

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24th March 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 Michael Tomkinson, Cllr Stephen Hinton and Cllr Sue Del Mar.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting.

352/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Cllr G Haywood – internet issues.

Cllr Andy Vanderhook – unwell.

352/02 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ratcliff and Cllr Tomkinson declared an interest in Agenda Item 352/06 – Payments.

352/03 Public Participation Session

There were two members of public present. Mr Hardy asked if the Unitary Councillor reports could be published on the web-site. Cllr Sales confirmed that they are normally added but one had been missed and had been uploaded earlier today. Mr Hardy asked for clarification regarding Cllr Butler's overview of the Boundary Review at the last meeting whereby he stated that one reason where this would be useful is where a parish would struggle to fill councillor vacancies. Mr Hardy asked if Council would favour a merger. The Chairman felt this would probably not be favoured at this stage. Cllr Butler stated the Boundary Review was not just about filling vacancies but the parish boundaries need to be fit for purpose for the future as they have not been reviewed since 1894. Some parishes are not holding meetings and have no democracy. Post-election Shropshire Council will have a cross-party working group for this matter. Cllr Ratcliff asked if merging parishes was being encouraged. Cllr Butler stated that nothing would be imposed and Shropshire Council would only consider changes that the parishes wanted. Mr Hardy asked for further clarification regarding Cllr Butler's comments at the last meeting that introducing a 40mph zone on roads could change rules for planning and development and if such changes took place would people be consulted. Cllr Butler responded to say that 40mph gives an implication of a semi-residential area ie not open countryside but any proposed changes to speed limits will go to full consultation. Cllr Sales asked whether the current notification (Agenda item 352/09) is the main consultation for this area. Cllr Butler said it was just an interim notification before a full proposal will come out. Cllr Sales added that she has put information regarding the elections on the website.

352/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24th February 2021

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24th February 2021 be ADOPTED. Minutes to be signed as soon as practicable.

352/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillors' Progress Reports since the last meeting

i) Clerk's Progress Report

Highways

The current system of reporting highways issues on My Shropshire and Customer Services continues to be problematic in that reference numbers given by Customer Services are not available on My Shropshire and cannot be tracked. Also, some issues reported through My Shropshire are still outstanding since 2019, others are showing as closed even though work has not been carried out. The Clerk has been notified by a system generated email that all drains have now been emptied and jet washed as per her request last August. Hopefully the new system, whereby the Highway contractors use the same system as Shropshire Council, which Cllr Butler informed us about last month, will prove to be more effective.

PC Mellor was checking the concerns regarding cars parked on the road near Belle Vue Garage.

Meetings update

Council was reminded that Zoom meetings are permitted to continue only until the election under current legislation.

ii) Cllr Sales stated that there had been no incidents reported on the NeenSavageCrimeWatch WhatsApp Group since the last meeting.

Initials...AJR.....

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

- iii) Cllr Tomkinson reported that he and Cllr Ratcliff had done two and a half days work cleaning gullies and ditches between Nash and Detton with a lot of debris cleared off the highway near Reaside and Goesland. They have also worked with contractor Anthony Harman who has a larger digger plus tractor and trailer. Between eight and nine trailer loads of soil were moved from the culvert and ditch near the Ford, the ditch up to Bank Top and near Stonehouse crossroads. More work is needed to clear the ditch towards Picklebatch and the contractor is booked for another day. The drains have been rodded at the crossroads and are running again. Cllr Del Mar added that Mr Butterworth had also cleared a drain near Goesland. Cllr Sales asked for clarification on Mr Harman's invoice for the work completed and said they have all done an amazing job; the roads are already much cleaner and have dried up well. Cllr Ratcliff confirmed that keeping the water off the roads helps to keep them in a better condition. Cllr Tomkinson stated they are also creating a list of drains for jetting. Shropshire Council only clean the pots out of the ones they can actually find. They are not jet washing the drains fully and have not done all of them as reported earlier this evening.

At 7.53pm Cllr Ratcliff and Cllr Tomkinson left the meeting and Cllr Sales took the Chair for the following item.

352/06 Payments

(a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

- i) Mrs D McBride – Wages – (March) - £199.60 (Cheque)
- ii) HMRC – PAYE – (March) - £50.00 (Cheque)
- iii) A P Supplies – Highway Maintenance (cleaning drains and ditches) – £1,392.00 (Cheque)
- iv) Mr M G Tomkinson – Highway Maintenance (cleaning drains and ditches) - £288.00 (Cheque)
- v) A & C Ratcliff - Highway Maintenance (cleaning drains and ditches) - £400.00 (Cheque)

At 7.55pm Cllr Ratcliff and Cllr Tomkinson re-joined the meeting and Cllr Ratcliff resumed the Chair.

