

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 24th October 2018 at Neen Savage Parish Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Chairman: Cllr Michael Tomkinson.

Clerk: Mrs D McBride.

Present: Cllr Olwen Sales, Cllr Michael Tomkinson, Cllr Andy Vanderhook, Cllr Sue Del Mar and Unitary Cllr Madge Shingleton.

327/01 To receive apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Cllr Arthur Ratcliff – holiday
Cllr Stephen Hinton - personal commitment
Cllr George Haywood – work.
Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler.
Apologies accepted.

327/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

327/03 Public Participation Session

There were nine members of public present. Mr P Hallett and other residents at Detton Mill are unable to have fibre broadband installed yet three years ago it was available. Shropshire Council is represented through Connecting Shropshire who work with BT Open Reach and other providers such as Airband for broadband services. It seems that BT Open Reach make the decisions on where to supply broadband to and even Connecting Shropshire don't know why broadband is no longer available at Detton Mill. Some internet service providers (ISPs) do not support Fibre to the Premises (FTTP). Only Virgin and BT offer a supply but Open Reach set the rules and appear to operate on a low budget model so don't take on the more expensive jobs even though they must save money on the easier jobs. Where do those savings go? It is taxpayer's money and BT Open Reach should be more accountable and transparent with their operations. Mr Hallett has written to Philip Dunne MP who took this up with BT to no avail. Mr Hallett asked what the outcome was of the meeting with MPs and Open Reach on 12th October. Cllr Shingleton confirmed that Shropshire Council is part of the contract and has had difficulties with Open Reach hence they have now taken a contract with Airband but the MPs and BT have been told of the poor service and she will help residents with this issue. Mr Livesay said we should know what Open Reach's criteria is for installing broadband.

At 7.41pm Cllr Sales arrived.

327/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26th September 2018

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26th September 2018, be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.

327/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillors' Progress Reports since the last meeting

i) Clerk's Progress Report

Highways – Clerk has emailed Highways again following the last meeting and had some response. Cllr Shingleton and some residents have also been chasing highways including the outstanding repairs on the Catherton Road. More information to discuss under Parish Matters.

Deeds - Land Registry confirmed three pieces of land are registered and requested a new payment of £4 which has been sent. We should have a more detailed update at next Council meeting.

Litter Pick - Six people took part on 7th October. It would be nice to have more people at these events but we appreciate that many do their own area of litter picking on a more regular basis.

Parish Hall – Clerk has spoken to Airband who were offering their services but they then said they did not cover Neen Savage at the moment! Plusnet said our account was closed but another £17.40 went out by direct debit mid-September. This will be refunded and account discussed following tonight's meeting. BT's Quote is £654.68 +VAT for installation including new pole (Agenda Item).

Six Ashes - Benches ordered have been chased again - should have been ready by end September.

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- ii) Cllr Ratcliff had sent a written report. The original 80 packs have almost all been distributed and the next 30 have been shared out for distribution. When they are gone we will decide how many we still need. New signs supplied by Mick Simpson will go up over the next few weeks.
- iii) Cllr Ratcliff had sent a written report. The Phone Box has now been sand blasted and the rotten bit of door repaired. Sandra Dodd from the WI has been to see the progress. Next step is to paint it.
- iv) Cllr Tomkinson was unable to attend the SALC area committee meeting.

327/06 Financial Matters

- i) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the second quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation to 30th September 2018. Council noted that some budget headings have increased due to audit charges; also SmartWater could be offset against Neighbourhood Fund rather than general expenditure. This will be discussed when considering other suitable projects next month together with projects which should qualify for CIL Local funding. Payments to Plusnet have been challenged due to the on-going delays with having broadband installed.
- ii) Council noted receipt of this year's Wayleave payment - £58.64
- iii) Council noted that the External auditor has only sent an interim report and still not concluded the audit. Their comment regarding the internal auditor's report was noted but Council RESOLVED to defer any discussion until the full report received.
- iv) Council RESOLVED to defer the Risk Assessments and Asset Register review until our enquiries are complete with Land Registry. Council will consider removing and writing off the old Neighbourhood Watch and Parish Watch signs as they are mostly in a poor condition and detract from the new SmartWater signs.
- v) Council considered using funding available from the Transparency Code grant and RESOLVED to approve the quotation of £654.68 + VAT for installing the phone line at the Parish Hall.

