

ST MARTINS PARISH COUNCIL

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

12/26

C.MARCH.26

Minutes of a Council Meeting of the St Martins Parish Council held on Thursday 12th March 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 Campbell Cunningham, Cllr David Davies, Cllr Tracy Evans, Cllr Mark Herbert, Cllr Duncan Laing, Cllr Elaine Philips, Cllr Carl Rowley and Cllr Helen Williams.

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

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

048/03/26.C	Apologies for Absence	Action
	Apologies for absence had been received from the Police. Cllr Craig Jones and Cllr Alan Langley were absent. Cllr Sue Evans had resigned from the parish council.	
049/03/26.C	Declarations of Interest and Dispensations	All Cllrs
	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. d) Code of Conduct/personal use of social media. Following two complaints from members of the public, Shropshire Council’s Solicitor had responded by advising that all Parish Councillors are required to comply with the code of conduct when they are acting in an official capacity and conducting the business of the Parish Council and that allegations that they have failed to comply with the code can be forwarded to the Monitoring Officer of Shropshire Council.	
050/03/26.C	Council Minutes	Chairman
	Resolved: with two abstentions that the minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on the 12 th of February 2026 having been previously circulated be approved and adopted as a true record.	
051/03/26.C	Recreation Services Committee	Parish Clerk
	The Chairman reported on a recent meeting of this committee. Items discussed included the S106 agreement for Morlas Meadows, the Brynkinalt Land adjacent to the school (now seeking further legal advice on this) and present and proposed play areas in the village. As regards the future of Arthan’s Pond (Carrot and Carp), again legal advice would be sought on the liabilities implications of taking over this area.	

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052/03/26.C Public Open Forum

The two members 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.

053/03/26.C Urgent Items

The parish clerk reminded those present that the village hall car park will be closed from the 16th of March for approximately 3 weeks due to car park improvements.

At present the Allotment Association still have the old St Martins Association as the main contact although we joined in August last year. Parish Clerk to action.

Parish Clerk

Cllr Tracy Evans had received an email from the football club concerning persistent pitch issues including dog fouling and surface drainage, vandalism to the dugouts and whether a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) could be implemented and CCTV installed. With Stans now in different ownership Cllr Helen Williams agreed to find out what the situation was over this play area before any action could be agreed.

Cllr Helen Williams

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

054/03/26.C Parish Clerk's Progress Report

The Parish Clerk said that the main issue since the last meeting had been discussed on the previous agenda item.

055/03/26.C Police Report

The Police have again asked for an update on our parish Community Priorities. It was agreed that these should include traffic speeding through the village, especially health and safety issues outside the school, Drug use, Dog Fouling, an increase in vehicles parking on pavements and more police presence in the parish. As regards dog fouling, the football club has reported an increase in dog fouling on their pitch behind Stans Superstore. This has resulted in their matchday preparation now invariably beginning with the degrading task of clearing dog foul from the pitch. Despite their best efforts to engage the community, this has become a constant issue. In addition, with the fortnightly grass verge cutting started throughout the village it is essential that dog owners pick up their dog poo from these areas as last year there were several areas that we stopped the contractors cutting the grass to protect their machinery and health and environmental issues for their operatives.

Parish Clerk.

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056/03/26.C

Highway Issues

Cllr Sue Schofield expressed concern over the number of unadopted roads in the village, especially in the New Ifton area.

Members were asked to consider a report from a member of the public on safety issues on Ellesmere Road with the installation of 'Speed Cushions' (was speed bumps). After discussion and agreeing that our CIL money could be used for this, it was **Resolved; with seven votes for, one vote against and two abstentions that this is forwarded to Highways for consideration.**

Cllr Carl Rowley

Parish Clerk

057/03/2026

Planters

As a start it was agreed to put several planters around the corner of Ellesmere Road and Overton Road (Plus a seat in the middle) and the same format at the junction of Ellesmere Road and Mount Bradford Lane. These were still awaiting highway approval. The Parish Clerk was asked to check the public liability insurance on these planters.

Parish Clerk

058/03/26.C

Planning

The following planning applications were considered.

Reference: 26/00683/FUL (validated: 20/02/2026)

Address: Moors Methodist Chapel, Moors Lane, St Martins Moor, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7BQ

Proposal: Conversion of redundant chapel into a dwelling with ancillary garden amenity and car parking areas.

Parish Council Comment: Support.

Reference: 26/00679/TPO (validated: 19/02/2026)

Address: 1 Firs Close, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3LT

Proposal: Fell 1no. Sycamore protected by The Council of the Borough of Oswestry (The Land at the Firs, Ellesmere Road, St Martins, Oswestry) TPO 2003 (OS/00057/03)

Parish Council Comment: Support.

