

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 26th February 2020 at Neen Savage Parish Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Chairman: Cllr Arthur Ratcliff

Clerk: Mrs D McBride.

Present: Cllr Arthur Ratcliff, Cllr Olwen Sales, Cllr Andy Vanderhook, Cllr Michael Tomkinson and Cllr Stephen Hinton.

The Chairman welcomed Graham Donaldson, Rural and Business Crime Officer for Shropshire. Mr Donaldson's role is funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner to be a point of contact and link between rural communities and the police. He agreed the main issue people raise at these meetings is that they feel the police don't do anything when matters are reported so there is no point in reporting anything. Sometimes there should be a police response but they have to prioritise according to threat, harm and risk, but please always ring things in. The police are trying to put together a rural crime team of officers and things are improving as more officers are being recruited. Mr Donaldson monitors rural crime reports and statistics and they show that we are in a really low crime area. Traditionally rural areas were always low because criminals didn't want to travel out to the countryside and couldn't find the isolated places. Now, with more accessibility through, for example google maps we are seen as soft targets. Criminals are more organised and know that rural areas are more vulnerable and less well protected. Rural communities need to talk to each other – perhaps through a WhatsApp Group, rather than Facebook, because the police resources are stretched. The police are involved with 'Rural Watch' (similar to Neighbourhood Watch) and Mr Donaldson can share information from this to a WhatsApp Group, together with signs/notices to go up around the parish. All minor crimes and suspicious incidents should be reported to the police as well because they will be mapped and help provide a trail of evidence. If there are no calls, there will be no police patrols. We need to make things as difficult as possible for people driving round 'on spec' and also be more observant in our own community. Mr Donaldson can give advice on having trackers on vehicles, using SmartWater and other crime prevention measures available.

The Chairman thanked Mr Donaldson for attending our meeting.

342/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Cllr George Haywood – working.

Sue Del Mar – holiday.

Council accepted these apologies.

342/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

342/03 Public Participation Session

There were eleven members of public present. Residents raised concerns over the proposed development at Neen House Farm. It was felt that the proposals are very similar to last year's application are involve overdevelopment of the site with serious concerns over the increase in traffic, noise and smell; a lack of information regarding storage and disposal of waste, sewage treatment and surface water run-off. Clarification was also sought on the ecological assessment regarding the removal of 65m of hedgerow.

Mr French said there were no plans to remove the hedgerow and that the document was incorrect; waste will be stored on site, but there are no plans where that will be yet, before going to an anaerobic digester; the sewage treatment plant is to cover a 6-bedroom house, 4-bedroom barn, 2 holiday lets and the shepherd huts; the barn is not American style and parking for the livery side is in the yard.

An open question regarding whether people can build structures in their front gardens was raised. Cllr Shingleton will check this matter.

Other questions were raised regarding the state of the roads and how to report issues. Cllr Sales will post a link on our Facebook page but the main way is through the My Shropshire app on Shropshire Council's website.

342/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd January 2020

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd January 2020, be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

342/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillors' Progress Reports since the last meeting

i) **Clerk's Progress Report**

Highways

A long list of issues have been reported to Highways. There has been a lot of flood damage recently especially at the Ford, Walfords Bridge, Pike Common.

Six Ashes road safety barrier

Repairs have been completed to the barrier at Six Ashes to a good standard by contractors acting on behalf of the delivery driver's insurance company.

Broadband to Parish Hall

BT are awaiting confirmation from Shropshire Council regarding the statutory consultation for the pole installation. Cllr Shineton asked which officer at Shropshire Council was dealing with this consultation. The Clerk will check and report back to Cllr Shineton.

'Take Your Litter Home' sign request for the Ford

Shropshire Council apologised for delay in responding to our email request for 'Take your Litter Home' signs and said there was unfortunately a spending freeze. They suggest that we re-submit our enquiry via Customer Services around the beginning of the new financial year. Council proposed asking Street Scene directly for the signs instead.

342/09 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Unitary Councillor Madge Shineton reported that Shropshire Council has recognised that people ask where all the money goes so this will be fully explained with the Council Tax bills. Shropshire Council have increased their element of Council Tax by 4.99% - Band D council tax will be £1,478 which includes £34.76 for the Parish Council. There continues to be a lot of pressure on the main budget especially with children's services and adult social care with budget increases to £21m and £15.2m respectively for 2020/21. It was commented that Shropshire Council have increased their budget and spending but are not paying any extra to care providers who have to absorb increasing costs themselves. There are currently staff vacancies in building control, ICT and children's services at Shropshire Council. Highways need £20.8m but only got £14m. The national budget will be announced on March 11th. Shropshire Council are considering loaning money to Housing Associations to encourage them to build more low-cost affordable housing which is desperately needed. Cllr Vanderhook asked whether there was a ceiling on the loan but also queried this approach as Housing Associations have access to money from other sources. Cllr Shineton said a business plan, evidence of housing need and land specifications are needed but this loan proposal is to encourage them to build more houses more quickly than the current level. Economic Growth & Regeneration – there are a number of successful businesses in the parish – Old Station Business Park, Golf Club, Pioneer Centre as well as small home-based businesses and agriculture. With climate change there are already a variety of renewable energy systems in place too.

