

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 27th November 2019 at Neen Savage Parish Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Chairman: Cllr Michael Tomkinson

Clerk: Mrs D McBride.

Present: Cllr Michael Tomkinson, Cllr Andy Vanderhook, Cllr Olwen Sales, Cllr George Haywood, Cllr Sue Del Mar, Cllr Stephen Hinton and Unitary Cllr Madge Shingleton (in-part).

339/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members
Cllr Arthur Ratcliff – holiday.

339/02 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.

339/03 Public Participation Session
There were four members of public present, also PS Chris Thomas and PCSO Shelly Hyde. PS Thomas informed the meeting that the crime rates trend in our area remain low and is deemed a safe area. There have been 16 incidents reported in the past 12 months including drink driving but mainly thefts. Due to the lack of police numbers they cannot attend every incident unless it is a major or on-going incident which would bring in response from Ludlow and/or the West Midlands. Graham Donaldson – Rural & Business Crime Officer can come out and give advice on property security. The Clerk had raised issues regarding the recent diversions used following another accident at Newbridge junction. PS Thomas has spoken with Traffic Management who confirmed that an official diversion would only be given for A Roads and that Highways can take up to two hours to action this. The main priorities at an accident are the victims and recovery. Cllr Vanderhook asked what back-up is provided to inform officers unfamiliar with this area. PS Thomas stated that the control centre staff have no local knowledge either and can only access the Highways system for official diversions such as the one on the Bagginswood Road. Cllr Sales re-iterated the Parish Council's concerns that the Ford needs better signage but also that it should be marked as a safety concern on maps and SAT NAV systems. Cllr Tomkinson stated that we need to find ways to encourage people to make the right choice when driving this route as it can be dangerous at times. With today's blame culture we have to be careful what wording is used on signage or we can be sued. PS Thomas suggested we ask Highways to undertake traffic data collection to assess the volume and type of traffic using this lane. We can use evidence of all the accidents at Newbridge to support this. Cllr Shingleton said the Newbridge junction was under investigation especially since the latest accidents. It needs some reconfiguration, possibly a roundabout, but Shropshire Council have no money. CIL money from Cleobury Mortimer Town Council could help with this as land may need to be compulsory purchased. Cllr Shingleton asked how much CIL money Neen Savage has as this could be used but the Clerk replied that our money has been allocated towards the drainage project in the Ford area. PS Thomas said the Police and Crime Commissioner can assist with money for road projects, up to £10,000.

Mr B Link spoke about the lack of response from the Police following a robbery at his farm earlier this year. He had to phone 101 three times before he got a Crime Reference Number and to-date has not had a visit from anyone from the Police, just a survey form which he completed and returned. Mr Link stated that he has heard nothing back from the police even though there were data trackers on the equipment. PS Thomas agreed this was not good enough and whilst they cannot get much evidence when the ground is wet, other information can be obtained especially from CCTV. The PCSOs will go out to residents whose homes have been burgled but not to other thefts. Police will only attend if the theft is in progress. PS Thomas urged us to keep lobbying the PCC for more police. Recruits are being trained up and there should soon be extra officers in the local stations providing five on shift at any given time; currently there is a maximum of two. The new PC is also currently off sick but should be back in post soon. In addition to inviting the Crime Prevention Officers out we could also look into setting up our own WhatsApp group for local residents and include the police so they know what is going on.

339/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd October 2019
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd October 2019, be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

339/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillors' Progress Reports since the last meeting

i) **Clerk's Progress Report**

Highways

There has been no response from Highways regarding the diversionary routes being used, nor the Ford drainage project. Cllr Butler has forwarded a response he received regarding the Severn Trent (STW) works on the Bagginswood Road. Highways would need to prove that STW were negligent and did not do enough to stop drivers using Church Lane. The Clerk has asked Cllr Butler to chase all these matters up including the damage caused to the drain above Elcott and the lack of re-instatement to the grass area at the top of Church Lane.

Six Ashes

A lorry reversed into the crash barrier last week. Fortunately, both the Clerk and Chairman saw this, took photos and obtained the driver's details. The haulage company is going to sort the repair work this through their insurance.

Broadband to Parish Hall

An Open Reach engineer visited on 6th November. He was arranging a survey for a new pole installation as cable will be too low if taken directly from nearest pole. Fibre broadband may well be available. Unfortunately, no-one came out as arranged this morning so the Clerk will chase BT again.

Correspondence

Council noted receipt of a letter from the Chair of the Cleobury Youth Partnership regarding the activities they help organise for young people. Council felt that it was not a formal request for money but we have supported them previously yet very few children from the parish attend the groups. CYP only made one payment last year of £253 and they do have funds in the bank.

SALC

The Clerk attended the Web Accessibility Guidelines on Wednesday 30th October. The updated Public Sector Bodies Accessibility Regulations 2018 mean that some small amendments need to be made to the website to ensure it conforms to the required standards of accessibility. It needs to be accessible on other devices and by as many people as possible including those with hearing, sight, cognitive or motor difficulties. We also need to put an Accessibility Statement on the website to say what we are able to do. There was some useful advice on email and website security. The venue was poorly set up but it was a useful meeting. There is also a lot of useful information on the GOV.uk website regarding the Regulations. Cllr Sales agreed that the work was not required imminently and involves minor tweaks. The Clerk will ask Chris Bargman for advice and for an estimate for the work required.

