

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd September 2020 using the Zoom on-line facility 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, Cllr Stephen Hinton and Cllr Sue Del Mar.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting.

346/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Cllr George Haywood – work.
Council accepted this apology.

346/02 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ratcliff declared an interest in Agenda No. 346/07 – Payments and asked Cllr Tomkinson to take the Chair for this item.

346/03 Public Participation Session

There were two members of public present. Mr Hardy commented that the CrimeWatch WhatsApp group was working well.

346/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd July 2020

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd July 2020 be ADOPTED as a true record. Minutes to be signed as soon as practicable.

346/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillors' Progress Reports since the last meeting

i) Clerk's Progress Report

Highways

The fly tipping has finally been removed from a field gateway in Green Lane. The Clerk has received notification that the Detton to Nethercott Road repairs should be actioned soon. Cllr Sales confirmed some work has been carried out and will update Council later.

Cllr Shingleton has also been chasing up repairs to Catherton Road from Stonehouse to Glen Caravan Park entrance. Cllr Sales commented that the removals van previously parked near Newbridge is temporarily parked there again. Cllr Shingleton said there are highway plans for the Newbridge area which will stop this parking.

Ford Drainage – CIL Project

Shropshire Council highway consultants WSP have been in touch regarding our proposals. Unfortunately, whilst arranging a site meeting our consultant was re-located and a new officer has yet to be assigned to us.

Pike Common

The fallen tree has still not been removed – the Clerk will chase this up again. Cllr Ratcliff has repaired the notice board and re-installed it. This is much appreciated, and thanks were expressed to Cllr Ratcliff and James Sales for doing this. Cllr Vanderhook said a note had since been placed on the notice board regarding Common Land which will need to be checked.

- ii) Cllr Vanderhook confirmed the Parish Hall was available to hire but will probably not have many bookings for the foreseeable future due to coronavirus and Government restrictions. The Neen Savage book launch is still planned to go ahead as it can be Covid compliant.
- iii) Cllr Sales confirmed that we have 40 participants to-date on the NeenSavageCrimeWatch WhatsApp Group and have good coverage across the parish. We are only adding people known to us and will be happy to add more especially those from areas where there is less coverage. There have been three reported incidents to-date; one fly-tipping and two suspicious vehicle incidents. PCSO Sue Eden has been very helpful with putting these suspicious vehicles on report. There has been a useful suggestion to have signs highlighting this Watch system. The Clerk has contacted the Police and they are able to provide some signs. Council agreed to request signs for all roads into the parish with extra ones to be available for anyone who wants one for their driveway/property entrance. Cllr Ratcliff reminded Council that all the previous 'Watch' signs need to be removed though.

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346/06 Financial Matters

- i) Council confirmed that the Direct Debit for BT Broadband has been set up following the initial payment of £198.70. The recent bill was £45.60 as it was for more than one billing month. The monthly bills going forward should be £30 + VAT.
- ii) Cllr Vanderhook offered to progress the proposals to purchase a new projector and screen as it would be more appealing for future hirers of the Hall and both the Parish Council and Parish Hall have funding available. Council agreed that Cllr Vanderhook can seek prices and options for various packages. There has been some electrical work carried out in the Hall, primarily for improved lighting but also for sockets and cabling for the projector. The Parish Hall will pay the bill for this work initially, but the Parish Council may cover the costs for the projector work in the future. Cllr Ratcliff will update the Parish Hall Chair on this.

At 7.54pm Cllr Tomkinson took the Chair for the following item.

346/07 Approve Payments

- (a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:
- i) Mrs D McBride – Wages – (August-September) - £373.40 (Cheque)
 - ii) HMRC – PAYE – (August-September) - £93.40 (Cheque)
 - iii) Mr A Ratcliff – Reimbursement material for Notice Board - £12.16 (Cheque)
- Cheques will be signed as soon as practicable.

At 7.55pm Cllr Ratcliff resumed the Chair.

347/08 Planning Matters

- (a) Planning Decisions – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:
- i) Reference: 19/05449/FUL (validated: 06/02/2020)
Address: Neen House Farm, Neen Savage, Shropshire, 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 shepherds huts as holiday let properties; conversion of barn to form two holiday let properties; construction of sewage treatment plant
Decision: Refuse
 - ii) Reference: 20/01555/FUL (validated: 17/04/2020)
Address: Neen House Farm, Neen Savage, Shropshire, DY14 8JT
Proposal: Application under Section 73a of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the conversion of a redundant farm building into one residential dwelling (retrospective)
Decision: Grant Permission