327/07 Approve Payments

Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

- i) Mrs D McBride – Wages (October) – £155.24 (Cheque)
- ii) HMRC – PAYE (October) - £20.00 (Cheque)
- iii) Chris Bargman – web hosting, domain registration and support - £37.00 (Cheque)
- iv) Mrs D McBride – Clerk's Admin Expenses - £88.00 (Cheque)

327/08 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Unitary Cllr Madge Shingleton reported a state of flux at Shropshire Council as they are working on the budget for next year. It is difficult to budget for adult social care and children's services whilst not knowing how much is coming from central Government. The public health budget per head in Shropshire is half that of Telford and Wrekin. Cllr Shingleton asked if members had been approached about supporting the Men Shed project and Cleobury Library. Cllr Shingleton is on the Task & Finish Group looking at Section 106, CIL monies etc. A paper is due out soon for the Cabinet meeting on 7th November. Cllr Tomkinson raised a concern about the rules and regulations of CIL in that you need infrastructure before building takes place but only get the CIL once building has started. Cllr Shingleton urged members to check the proposals for Cabinet and give her and Cllr Butler some feedback on the proposed changes to the percentage allocations and management of funds. Parishes can join together and allocate their CIL to a joint project such as the three parishes along the Catherton Road contributing to road improvements. Road maintenance is not satisfactory and the situation is not helped when the Senior Highway Technicians are left out of the decision-making process when priorities are set by Shropshire Council and Kier. Cllr Shingleton asked for people to check that the grit bins have been filled and let the Clerk know of any that have been missed. Discussions are on-going on whether to refurbish or sell Shirehall. There are businesses keen to rent space in a refurbished building as it is in a good location in Shrewsbury. The SALC AGM is being held on November 9th at the Bucks Head Stadium, Telford. The Police & Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable will be present so please go along and voice any concerns about the lack of front-line staff. Following earlier comments on broadband Cllr Shingleton said the contacts for Connecting Shropshire at Shropshire Council are Ben Walker and Chris Taylor.

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327/09 Parish Matters / Highways

- i) The Clerk has had some communication back from Highways. All pot holes have been passed to Kier together with any remedial works where we have felt the work is insufficient. Resurfacing schemes are deemed capital works and controlled from Shirehall using asset management data to prioritise the worst stretches. Cllr Vanderhook asked Cllr Shineton to clarify why resurfacing is a capital expenditure and not revenue expenditure. The 'Roadmaster' vehicles which one person can operate from the vehicle to prepare and fill potholes appear to be effective and cost-efficient. Shropshire Council is no longer able to carry out a programme of ditching due to ever decreasing budgets and pressures of repairing pothole defects. Roadside ditches are the responsibility of the adjacent landowners. No works have taken place at the Ford area due to no budget being allocated for it in the current financial year. The Highway maps will be returned to Cllr Tomkinson by Andy Oliver, Highways. Cllr Tomkinson said the new footpath diversion near Overwood comes out on the bends above the Nash, at the top of a steep grass bank. Could the Access Team consider making this safer with railings, steps and pedestrian warning signs or relocation even? The Clerk will speak to the Access Team.
- ii) Council discussed the issues raised regarding the lack of broadband in the Detton Mill area. Properties at Baveney Common are all under the Kinlet exchange and are now mostly to be serviced by Airband even though they can't supply a service to some properties. All other properties in the parish are under the Cleobury exchange. According to Connecting Shropshire's 2015 map, Detton Mill area was showing as being accessible for broadband but this was removed on the 2017 map. Residents have not been told why and no alternative is available. Open Reach seem to make arbitrary decisions that even Connecting Shropshire do not understand. It was felt that the onus is on Shropshire Council as they gave the contract initially to BT and now to Airband yet there was no consultation with residents when areas were no longer available under a new supplier. Broadband is at Detton Hall Farm Barns so it only needs to be extended 600 metres to Detton Mill (half over- and half underground) and residents have offered to do the ground work across the fields to their properties. Whilst recognising there may be more properties in the parish who cannot get any broadband or have only a limited service, Council felt it should support these residents and write to Ben Walker about all the points raised and invite him to a Council meeting (copy in the portfolio holder for Connecting Shropshire, Philip Dunne MP, BT Open Reach and our Unitary Councillors). It was further agreed that we will highlight this issue in the next Vital Link – asking residents who don't have broadband, if they can actually get it if they wanted it. We can then follow this up with Connecting Shropshire as well.

327/10 Future Agenda Items

- i) Review Place Plan and identify projects for CIL Local and Neighbourhood Fund.

327/11 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th November 2018 at 7.30pm at Neen Savage Parish Hall. The meeting closed at 9pm.

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed under Item 12 the public and press shall be excluded under S1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

327/12 Staff Review

Council RESOLVED to approve the Personal Development Review of the Clerk's role. Council appreciated the extra hours that have been worked by the Clerk and RESOLVED to increase the Clerk's hours to 20 per month and to the next scale rate. Where practicable councillors will help the Clerk to maintain a more regular workload.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 328/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....