Litter Pick

The Autumn Litter Pick was held on Sunday 17th November. Overall seven people took part with eight bags of rubbish picked. There was a lot less litter than previous events. There is generally less litter picked in the autumn - perhaps people have been more thoughtful about their litter? We know other residents have been litter picking on a regular basis. As litter is less accessible in the autumn anyway, we may consider just having an annual Spring litter pick when all the verges are more accessible.

339/06 Financial Matters

- i) Council considered the informal request for funding for Cleobury Mortimer Men's Shed from Cllr Butler and agreed that the Clerk will ask them to write and explain what they specifically want it for. Council did not feel there was a need to create a policy and application form but those wanting financial support should write a formal letter to the Parish Council clearly explaining what they need the money for.
- ii) Council discussed whether there were any new projects which should be considered for next year's budget. Some replacement notice boards are needed at Pike Common and Baveney Wood.
- iii) Council reviewed and approved the prepared Environmental Maintenance Grant application which the Clerk will now submit.

339/07 Approve Payments

Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

- i) Mrs D McBride – Wages (November) – £187.60 (Cheque)
- ii) HMRC – PAYE (November) - £45.80 (Cheque)
- iii) The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Collection A/c - Poppy Wreaths - £40.00 (Cheque)

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

339/08 Planning Matters

- (a) New Planning Application
- i) Reference: 19/04840/FUL (validated: 11/11/2019)
Address: Land At Barbrook, Neen Savage, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire
Proposal: Conversion of agricultural building to 1No dwelling and installation of septic tank
Applicant: Mr T Poyner (4 Withies Bank, Oretton, Nr Kidderminster)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support this application as had no problem with previous applications and additional information regarding sightlines has been supplied.
- (b) Planning Decision (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):
- i) Reference: 19/04363/HRM (validated: 04/10/2019)
Address: Land North Of, Baveney Lane, Neen Savage, DY14 8LQ
Proposal: To remove 3 sections of hedgerow totalling 20m on land north of Baveney Lane to allow for the undertaking of maintenance works on an existing clean water underground pipeline.
Applicant: Mr Michael Tolley (One Supply Chain West, Shifnal, TF11 8SD).
Decision: Grant Permission.

339/09 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Unitary Cllr Madge Shineton reported things are in abeyance during the election period but Task & Finish Groups are still meeting. £74K has been put into Adult Social Care which is being scrutinized also Youth Provision, Highways, Licencing, Public Health ready for the budget, having been seriously under-funded for many years. Highways – A new Flood Officer has been appointed. The reorganisation of Highways should work but prior issues with quality, the backlog and the weather are taking its toll. She had driven round and knows how bad the roads are. Please use My Shropshire to report issues. Cllr Vanderhook informed Cllr Shineton of problems with My Shropshire regarding the incorrect placement of road closure signs on the Bridgnorth Road. My Shropshire were no help at all and the signs are still incorrectly located which is causing great concern for those planning to use the Bridgnorth Road and being told it is closed when the closure is actually by Lower Neen Farm. Housing – data collected through Right Home Right Place is important for Shropshire Council to help improve the provision of housing. Sewerage – some Barbrook residents will have received letters regarding debts of £3,000 for the capital element of work undertaken in 2008. If they don't pay an independent person will be appointed to investigate, at further cost. Some residents have not paid the capital costs because no clear information has been given. Anyone concerned with this matter can contact Cllr Shineton. Cleobury Youth Partnership's AGM is being held on December 16th 10am at the Sports and Social Club. There will be a presentation from Jon Bodenham on the Neighbourhood Plan and the implication of youth, reports from Mark Greaves of SMYP and Rich Moreley of SSYF as well as representatives from Police and Housing. Future Fit is going ahead despite the election, Brexit and also the recent leaked maternity documents which Cllr Shineton feels are politically weaponised. Newly recruited doctors and nurses are starting soon. Cllr Tomkinson asked whether the maternity issues will affect the timing of Shropshire coming out of special measures.

339/10 Parish Matters / Highways

Council noted the state of the roads after all the diversions and will keep pressing Highways for road maintenance and drain/gulley cleaning. Water is breaking up the roads and additional drains are needed in some areas. Our drainage maps are incomplete in some locations ie it is unknown where the outfall is from road drains on the Nethercott to Reaside road. This needs looking into further so that improvements can be made. Cllr Shineton added that she has recently told Kier that she felt they haven't got their prioritisation right. There are nasty pot holes again on the B4363 between Wall Town and Six Ashes.

339/11 Future Agenda Items

Council felt there was no need for a presentation from 'what3words' as the App is available to download. Council discussed the proposed meeting with Cleobury Mortimer Town Council regarding the Newbridge junction and would like to be kept informed and are happy to meet up. Clerks to propose some dates for this meeting.

339/12 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 18th December 2019 at 7.30pm at Neen Savage Parish Hall. Cllr Sales gave apologies in advance due to being away. The meeting closed at 9.17pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 340/05) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

Arthur Ratcliff

18th December 2019

Signed.....

Chairman.....

Date.....