

ST MARTINS PARISH COUNCIL

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

29/26

C.JUNE.26

Minutes of a Parish Council held on Thursday 11th of June 2026 at 7.00 pm in St Martins Village Hall.

Attendance:

Parish Councillors: Cllr Nigel Court (Chair), Cllr Elaine Phillips (Vice Chairperson)
Cllr Andrew Cast, Cllr Campbell Cunningham, Cllr David Davies,
Cllr Tracy Evans, Cllr Craig Jones, Cllr Duncan Laing, Cllr Alan Langley,
Cllr Sue Schofield and Cllr Helen Williams.

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

Others: Parish Clerk – Edward Davies.

117/06/26.C Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mark Herbert and Carl Rowley.

Apologies for absence had also been received from SC Ward Members Cllr Brian Evans and Cllr Carl Rowley and West Mercia Police.

118/06/26.C Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

- a) Declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interest in a matter to be discussed at the meeting and which is not included in the register of interests.
- b) Applications for dispensation.
- c) Declaration of any other interests in the agenda items.

No declarations made at this point of the meeting.

Members noted the following correspondence from Shropshire Councils Graham White, Solicitor and Interim Democratic Services Manager, Legal and Governance.

This relates to an important upcoming change regarding the published register of interests. The English Devolution and Community Engagement Act 2026 inserts a new section 32A into the Localism Act 2011 which provides that, while details of all property in the area of their Authority in which a Councillor has an interest (including their usual residential address) must be disclosed to the myself as the Monitoring Officer, the register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests published by the Authority **must not** include the usual residential address of a Councillor **unless they specifically request that it is published**. As this is a significant task, we will begin the process of removing councillors' home addresses from the published register immediately to ensure that this is completed before 29 June 2026. This amendment is designed to enhance privacy and security for all council members.

119/06/26.C Appointment of Committees 2026/2027

The outstanding appointments to fill vacancies following the Annual Council meeting were approved:

Executive Committee Cllr Alan Langley and Cllr Sue Schofield.

Finance Committee Cllr Craig Jones and Cllr Sue Schofield. **Still one vacancy.**

Recreation Services Committee Cllr Sue Schofield.

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Grievance Panel Committee Cllr Campbell Cunningham.

Disciplinary Panel Committee Cllr Sue Schofield.

Street Lighting Committee Cllr Carl Rowley.

120/06/26.C Council Minutes

Resolved: with four abstentions that the minutes of the Annual meeting of St Martins Parish Council held on the 14th of May 2026 having been previously circulated be approved and adopted as a true record.

Chair

121/06/26.C Urgent Items

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

122/06/26.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, therefore the council then moved on to the next item of business.

123/06/26.C Chair & Parish Clerk's Progress Reports

The Chair reported that following a site meeting with Highline Electrical they had highlighted 15 Street Lamp posts along Overton Road from the School up to Stans Superstore that were suitable for Christmas lights. Estimated cost between 6-7 thousand pounds. Now awaiting approval from Shropshire Council's Street Lighting department.

Chairperson

The Chair also updated members on a recent meeting of the SALC Area Committee when a report had been presented on the latest CIL funds and the Local Plan which he encouraged all Members to download and consider a response.

All Cllrs.

The Parish Clerk had received a complaint from a concerned resident over a tree that had been cut down on Cherry Tree Drive. As no name had been given, he had not responded although members agreed that the tree in question needed being felled.

As regards the land behind the School the Chair was going to set up a meeting with the school

124/06/26.C Police Report

The latest police report had been circulated to all members.

125/06/26.C Section 106 Morlas Meadows

The Chair reported that he had finally managed to get a figure from our contractors.

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They have quoted an annual figure of £1290 for grass cutting and hedge/tree maintenance.

We have assumed the planting yet to be completed will be done as per the landscape plan approved by the planners, e.g. the hedging around the open space backing onto gardens which is currently very patchy.

Chair

Assuming annual inflation of 2.5%, the estimated commuted sum would be £26,551. He had passed this on to the Director of Primoris. The chair explained that this was not a binding figure, but that Primoris/Brynkinalt Estates had asked for a potential estimated sum for their own internal accounting purposes.

Members expressed concern over this as the parish council had still not yet decided whether to take on the maintenance of the public open spaces or hand this over to a management company. This to be considered at the next meeting.

The Chair had raised a couple of other points for the attention of the Director of Primoris:

The boundary hedge, both by the portacabins and on both sides alongside the open space needs cutting back as it is significantly encroaching onto the pavement and path.

In addition, when he met with the Director of Primoris he was querying the amount of the public open space that had been seeded with meadow grass as per the plan. A photo, taken from the Chairs garden (original plot 48) clearly shows that only the area to the right of the path, between the main road and the estate road, has been seeded.

Chair

As regards the land behind the School the Chair was going to set up a meeting with the school and the Brynkinalt Estate to see if the estate would lease this land to the school and if so, would the school want this.