Highways - Cllr Shineton regrets enormously the state of the roads. The highly publicised consultant employed by Shropshire Council is sorting things out and local level staff feel confident that things will improve. The Environmental Maintenance Grant is useful but it would be more helpful if given earlier in the financial year. Health – Future Fit will go ahead and a consultation regarding all disciplines and all providers coming together will be out soon.

342/06 Financial Matters

- i) The Chairman signed the approved budget for 2020/21 which will now be published on the website.
- ii) Council RESOLVED to approve the order of 20 British Legion 'Lamp Post Poppies' @ £3 each. The poppies could be used for VE/VJ Day events but are probably more appropriate for Remembrance in November.

342/07 Approve Payments

(a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

- i) Mrs D McBride – Wages (February) – £187.80 (Cheque)
- ii) HMRC – PAYE (February) - £45.60 (Cheque)

(b) Council RESOLVED to approve the following S.137 payment:

- i) Neen Savage Parochial Church Council – churchyard maintenance - £500.00 (Cheque)

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

342/08 Planning Matters

(a) New Planning Application:

- i) Reference: 19/05449/FUL (validated: 06/02/2020)

Address: Neen House Farm, Neen Savage, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8JT

Proposal: Formation of riding manege and lunge pen with 1.4m high fencing; erection of stable block; erection of american style stable barn comprising 15 loose boxes; change of use of land to equestrian; siting of two shepherd huts as holiday let properties; conversion of barn to form two holiday let properties; construction of sewage treatment plant

Applicant: Redfern Property LTD (Fao: Mr M French, Neen House Farm, Neen Savage, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8JT).

Council had undertaken a site visit due to the number of concerns and questions raised last time especially regarding highways, traffic and waste management. Council discussed the issues raised earlier and whether there was sufficient information provided with the current planning application.

At 9.25pm Council RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to allow Mr French to speak. Mr French said that horse owners would likely visit the DIY livery twice a day and spend more time on-site during the summer. The DIY livery won't be full all of the time as there will be places for horse and rider holiday stays. Parking will be provided by the new barn as well as in the current yard. The shepherd huts may be used by holiday makers with or without bring horses.

At 9.30pm Council RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders.

Council felt supportive of the holiday lets, shepherd huts and the personal stables but had concerns over the DIY livery. The holiday lets would tidy up the site and would encourage tourism.

The main concern is with the application for the DIY livery business which does not provide sufficient information. There will be more traffic on the road, especially lorries and vehicles with trailers. The passing places proposed do not appear to provide enough space for relevant vehicles to pass without detriment to the hedgerow and ditches. There is little room for parking and turning on-site. Council does not think the application has dealt with the concerns raised previously with surface water run-off and the potential for flooding. There is inadequate and conflicting information regarding waste water from the treatment plants and surface water run-off giving concern that poor soakaways will lead to flooding and potential pollution of the ponds and water courses. There is no provision for storage of horse manure and management of waste in the application. There are some discrepancies on the application concerning the terminology of an American style barn, conflicting information regarding the hedge removal for access and sightlines, also numbering on maps and drawings. Additionally, there is no business plan for the Livery, no welfare facilities for staff or public users, no lighting plan or screening proposed.

It was felt that Council should represent the local views and objections and raise the concerns of those living here and as such will send these comments in.

342/10 Parish Matters / Highways

- i) During the recent floods the plank bridge between Reaside and Goesland was washed away. Cllr Tomkinson will send the grid reference to the Clerk to forward onto the Access Team. The caravan which had washed into Walfords Bridge has been removed in sections and is now in the field.
- ii) Everyone is encouraged to continue reporting highway issues on the My Shropshire app. Some further ditching work will be carried out this Spring under Environmental Maintenance. A plan will be discussed in June/July for the autumn work.
- iii) The annual Spring Litter Pick will take place on Sunday 29th March. Everyone to meet at the Parish Hall at 10am to collect their equipment and receive safety instructions.

342/11 Future Agenda Items

Consideration of some form of event to mark VE/VJ Day.

At 9.55pm Council RESOLVED to suspend Standing Orders to ask the public for their view on setting up a Whats App community messaging group. There was support for this.

At 9.57pm Council RESOLVED to reinstate Standing Orders and agreed to discuss how to process with a WhatsApp group and consider Rural Watch at the next meeting.

342/12 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th March 2020 at 7.30pm at Neen Savage Parish Hall. The meeting closed at 9.58pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 342/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

Arthur Ratcliff

27th May 2020

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....