities which will be in place until March 2026: These included speeding, other traffic matters and visible patrols. She was aware of the safety concerns outside the school which they continue to monitor although as a PCSO they have no authority to issue any bookings. Shropshire Cllr Brian Evans had reported that he had formally requested that Shropshire Council:

- carry out immediate peak-time site visits by an Engineer and the Active Travel Manager,
- conduct a full traffic and safety assessment of Bank Top Industrial Estate, and
- review the school's decision to close the car park, including compliance with Highways and Safeguarding guidance and whether safer access arrangements can be reinstated.

Shropshire Council response:

- Highways have confirmed an Engineer will visit the site during peak times and the Active Travel Manager will engage with the school this week to understand the reasons for the closure; a fuller response will follow those visits.

Sarah asked if they could be informed of these meeting so if available, they would like to attend.

SC Cllr
Brian
Evans

Members also expressed concern over the increased number of vehicles parking on the pavements. Again, at this stage the police cannot take any action unless these vehicles are causing a traffic hazard. The Chairman thanked Sarah for her attendance and report who then left the meeting.

006/01/26.C Urgent Items

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

007/01/26.C Appointment of Committees 2025/2026

The following appointments were approved.

007/01/26/.C/01 Personnel Sub Committee (3)
(Chairman, Chairman's of Finance & Executive Committees)

007/01/26/.C/02 Recreation Services Committee (6 + co-opted)
(Chairman, Vice Chairman, Cllrs Andrew Cast, Sue Evans, Tracy Evans and Carl Rowley + co-opted members of the parish as required)

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008/01/26.C Parish Clerk's Progress Report

The Parish Clerk reported Shropshire Council has confirmed that as regards the yellow lines in the bus stops at the school, this scheme cannot be completed as the lay by widths are too narrow to install the correct thick yellow lines and no stopping restrictions. They currently have no solution.

Wrekin Housing Trust has now cut the hedges on Irvine Gardens adjacent to their properties adjacent to Overton Road. As regards the hedge further down towards the Take-a-Ways, it has been established that these are on land owned by Shropshire Council. They have yet to respond.

Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk stated that he is still trying to get a company to act as an Agent/Property Surveyor to advise on the Heads of Terms for the proposed mobile mast on the allotments site. The Atlas group had forwarded several local companies to contact.

Parish Clerk

The Salt Bin at the junction of School Lane and Overton Road had been refilled. Shropshire Council had reported that as soon as they fill these salt bins residents take the salt away for their own driveways.

010/01/26.C Highway Issues

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

Shropshire Cllrs

The Parish Clerk reported that during the recent cold weather he had received numerous requests for additional salt bins in the village. Shropshire Council Highways had confirmed that they no longer provide salt bins. If the Parish Council wanted any they would firstly have to provide them, provide the salt for them and get highway approval for where these are to be sited.

Parish Clerk

011/01/26.C Hanging Baskets.

It was agreed to give away free of charge the 20 pairs of hanging baskets to any parish/town council who wanted them. These would be advertised in the SALC weekly briefing notes. Members were asked to consider by the next meeting sites for grey concrete planters like those outside the school. Various sizes were available through Townscape.

Parish Clerk

All Cllrs

012/01/26.C Planning

To consider the following planning application.

Reference: 25/03060/OUT

Address: Land At Griffin House Farm, South of, St Martins, Shropshire,

Proposal: outline application for the erection of 30No dwellings (to include access and layout)

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Parish Council Decision:

Following receipt of amended plans for this planning application, the parish council again resolved to object on the same grounds as before with the addition of the following comments; Firstly The 'Transport Statement' document at the foot of the document list page contains at least two factual errors. 2.16 A GP Surgery is NOT within a preferred maximum walking distance of 2km from the site and 2.20 The 53 bus is NOT an hourly service but just 5/6 trips per day. As regards the Heritage Impact Assessment no consideration has been taken over the Pinfold in Church Lane which is a Grade II Listed Structure. The Pinfold has been considered in the Heritage report but was deemed out of scope. It's proximity to the highway and it's pending schedule of works means it should be in scope.

