

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd December 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 and Cllr Sue Del Mar.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting.

349/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler – personal matter.

Council accepted this apology.

349/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

349/03 Public Participation Session

There were two members of public present. No matters were raised.

349/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th November 2020

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th November 2020 be ADOPTED following an amendment to 348/06 Finance – last sentence to be amended to ‘Cllr Tomkinson felt that given we have done most of the work already with getting the broadband installed perhaps the Parish Hall Committee would consider contributing to the rest of the project’. Minutes to be signed as soon as practicable.

349/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillors’ Progress Reports since the last meeting

i) Clerk’s Progress Report

BT Broadband

The Clerk confirmed that the billing charges had been corrected but BT have now charged us £156.80 for breaking the contract for the 4G Assure dongle even though they had already confirmed it was free of charge.

CIL Projects

The Clerk has sent reminders to Shropshire Council and copied in Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler requesting an update on the Ford project as well as the recent highway projects notified to us in November.

Pike Common

Cllr Shineton has reported the issues with trees across the river and the wooden footbridge wedged above the Ford to Gurnek Singh at Shropshire Council.

Highways

The Clerk has also asked for an acknowledgement of our Environmental Maintenance Grant applications and copied in Unitary Cllr Madge Shineton.

ii) Cllr Vanderhook said there has been not been a Parish Hall meeting since his last report but the Christmas card has gone out. Cllr Sales said 200 cards were printed and distributed to all residents and those outside the parish who support Neen Savage. It was unfortunate that the advertised Carol Service has since been cancelled.

iii) Cllr Sales reported on the NeenSavageCrimeWatch WhatsApp Group. Since the last meeting she posted a general message not to chat on the App and to ask if anyone wanted SmartWater. There were three break-ins in the Stepple Area on 30th November. The details of a suspicious white van were reported to the police and there was some police presence in the area following this. It has been quiet since and we now have 63 members. The Chairman confirmed that this Group is running well and thanked Cllr Sales for her report.

349/06 Financial Matters

i) Cllr Vanderhook reported that he has not received any details from Shropshire Council regarding proposals to update their video and audio equipment for their meetings. Cllr Vanderhook has spoken to the companies who originally quoted for video and audio equipment for the Parish Hall and they have confirmed they can help with this. A 96” interactive screen could cost around £4,500 but Council felt this was excessive in size and cost. It may be that a 60” Smart TV with a simple camera would be more appropriate as compared to the original projector and screen option but Council would consider Shropshire Council’s version if they are interested in helping set this up as a pilot scheme with us and will contribute towards the cost of it. Cllr Vanderhook confirmed the Parish Hall Committee are happy just with the broadband.

Initials.....

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

349/06 Financial Matters (cont'd)

Cllr Del Mar asked what the smart screen facility would be used for. Cllr Vanderhook said the projector could be linked to a laptop to project documents etc onto a screen for audiences to view but an audio system could also be added. Cllr Sales said the Parish Hall could use video and audio equipment for meetings, training seminars, parties, presentations etc and it would probably be more useable than just a projector set up. Technology of TVs has improved a lot over recent years and this may be the better option for the future. It is hoped that the Parish Hall Committee would contribute to the installation of a new system but there also needs to be a conversation with Shropshire Council IT department on whether the pilot scheme is available.

- ii) Council reviewed the draft Budget and Precept proposals for 2021-22. If our application for the Environmental Maintenance Grant is approved, we will need to cover 50% of any expenditure. It was agreed to approve the proposed Budget for 2021-22 and amend the SmartWater/Defibrillator reserves to help cover the Parish Hall project. The taxbase figure has increased slightly and it was agreed to set the Precept at £5,536 which will keep the cost per household to the same level as the current financial year.

349/07 Approve Payments

(a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

- i) Mrs D McBride – Wages – (December) - £199.60 (Cheque)
- ii) HMRC – PAYE – (December) - £50.00 (Cheque)

(b) Council discussed how to make a contribution towards the parish Christmas cards which have been very well received. It was agreed to make a payment of £50 to the Parish Hall Committee towards the cost of the cards.

Cheques will be signed as soon as practicable.

349/08 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Cllr Shingleton and Cllr Butler's reports had been forwarded onto all council members prior to the meeting (copy attached with Minutes). Further points raised by Cllr Shingleton included the excellent work at Cleobury Mortimer Primary School to access SEND (special education needs and/or disability) support. The Interim Maternity Services Report makes very sad, grim reading but this issue is not just in Shropshire but is wide-spread. The first Covid vaccines are being given now but it is not known what the methodology is for the inoculations. Cllr Shingleton said she is concerned that there are still poor responses from highways and encouraged everyone to report highway issues on My Shropshire and not just leave it to the Clerk to do.

349/09 Parish Matters / Highways

- i) Cllr Tomkinson has had issues reported to him about vehicles being parked at the site of the phone box at the Nash crossroads whilst building work is going on at the Old School Hall. Vehicles left there are blocking visibility and causing a hazard. Cllr Tomkinson will speak to the residents involved.
- ii) Cllr Ratcliff reported potholes which are getting worse. The road near Goesland is almost impassable especially on the corner in the bottom. Recent repair work has washed out and is now blocking the drains which desperately need cleaning out. Poor quality repair work such as this is a shocking waste of money. The pothole between Shunesley and Detton Hall drive has ruined vehicle tyres. Cllr Ratcliff will report this again.
- iii) The Clerk will continue to press Shropshire Council / WSP for an update on proposed work at the Ford.
- iv) Cllr Del Mar asked when the proposed work at Newbridge will be carried out. Cllr Shingleton said the work to re-surface the road, install higher kerbs and flashing signs is expected to be done in early March. There is a lot of water running down the Bridgnorth Road and if the ditches and pipes were cleaned out this will alleviate a lot of the run-off. Cllr Shingleton is asking for this to be done at the same time as the other work. Cllr Tomkinson has had complaints from the owner of the field below the road where the water was flooding his field so he has had to build up the gateway.
- v) Cllr Del Mar said the Diocese had cancelled all church services at Neen Savage but the church will be open on Christmas morning.

349/10 Future Agenda Items

There were no further matters raised.

349/11 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th January 2021 at 7.30pm on Zoom.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.38pm.