Reference: 26/00460/FUL (validated: 06/02/2026)

Address: 41 Greenfields, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3AQ

Proposal: Single storey rear extension and vehicle access to rear

Parish Council Comment: Support.

Reference: 26/00242/FUL (validated: 06/03/2026)

Address: Lower House Farm, Pen-y-bryn, St Martins, Shropshire, SY11 3DX

Proposal: Erection of 3No. additional agricultural buildings together with concrete pads.

Parish Council Comment: Support.

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Reference: 26/00798/REM (validated: 27/02/2026)

Address: Proposed Residential Development Land South Of B5069, St Martins, Shropshire

Proposal: Approval of reserved matters (Landscaping) pursuant to planning permission 25/00361/OUT Residential development for up to 62 dwellings

Parish Council Comment:

St Martins Parish Council request that consideration is taken into account to use the Section 106 funds to provide a junior equipped play area on the grassed public open space that backs onto the Moors Bank houses.

In addition there is a significant difference in the location of the proposed pedestrian crossing on the new development.

Proposed site plan HA51915_PL_05_REVK, dated 27 Feb 2026, shows the crossing at the end of the Moors Bank houses, with a path leading to it from within the new estate. This is as per the outline planning permission granted. The proposed landscaping plans SA56177-BRY-ST-PL-A-0006 A and SA56177-BRY-ST-PL-A-0007 A, also date 27 Feb 2026, shows a crossing adjacent to the turning into the estate and the internal estate paths reconfigured.

We consider a crossing between the takeaways/school entrance opposite and the pavement opposite would be much safer and more useful than the new location shown. It would give a safe crossing point for foot traffic between the village and Moors Bank, including school children who need to catch a service bus towards Gobowen. I would also give a safer route to school via the crossing by St Martins Service Station, through the new estate internal paths and then crossing again opposite the takeaways, thus avoiding the narrow footpath adjacent to the Morlas Meadows development.

A crossing adjacent to the entrance to the estate would only service foot traffic from the estate going towards the school and would direct school children onto the narrow footpath mentioned above. Foot traffic heading for the village would be able to use the internal paths and new footpath opposite the entrance to Morlas Meadows to access the existing crossing by the Service Station. This proposed location is also further compromised as it is sited on a bend in the road, with poor visibility from the St Martins direction.

Would you please consider these observations as the location of this proposed crossing is key to road safety in this part of the village.

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

Reference: 25/04529/REM (validated: 01/12/2025)

Address: 55 New Ifton, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3AE

Proposal: Approval of reserved matters (access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for the erection of a single two-storey detached dwelling.

Decision: Grant Permission

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059/03/26.C Financial Matters

Accounts for Payment

BACS	Staff	Salary & Expenses	£1294.27
BACS	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£462.11
BACS	Chairman	Allowance	£400.00
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	Vision ICT	Website MOT	£174.00
BACS	Highline Electrical	Repairs Cottage Lane	£547.20
BACS	A G Royce	Stans Field Maintenance	£4465.50
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.

Income

CCLA	February Reinvestment	£1,462.05
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Parish Clerk

060/03/26.C Arthan's Pond (Carrot and Carp)

Cllr Carl Rowley had still to 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

061/03/26.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

062/03/26.C Shropshire Council.

Shropshire Cllr Carl Rowley updated members on the following. Council Tax would go up by 8.99% Shropshire Council are also borrowing from the government 190m. The proposed North/West link road has been cancelled. He added that all potholes are temporary repaired at present due to weather conditions and should still be reported under 'FixMyStreet'. He added that he was looking at plans to have adopted roads, such as New Ifton, brought under Shropshire Council ownership.

063/03/26.C BMX Track

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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064/03/26.C	Mobile Phone Mast	Still no further forward in establishing whether any of the three main providers have agreed to rent space to install their equipment on the mast.	Parish Clerk
065/03/26.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
066/03/26.C	Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)	All correspondence received from SALC had been circulated to all Cllr's. The Chairman reported on a recent meeting of the Area Committee. Main discussions were on devolution of services and partnership working.	
067/03/26.C	Correspondence	There were no additional items of correspondence to report on.	
068/03/26.C	Members Reports	Cllr Helen Williams reported a dangerous pothole on Ellesmere Road. Cllr Carl Rowley to action. Cllr Elaine Phillips requested contacts for setting up the Councils Facebook. Cllr Sue Schofield reminded Members of the time scale for forwarding nominations for this year's Unsung Hero Award. The Chairman said there were several street name plates and roadside bollards that need replacing.	Parish Clerk All Cllrs Chairman
068/03/26.C	Next Meetings	The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 9 th April 2026 @ 19.00 in St Martins Village Hall. The Annual Parish Meeting of St Martins Parish will be held on Thursday 23 rd April 2026 @ 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