352/07 Planning Matters

(a) Planning Decision

- i) Reference: 21/00363/PMBPA (validated: 25/01/2021)

Address: Proposed Conversion Of Agricultural Building To The East Of, Baveney Lane, Neen Savage, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire

Proposal: Application for prior approval under Part 3, Class Q of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 for the change of use from agricultural to form one residential unit.

Decision: Refuse

It was noted there are very comprehensive reasons for refusal in the Planning Officer's report which the applicant is addressing but also has the option to appeal against the decision.

352/08 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Cllr Shinton and Cllr Butler's reports had been forwarded onto all council members prior to the meeting (copies attached with Minutes).

Cllr Shinton added that the local schools have now re-opened with only minor hiccups. The Covid cases continue to fall in the county and the vaccinations are going well which should continue so long as the supply continues. Please share any experiences with vaccinations to gareth.jones@shropshire.gov.uk to encourage others, especially in the care sector, to get their vaccinations. Covid testing kits are available – see Shropshire Council's website. Future Fit continues and there is now a new Accountable Officer and Chairman of the new independent group following the merger of the two CCGs. £6.3m from central Government has been used to improve both Shrewsbury's and Telford's hospital buildings. Cllr Shinton agreed with the Clerk over the issues with reporting highway matters to Shropshire Council. Cllr Shinton has been in touch regarding this problem with the new Head of Communications. Cllr Shinton is concerned about the condition of the B4363 near the junction to Rays Farm where the road is slipping. It will be an enormous job to re-instate and is being monitored but she encourages people to report their concerns. There have also been several land slips near the River Rea with some serious ones near Paper Mills.

At 8.07pm there was a short break in the meeting. Meeting re-convened at 8.09pm.

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NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

352/08 Unitary Councillors' Reports (cont'd)

Cllr Butler commented that the improvements to the road at Newbridge junction included laying motorway grade tarmac which improves braking. The bollards have the added bonus of stopping the parking issues. Further to previous discussions regarding improving IT facilities at the Parish Hall, there will be a scoping exercise with town and parish councils for hybrid meetings. They will be in touch with the Clerk as this parish is where the idea has developed from. NALC is keen to support various ways for local councils to meet. Hybrid meetings will be good for people who may be housebound or have childcare issues. Cllr Butler was asked whether he perceived a 40mph speed zone to Six Ashes could be seen as urbanisation even if it was done for safety reasons. Cllr Butler felt that 40mph zones were usually just near urban areas, not in open countryside.

352/09 Parish Matters / Highways

- i) There were no new parish matters raised.
- ii) Further to previous Highways discussions it was noted that someone has put loose gravel in pot holes between the Nash Crossroads and Clump Cottage but this only lasted a few days and is now out over the road. Cllr Ratcliff confirmed that he and Cllr Tomkinson plan to have a further day's work with Mr Harman next week.
- iii) Council considered the proposals from Shropshire Council to reduce the speed limit at the east end of Cleobury Mortimer on the A4117 and whether the proposals went far enough. Council agreed that they do not want any perceived urbanisation in Neen Savage. Reducing the speed limit on the B4363 to 40mph up to Six Ashes may be seen as justified for safety reasons but it was felt that would be no policing of a reduced speed limit at Six Ashes and therefore it would not achieve the required effect. Cllr Butler said the CIL re-design at Six Ashes could perhaps be done first and then the Parish Council could consider reviewing the speed limit on the B4363. Council agreed to request the 30mph extends out of Cleobury and up the B4363 as far as the new bollards only. On the A4117 it was agreed that the 30mph could extend to Castle Toot, then have a 40mph limit up to the Mawley Town Farm junction, then back to the national speed limit. The Clerk will respond to Shropshire Council and highlight our concerns with regards to safety at Six Ashes and that we look forward to the CIL project consultation to improve the Six Ashes area.

352/10 Future Agenda Items

Cllr Del Mar stated the church will be open for an Easter Sunday Family Service at 11.15am.

352/11 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th April 2021 at 7.30pm on Zoom.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.50pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 353/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

Arthur Ratcliff

28th April 2021

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....