346/08 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Cllr Shingleton went through her report which had been issued by email and forwarded onto all council members prior to the meeting (copy attached with Minutes). Cllr Shingleton hoped that Covid remains under control in Shropshire even though we are surrounded by it and that it won't affect the work at hospitals catching up on their backlog of waiting list cases. Please look at the various current planning consultations. Cllr Shingleton is disappointed with the responses regarding highway reporting. Please let her know of any issues, also of any blocked drains. Shropshire Council is mapping ash die-back so please report any signs of this locally. Cllr Tomkinson and Cllr Sales raised issues with the partial repairs on the Nethercott to Detton road. Cllr Sales has spoken with the workmen and they have no machines and only a small amount of tarmac so can only fill a few holes. Cllr Shingleton and the Clerk will raise this with Highways. Cllr Tomkinson asked if the drain cleaning will be done properly going forward as previously only the drain pot was emptied and the pipes were not jet washed out. Most drains have not had any work done at all. Cllr Shingleton confirmed this is a major issue and asked for precise locations of the drains ie map references and she'll reinforce this reporting.

At 8.05pm there was a short break in the meeting. Meeting re-convened at 8.07pm.

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346/08 Unitary Councillors' Reports (cont'd)

Cllr Gwilym Butler had sent his Annual Report (copy attached with Minutes) as well as his Portfolio Report. Covid has meant a large increase in applications for Universal Credit with the worst area being Bridgnorth. Shropshire Council is to move out of Shirehall. It was designed for up to 3,500 people and pre-Covid only 1,000 people worked there. They hope to have smaller hubs around the county with a small centre in Shrewsbury, as well as various hybrid models. Cllr Butler felt it was madness to meet in Village Halls during the current pandemic and was glad this Parish Council was meeting virtually. Some parishes have not met at all for over six months. Boundary reviews are under consideration. There may not be an election next May especially if there is no vaccine for Covid. Options being considered are to delay the election for some months or hold it by postal vote only. One unintended consequence of Covid has seen a £300,000 saving in mileage costs. The balanced budget is reaping benefits too but Shropshire Council recognise more staff are needed as current staffing levels do not have the capacity to deal with everything particularly within Highways. Cllr Butler has asked how many roads have been repaired in each area of the county. We have more roads in the south and repairs are risk-assessed against how many people use the roads and the busiest are repaired first. Cllr Vanderhook asked if this risk-assessment will affect Shropshire Council paying damages claims. Cllr Butler was unsure but agreed that communications between highways, unitary councillors and parish councils needs to improve. We also need to be informed more accurately of what work is going to be carried out on our roads and within what timescale. A recent scrutiny meeting discussed the amount of increasingly large and heavy vehicles including agricultural machinery on the highways which are damaging the road surfaces, verges and ditches. Agricultural vehicles pay no road tax and there are increasing complaints of speeding and use of industrial lighting. This matter needs looking at by Government to regularise. Cllr Tomkinson asked whether Shropshire Council considered the long-term financial effect of leaving potholes for so long and the road then requires a much more expensive repair. Cllr Butler agreed but the current issue is with the capacity to actually fill the potholes currently and whether more locally trained people could help Shropshire Council with assessing potholes to speed up the process.

346/10 Parish Matters / Highways

- i) Following a recent email regarding Remembrance services Cllr Sales asked if there were any local plans. Cllr Ratcliff will put out the Silent Soldier in a few weeks as well as the 'lamp-post' poppies purchased earlier this year. The Clerk will check if the WI would like a wreath and then order the wreaths as in previous years. There will be the usual style outdoor event on Sunday 8th November in the churchyard to lay wreaths – subject to Covid restrictions.
- ii) Highway matters have already been covered during the meeting.
- iii) Cllr Vanderhook reported the Baveney Common notice board needs repair. Cllr Ratcliff will check it first and then the others around the parish on a rota basis.
- iv) The Autumn Litter Pick was booked for Sunday 25th October. Please meet outside the Parish Hall at 10am where everyone can safely receive equipment. Event to be advertised at the Book Launch too.

346/11 Future Agenda Items

Various county and national consultations have been notified by email. If anyone has any comments on these consultations please forward them to the Clerk to formulate a response. A date will be set for the drain and gully cleaning at the next meeting. The Clerk will keep the pressure up on WSP for a site meeting at the Ford and chase up the removal of the fallen tree at Pike Common.

346/12 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th October 2020 at 7.30pm. The Parish Council will continue to follow Government guidance and the next meeting is likely to be using Zoom again – this will be confirmed on the next Agenda.

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed under Item 13 the public and press shall be excluded under S1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

346/13 Staff Review

As NJC have now approved the new pay scales the Clerk's rate will be amended and back-dated to April. The Clerk's Appraisal will take place on 7th October via Zoom.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.57pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 347/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

Arthur Ratcliff

30th October 2020

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....