126/06/26.C Highway and Street Scene Issues

The Parish Clerk reported that following his recent meeting with the Leader of Shropshire Council, Heather Kidd, Juan Hernandez, Alliance Executive Manager for Street Scene Services had come back to him with all the details requested for litter bins, road and pavement sweeping and hedge cutting listed in the St Martins Devolution Data. Still no response from anyone in highways.

Parish Clerk

127/06/26.C Partnership Working

Prior to the meeting all Members had received a copy of Shropshire Councils proposals for partnership working with St Martins Parish Council. In view of the report in the previous agent item relating to highways, it was agreed that we would not consider taking this any further at this stage until we can get a working relationship with any Officer from Highways. We do have a good working relationship with Juan Hernandez from street scene services.

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128/06/26.C Planning

To consider the following planning application(s).

Reference: 26/01313/FUL (validated: 18/05/2026)

Address: Proposed Residential Development Land NE Of Sunnyside, Ellesmere Road, St Martins, Shropshire

Proposal: Erection of 1No dwelling

Parish Council Decision: The erection of one dwelling instead of two is more acceptable for this site and therefore the parish council supports this application.

Parish Clerk

Reference: 26/01641/OUT (validated: 01/06/2026)

Address: Land Adjoining the Oaks, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3HB

Proposal: Outline application for the erection of 1no self-build dwelling and garage (to include access)

Parish Council Decision: The Parish Council raised no objections.

Parish Clerk

Reference: 26/01981/FUL (validated: 27/05/2026)

Address: 84 Coopers Lane, St Martins, Oswestry, Shropshire, SY11 3QB

Proposal: Two storey extension and associated alterations, formation of two ground floor window openings in west elevation

Applicant: Mr Jones and Miss Evan

Parish Council Decision: The Parish Council supported this application.

Parish Clerk

Planning Applications on our New Website

Members were asked to consider the purchase of an optional planning module for our new website that automatically gets all the planning applications from our planning authority's system (SC) and displays them on our website (we need not do anything – it updates automatically in real time). This is an optional module at £100 + VAT per year:

All agreed; motion carried.

Parish Clerk

129/06/26.C Financial Matters

Accounts for Payment

BACS	Staff	Salary & Expenses	£1260.87
BACS	HMRC	PAYE & NI	£462.11
BACS	St Martins Village H	Room Hire	£30.00
BACS	Nigel Thomas	Play Area Inspections	£26.00
BACS	Huw Manford	Litter Picking, etc.	£386.63
BACS	Neil Rheade	Plants for Memorial Garden	£160.00
BACS	Office Express	Stationery	£18.00
BACS	Clear Councils	Insurance	£1322.02
BACS	Water Plus	Allotments	£48.90
BACS	Shropshire Council	Street Lighting Energy	£1222.98
DD	Veolia	Euro 240 LTR Lift	£38.71

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

Parish Clerk

Grants

St Martins Parish Church – Grant requested £1400 – **Approved £1400.**
St Martins Day Centre – Grant requested £400 – **Approved £400**

Parish Clerk

Income

CCLA May Reinvestment £1,413.76

130/06/26.C Aubergine 262

The Parish Clerk reported that the changeover of the email service from Vision ICT to Aubergine 262 will be completed on Tuesday 16th June 2026 between 9.00 am and 3.30 pm when the systems will be off air. The Parish Clerk and Cllr Elaine Phillips and Cllr Helen Williams will then be in contact with all Members to give instructions on how to access the new email system.

Work will then start the process for building our new website which will take up to six weeks.

Parish Clerk

131/06/26.C Shropshire Council

Both members had sent in their apologies to the meeting.

132/06/26.C Shropshire Association of Local Councils (SALC)

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

133/06/26.C Correspondence

There were no additional items of correspondence to report on.

134/06/26.C Members Reports

Cllr Craig Jones again expressed concern over the speed of traffic up Moors Bank, especially in the vicinity of the 30 mph.

Police

Cllr David Davies reported a dangerous tree next to the entrance to the allotment's car park. This would be reported to Shropshire Council highways through FixMyStreet.

Parish Clerk

Cllr David Davies also expressed concern over the weeds around the pond which the seeds from these weeds are now blowing onto the allotments. As Cllr Carl Rowley agreed to look at the future maintenance of this area, these concerns would be passed on to him for immediate attention.

Cllr Carl Rowley

Cllr Campbell Cunningham reported that he had seen a latest planning application showing a play area on the newly proposed development off Moors Bank.

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Cllr Helen Williams reported weeds protruding through the hedge from the properties belonging to Wrekin Housing Trust adjacent to Overton Road.

Parish Clerk

135/06/26.C Next Meetings

The next meeting of the St Martins Parish Council to be held on Thursday 9th of July 2026 @ 19.00 in St Martins Village Hall.

There being no further business the Chair declared the meeting closed at 20.48 pm.

Signed
Chairperson

Date

Chair