NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27th January 2021 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.

350/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members
There were no apologies.

350/02 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.

350/03 Public Participation Session
There were two members of public present. Mr Hardy raised an issue with surface water and a blocked drain on the B4201. The Clerk will report this. The Chairman confirmed that some drains have been cleaned out in the past month but some important ones at Nash, Goesland and Reaside were missed and need jet-washing out.

350/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd December 2020
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd December 2020 be ADOPTED. Minutes to be signed as soon as practicable.

350/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillors' Progress Reports since the last meeting

i) Clerk's Progress Report

Highways

The Clerk has reported issues with Wall Town road bridge and Baveney Lane bridge to Customer Services by telephone.

The Clerk has now received an acknowledgement for the Environmental Maintenance Grant applications. We have been told that we can only receive 50% of all invoices paid. There has been no acknowledgement nor support from Shropshire Council regarding the unpaid volunteer element. The Clerk suggested that if Council wish to continue with the scheme, we utilize the services of local contractors and plan a few full days of work and have invoices paid in March so that we can claim the 50% back.

BT Broadband

After a few fluctuations, the billing has now settled at £24.95 plus VAT. The cancellation fee of £156.80 which we were charged when BT cancelled the 4G Assure has now been credited to our account. The January direct debit of £29.94 will go out as planned and we will be refunded the credit amount so we can start afresh with the billing from February, otherwise the credit would carry over into the next financial year.

Pike Common

The fallen tree from Spring 2020 which has not been removed from the river has meant that following recent floods even more river bank has now washed out beyond the fence which is now swinging in mid-air. Cllr Shineton and the Clerk have been chasing this matter up with Shropshire Council as well as the damage to the edge of the culvert under the road at the bottom of Ron Hill. The Lea Brook has flooded several times in the past year and the water went over the road here into the Rea washing away part of the wall and barriers.

ii) Cllr Sales reported on the NeenSavageCrimeWatch WhatsApp Group. There are now more than 60 participants. Two incidents were reported in January. The police attended a suspicious vehicle report near Detton. There was a report of lads lamping near the Pioneer Centre. The Police could not attend but residents spoke to the lampers who then left. The residents were grateful for the support from the WhatsApp Group. The Chairman thanked Cllr Sales for her report.

350/06 Financial Matters

i) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation to 31st December 2020. The Clerk confirmed that if we pay the expected £2,000 on Environmental Maintenance, we will receive a grant from Shropshire Council for £1,000.

Initials… ***AJR****….*

350/07 Payments

(a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:
  i) Mrs D McBride – Wages – (January) - £199.80 (Cheque)
  ii) HMRC – PAYE – (January) - £49.80 (Cheque)
  iii) Information Commissioner – Data Protection fee - £40.00 (Cheque)
  iv) Mrs D McBride – Clerk's Admin Expenses - £82.00 (Cheque).

350/08 Planning Matters

(a) Planning Determination of Prior Notification – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:
  i) Reference: 20/05291/AGR (dated: 12/12/2020)
  Address: Lower Elcott Farm, Neen Savage
  Proposal: Erection of a steel framed agricultural building
  Decision: Prior notification is not required.

350/09 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Cllr Shineton and Cllr Butler's reports had been forwarded onto all council members prior to the meeting (copies attached with Minutes). Further points raised by Cllr Shineton included the issues with the River Rea. The Environment Agency and Shropshire Council are involved now. Cllr Shineton said she had never seen such damage to the river banks and debris in the river and asked to be kept updated. Full Council will discuss the proposed sale of Shirehall and using space at one of their shopping centres instead. Cllr Shineton has asked for our Medical Centre to be involved with Covid vaccinations. There is some free transport on offer from Shropshire Council for residents struggling to get to a vaccination centre. The Covid infection rate seems to be levelling out but the media have caused some confusion at times. Cleobury Primary School has had 90 pupils (children of key workers and vulnerable) attend during this lockdown. Grants are still available for small businesses. Cllr Shineton is still very disappointed with the highways reporting system. She advised everyone to email all defects to Customer Services - customerfirst@shropshire.gov.uk. Hospital building improvements are on-going following receipt of £6.3m last year. Cllr Shineton asked the Parish Council to consider linking health issues in the Parish Plan to the Place Plan especially access to Emergency Care / GPs. Cllr Vanderhook asked Cllr Shineton if the changes to highway reporting is due to the Consultant who was employed last year and whether his services have proved profitable. Cllr Shineton felt the consultant was a catalyst for positive changes but these changes are taking a long time to come into effect. Cllr Butler confirmed the Local Plan consultation has been extended due to issues with making hard copies available. Some refuse collection days will be changing towards Easter. Cllr Butler is still chasing information on media packages for consideration at the Parish Hall.

At 8.08pm there was a short break in the meeting. Meeting re-convened at 8.15pm.

350/10 Parish Matters / Highways

i) Cllr Del Mar apologised that the editors had omitted the Parish Council Minutes from the next Vital Link.
ii) Cllr Tomkinson has left a message for the owner of the Old School Hall regarding vehicles being parked at the site of the phone box at the Nash crossroads blocking visibility and causing a hazard.
iii) Cllr Ratcliff reported there have been some pothole repairs but they are not of very good quality and will not last long especially in this current winter weather.
iv) Cllr Vanderhook had seen one repair where tarmac was poured from a bag into a hole full of water.
v) There is a huge hole near Larch Barn and the hole at Six Ashes has now got bollards in it.
vi) Cllr Ratcliff and Cllr Tomkinson will make a plan for Highways Maintenance to maximise the use of the contractor's time. The ditch from Stonehouse to Picklebatch and the culvert near the Ford need urgent attention. The invoicing issue needs resolving. Also, the Parish Council may get some of the culverts jet-washed due to the selective work done by Shropshire Council despite reporting numerous times.
vii) Concerns were raised over people litter-picking along the B4363 without hi-viz clothing. They are doing this at great risk to themselves and not covered by any council insurance. There is a lot of litter along there and also on the road to Bagginswood especially near Barbrook. The Parish Council can only cover volunteers' litter-picking for organised events but this does not cover working on A and B roads.

350/11 Future Agenda Items

The Parish Hall audio-visual project will be on hold until Shropshire Council comes back to us.

350/12 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th February 2021 at 7.30pm on Zoom.

*Initials…**AJR**….*

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.33pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 351/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

Arthur Ratcliff **24th February 2021**

Signed.....Chairman **Date.....**