

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 29th May 2019 at Neen Savage Parish Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Chairman: Cllr Arthur Ratcliff.

Clerk: Mrs D McBride.

There were 13 people present.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr A Ratcliff welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mrs S Del Mar, Mrs E Haywood, Mr P Dolphin and Mr A Davies.

3. Approve Minutes of last Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2018

The Minutes were approved as being a true record - proposed by Cllr A Vanderhook and seconded by Mrs C Ratcliff – voted all in favour and signed.

4. Fire Safety Information Briefing

Due to operational reasons Mr A Davies was unable to attend.

5. Parish Council Report

Cllr A Ratcliff reported on a busy year. The previous year had not been easy but this was a much better year with a number of projects completed. The website is running well with all Agendas, Minutes, Accounts etc on it – thanks to Cllr Sales, Mrs McBride and Mr Bargman. SmartWater has been completed to reasonable satisfaction with 98 packs distributed to the 138 properties which is over 70%. There are some packs in stock if any residents require one. The bench at the Ford has been replaced thanks to Mr & Dr Treves. We will try to keep the area a bit tidier going forward. The Phone Box has been refurbished and relocated at the Parish Hall grounds and the official opening was in April. There was a budget of £250 and the materials came to £252.22. Thank you to the WI for stocking the book shelves, keeping the Phone Box tidy and putting the map on the back. The two benches at Six Ashes have been replaced. One has been written off; the other one is covered in waste oil and it will not come out so may also have to be written off. We purchased two silent soldiers for last year's Remembrance period. They will be put out again each year. We have organized two litter pick sessions and picked over 30 bags of rubbish. Two days of Environmental Maintenance work has been carried out clearing ditches and gullies. A grant covered the contractor and Councillors match-funded this with volunteer time. Cllr Vanderhook and the Clerk have cleared out all the old papers just keeping what is required, with historical records taken to County Archives. There have been some planning applications, all of which were fine apart from a recent one. The Chairman urged anyone with issues about this to speak to a councillor. Plans for this year include more Environmental Maintenance, installation of broadband to the Parish Hall and progress plans to improve the whole Ford area, especially the drainage issues. Cllr Ratcliff thanked the Clerk and Councillors for all their work.

6. Neen Savage Parochial Church Council Report

Cllr G Haywood read Mrs S Del Mar's report on the activities of the Parochial Church Council over the year since the last Annual Meeting. (Full report attached with these Minutes). Attendances have been fairly consistent but notably the Remembrance Service and Crib Services were very well attended. There were four funerals, one wedding and one baptism. Mrs Elisabeth Ratcliff had left the church a legacy in her will, some of which has been used to purchase new hymn books. Thanks to Mr Peter Plant for keeping the churchyard looking so tidy and to the Parish Council for their grant. A large tree in the churchyard had to be cut down which involved considerable expense. Payments to the Diocese and for insurance alone were £7,300 so all contributions are gratefully received. The PCC is very grateful to those parishioners who subscribe regularly.

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7. Neen Savage Parish Hall Committee Report

Mrs C Ratcliff gave thanks to the committee members who met seven times last year. Mrs Ratcliff also thanked to the sub-committee for the parish book. There is a dedicated email address for this project and there will be a form in the June/July Vital Link for completion. Please fill this in if not already done so and ask if you need any help with the form. Mrs G Guest will be the author with help from Mrs M Warrillow and some committee members. They want the book to be a complete record of every house plus the businesses in the parish. The Scarecrow Event last year had 13 displays from recycled materials and raised over £200, of which £100 was donated to the Edwards and Hinckesman's Foundation. This year's Event is on July 13th and the theme is Brexit to be judged by a 'People's Vote'. There will be all the usual sideshows. The Bingo last Christmas was great fun. The monthly Whist Drives continue thanks to Mrs C Link and Mrs I Maxwell. Thank you to the Parish Council for making the Phone Box project happen – it looks fabulous. The electricity supply contract has changed hence a 10% increase on hire charges. The Parish Hall is a great venue with secure car parking and a good outside space. It can be used for private and business functions. Two gazebos received from Cleobury Country have been fixed by Mr A Ratcliff and can be hired out. Thank you to Mr A Pearce for cutting the hedge and Mr A Ratcliff for cutting the grass. The cracks under the rendering will be repaired and the Hall repainted by Mr M Coombes this summer. This will be funded from fund-raising events and possibly a grant. This will freshen up the Hall which supports and is here for everyone. Mrs E Ratcliff also left a bequest to the Hall to help with set-up costs for the new Parish Book. Thank you all very much.

8. Neen Savage Women's Institute Report

Mrs C Evans read the annual report (full copy attached with these Minutes).

Once again, we have had a very busy year with talks from Forest Dog Rescue and Shropshire and Beyond as well as holding a Handicraft Show and dancing workshop and having an unexpected fire when Bennett and Dunn demonstrated ways to cook with rape seed oils. Our Shropshire Ramble last year was very successful with many comments on our beautiful countryside. A Cheese and Wine event raised £400 for Cleobury Mortimer Stroke Support Group. The WI are very proud of the Phone Box and would like to record their thanks to Angela Flowers, Sandra Dodd and Arthur Ratcliff for all their hard work. The WI raised £71.40 from refreshments at the unveiling event for a local charity. We are looking forward to our 70th Anniversary event at the Larch Barn, the Scarecrow Event and also a traditional summer garden party on Saturday 17th August at Judy Beckett's. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month and visitors are always welcome. The next meeting welcomes Alf Jenkins who will talk about the origins of the Clee Hill dialect.

9. Edwards & Hinckesman's Foundation Charity Report

Cllr A Ratcliff read Mr Whitworth's Edwards & Hinckesman's Foundation Report (full copy attached with these Minutes). The Trustees met in August 2018 to interview applicants for awards and review the business of the charity. Grants totaling £2,000 were made to four young people of the Parish, all being in tertiary education. Investment income up to the year-end 31st March 2019 was £3,052 and non-recurrent donations amounted to £2,940. The Trustees are always keen to hear news from any previous beneficiary of the Foundation. Parishioners are encouraged to put them in touch. The deadline for the receipt of applications this year is Monday 19th August 2019 with interviews of applicants being held on Wednesday 28th August 2019.

10. Unitary Councillors' Annual Reports

Cllr Madge Shineton had provided a report (full copy attached with these Minutes) and gave an update on the Economy, Planning, Health, Public Transport, Highways, Public Transport, Affordable Housing and policing. Cllr Gwilym Butler also provided a report (attached with these Minutes) and gave an update on the Local Plan Review, Finance and his role as Portfolio Holder for Communities, Place and Regulatory Services. Questions were raised regarding the poor condition of the Highways and lack of communication from county officers. Cllr A Vanderhook informed the meeting that he had met with Philip Dunne MP, Chris Taylor from Shropshire Council and a representative from Open Reach regarding the on-going lack of broadband in parts of the parish. As technology keeps moving on and a change of supplier there should be a resolution using Airband.

There being no other business, Cllr Ratcliff thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting closed at 8.57pm.

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