Parish Clerk

013/01/26.C

Financial Matters

Accounts for Payment

BACS	Staff	Salary & Expenses	£1225.27
BACS	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£462.11
BACS	St Martins Village H	Room Hire	£24.00
BACS	Nigel Thomas	Play Area Inspections	£39.00
BACS	Huw Manford	Litter Picking, etc.	£336.20
BACS	Vision ICT	SSL Certificates	£60.00
BACS	Shropshire Council	Election Expenses 2025	£125.00
BACS	Stans Superstore	4 th Qtr. Field Lease	£375.00
BACS	A G Royce	Grass Cutting (October)	£625.00
BACS	A G Royce	Clearance Work Allotments	£450.00
BACS	Waterplus	Allotments water	£16.45
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	December Reinvestment	£1,473.11
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Parish Precept 2026/27

Resolved a precept of £61,535.00 for the financial year 2026/2027. This again represented a zero increase in the parish precept.

Parish Clerk

Due to the uncertainty of what services Shropshire Council may not deliver in 2026/27 the parish council agreed to set the budget for 2026/27 at the end of March this year when the parish council year end balances were available.

Parish Clerk

Grants

St Martins Village Hall had submitted a revised request to enlarge the car parking to accommodate more parking and disabled parking nearer the main entrance. This was for £27,000. They had forwarded their current balances and two quotations for this work.

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Resolved to make a grant of £27.000 for this project. This would be funded from the parish council CIL budget.

Parish Clerk

Assertion 10 (SAPPP 2025)

The Parish Clerk confirmed that this year in addition to confirming councils must follow existing compliance (GDPR & DPA for security and privacy, FOI & Transparency Code for document publishing), the 2025 edition of the Practitioners Guide states (Assertion 10: Digital and Data Compliance): our website accessibility statement currently references WCAG 2.1 AA and should now be updated to WCAG 2.2 AA. To achieve this to the latest guidelines Vision ICT can conduct a Website MOT for £145. **This was approved.**

Parish Clerk

014/01/26.C Allotments

The Parish Clerk reported that as we had no one on our waiting list for plots the annual allotment fee for 2026 should remain the same as last year. Full Plot £50, Half Plot £35, Half Plot Shared £17.50 and Raised Bed £17.50. **This was agreed.** All plot holders, as in the past, would be required to pay their own plot insurance through the National Allotment Association.

Parish Clerk

015/01/26.C Street Lighting

The following issues raised at previous meetings were still outstanding, Streetlight at Overton Road/Garden Village Junction – This unit remains non-operational and Streetlight no 56 at the east end of Overton Road was on all the time.

Parish Clerk

However, the scheme at Overton Road, St Martins has been given a provisional start date of 02/03/2026, this involves converting the existing zebra crossing into a puffin type crossing. Work is expected to last for 4 weeks.

016/01/26.C Shropshire Council.

Shropshire Cllr Carl Rowley updated members following a recent full council meeting that Shropshire Council had applied to the Government to increase this year's Council Tax by 10% without having to go to a referendum. Larger Town Councils will now have to substantially increase their precept to cover services Shropshire Council will hand down to them.

Shropshire Cllrs

Shropshire Cllr Carl Rowley added that Shropshire Council will be looking at clawing back parish council CIL money that had been outstanding for more than five years,

Parish Clerk

017/01/26.C Arthan's Pond and a BMX track

Both these items will be considered at the February meeting.

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018/01/26.C	New Councillor Induction Pack	Agreed to issue the new welcome pack for all Members which will be available for all members through the parish council's website. Chairman to arrange a zoom meeting for all new Members.	Parish Clerk
019/01/26.C	Member of Parliament	The safety issues outside the school had been forwarded to our MP Helen Morgan for her attention. She is monitoring the situation. There had been no other urgent issues since the last meeting that required the attention of our MP Helen Morgan.	Parish Clerk
020/01/26.C	Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)	All correspondence received from SALC had been circulated to all Cllr's.	
021/01/26.C	Correspondence	There were no additional items of correspondence to report on.	
022/01/26.C	Members Reports	Cllr Sue Schofield raised the issue over the future of the recreation land adjacent to the school in relation to the Section 106 Agreement. Cllr Carl Rowley agreed to report back on this at the next meeting.	Cllr Carl Rowley
023/01/26.C	Next Meeting	Next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 12 th February 2026 @ 19.00 in St Martins Village Hall. There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20.57 pm.	
	Signed Chairman	Date	Chairman