

ST MARTINS PARISH COUNCIL

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

7/26

C.FEBRUARY.26

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the St Martins Parish Council held on Thursday 12th February 2026 at 7.00 pm in St Martins Village Hall.

Attendance:

Parish Councillors: Cllr Nigel Court (Chairman), Cllr Sue Schofield (Vice Chairman), Cllr Campbell Cunningham, Cllr Tracy Evans, Cllr Duncan Laing, Cllr Elaine Philips, Cllr Carl Rowley and Cllr Helen Williams.

Members of the Public: One member of the public was in attendance.

Others: SC Ward Cllr Carl Rowley.
Parish Clerk – Edward Davies.

024/02/26.C Apologies for Absence

Action

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Andrew Cast, Cllr David Davies, Cllr Sue Evans, Cllr Mark Herbert, Cllr Craig Jones and Shropshire Cllr Brian Evans and the Police.

Proposed, seconded and carried that these apologies are accepted.

Parish Clerk

Cllr Alan Langley was absent.

Cllr Steve Morris had informed the Chairman and Clerk that he had decided not to continue as a Parish Councillor and therefore resigned as of noon on Thursday 12th February 2026.

Parish Clerk

025/02/26.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.**

A note explaining the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 (Ss 29-34) and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 had been issued to all Members prior to the meeting.

026/02/26.C Council Minutes

Resolved: with two abstentions that the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on the 15th of January 2026 having been previously circulated be approved and adopted as a true record.

Chairman

027/01/26.C Public Open Forum

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.

ST MARTINS PARISH COUNCIL

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

8/26

C.FEBRUARY.26

028/02/26.C Urgent Items

The Chairman asked for any Members who could held with the Parish Council Facebook. Cllr Elaine Phillips agreed to take on this responsibility.

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

029/02/26.C Members Emails

The Chairman and Parish Clerk reported that we can't operate an efficient council if members don't look at or respond to emails. In addition, for those members who don't bring a laptop or iPad to the meeting, then they should print off and bring to the meeting agendas and relevant documents listed on agenda items. These concerns were noted by Members present.

All Cllr's

030/02/26.C Parish Clerk's Progress Report

The Parish Clerk reported that following an advert in the latest weekly SALC briefing note, Whitchurch Town Council had taken all our now redundant hanging baskets.

The Chairman and Parish Clerk expressed concern that despite an email to all new Members on a zoom training session on the New Councillor Induction Pack, only one member attended.

031/02/26.C Police Report

The latest parish police report (January) had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. A new community priority list will be required by the end of March.

Members were informed that we now need new members to sign up to the Speed Watch Scheme.

All Cllr's

Concern was expressed over the increase in Dog Fouling in the village especially on the football field behind Stans Superstore. It was agreed that we need to establish whose responsibility it was to act on this.

Parish Clerk.

032/02/26.C Highway Issues

Shropshire Council had confirmed that the new pedestrian crossing by Stans Superstore will be installed between 3rd and 5th March this year.

It was reported that a manhole covering a pothole on Ellesmere Road required urgent attention.

Cllr Carl Rowley

Cllr Carl Rowley expressed concern over Kimberley Lane being used as a 'Rat Run' between Ellesmere Road and Overton Road.

ST MARTINS PARISH COUNCIL

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

9/26

C.FEBRUARY.26

033/02/2026 Memorandum of Understanding

Members were asked to consider a report on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which is made between Shropshire Council and the Local Council to establish a framework for improved collaborative working on service delivery, to explore the potential for the Local Council to take on additional responsibilities in response to budgetary pressures faced by Shropshire Council and to recognise that such services may often be effectively delivered by the organisation with strong understanding of local needs. This is a non-legally binding arrangement with a mutually agreed approach, ensuring flexibility in alignment with evolving local government structures. **This was agreed.**

034/02/2026 Planters

Members had come up with various suggested locations in the village for planters. These would be combined on one plan before being submitted to highways for approval.

Parish Clerk

035/02/26.C Planning

The following planning decisions and recommendations of the planning authority was noted.

Reference: 24/03083/OUT

Address: Former Site Of 7 , Moors Lane, St Martins Moor, Shropshire, SY10 7BQ

Proposal: Outline application for 1No dwelling (to include access appearance layout and scale)

Decision: Grant Permission

036/02/26.C Financial Matters

Accounts for Payment

BACS	Staff	Salary & Expenses	£1258.76
BACS	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£462.11
BACS	SLCC	Membership	£253.00
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	Biennial Fee for .gov.uk	£78.00
BACS	Starboard Systems	Scribe Allotments	£172.80
BACS	Starboard Systems	Scribe Accounts	£806.40
BACS	Office Express	Files	£26.88
BACS	Highline Electrical	Repairs Ellesmere Road	£473.28
BACS	Shropshire Council	Street Lighting Energy 4 th Qtr	£1181.00
DD	Veolia	Euro 240 LTR Lift	£38.06

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

Parish Clerk

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10/26

C.FEBRUARY.26

Income

CCLA January Reinvestment £1,498.63

037/02/26.C

Assertion 10 (Addition to the 2026 AGAR External Audit)

Members were asked to consider adopting the following additional policies to support parish/town councils in managing governance and financial duties with greater clarity. This places a clear and strengthened focus on how parish/town councils manage their digital presence, data protection and IT systems.
Policies to Adopt included.

IT Policy 2026
Accessibility Policy
Privacy Policy 2026
Data Protection Policy 2026
Data Retention Policy 2026

Resolved that all the above policies are adopted.

Parish
Clerk

038/02/26.C

Arthan's Pond (Carrot and Carp)

Members were asked to consider the future of this facility, following a RoSPA report on a water safety review of the area. After some discussion it was agreed to firstly obtain quotations from local contractors to clear the pond area and make safe. Cllr Carl Rowley agreed to take this on board and report back at the next meeting.

Cllr Carl
Rowley

039/02/26.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

040/02/26.C

Shropshire Council.

Shropshire Cllr Carl Rowley updated members on the following.
Council Tax would go up by 8.99%.
Shropshire Council are looking at borrowing from the government between 120m and 190m.
They are also looking at selling the Shirehall for future housing development.
A new committee has been set up to review the Shropshire Local Plan, earliest date for adoption was September 2029.

041/02/26.C

BMX Track

Having now visited the area, Cllr Carl Rowley said there was a considerable amount of work required to bring this into a useable facility. There was also the question of who owns the land.

Cllr Carl
Rowley

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11/26

C.FEBRUARY.26

042/02/26.C Mobile Phone Mast

The Parish Clerk reported that following a zoom session with Ben Walker, Shropshire Councils Senior Programme Officer who deals with Mobile Networks it was noted that the Atlas Tower Group who we are consulting with have six proposed sites in Shropshire none of which have been erected because they need at least one Mobile Network Operator (MNO) to agree rent space to install their equipment on the mast beforehand. The three main providers are EE, VM/02 and Vodafone Three.

Following conversations with our MP Helen Morgan she suggested we contact Cellnex UK. They responded we contact the three main providers on whether they would offer a service to St Martins.

Parish Clerk

043/02/26.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. She has also been involved in the Mobile Phone Mast situation. There had been no other urgent issues since the last meeting that required the attention of our MP Helen Morgan.

Parish Clerk

044/02/26.C Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)

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

045/02/26.C Correspondence

There were no additional items of correspondence to report on.

046/02/26.C Members Reports

Cllr Sue Schofield requested any names to go forward for the Unsung Hero Award 2026.

She also added that due to lack of support she had closed the Community Website.

All Cllr's

047/02/26.C Next Meeting

Next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 12th March 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