

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd June 2021 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 Michael Tomkinson, Cllr Sue Del Mar, Cllr Sue Barrett, Cllr Chris Hardy and Unitary Cllr Simon Harris.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Parish Council meeting.

355/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Council accepted the following apologies:

Cllr Julian Celford – holiday.

Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler.

355/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

355/03 Public Participation Session

There were no members of public present.

355/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26th May 2021

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26th May 2021 be signed and ADOPTED as a true record subject to the following corrections:-

Agenda Item 354/06 – There were no members of public present. Unitary Cllr Simon Harris was an invited guest.

Agenda Item 354/08 (iv) Cllr Del Mar will ask for a timescale on the removal of the horse box at Six Ashes.

355/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillors' Progress Reports since the last meeting

i) Clerk's Progress Report

River bank issues

Most of the tree has been removed from the river opposite Pike Common but the debris remains and the river bank has not been re-instated. Council asked the Clerk to continue chasing highways regarding the missing railings at the bottom of Ron Hill and chase the Access Team to remove the footbridge from the tree near Walfords Bridge.

Website

Cllr Sales has updated the councillors on the website although some profiles are still needed. Chris Bargman will create Council email addresses for Cllr Celford, Cllr Barrett and Cllr Hardy. The email addresses for the councillors who recently retired will be closed down. All the revised policies and the latest accounting information have been uploaded onto the website. Cllr Sales proposed putting all the policies into one document which would save time when reviewing them in the future. There would be an index page at the front to direct people to each policy. Council felt this was a good proposal and would leave it with the Clerk and Cllr Sales to action.

ii) Cllr Sales stated that there had been no incidents reported on the NeenSavageCrimeWatch WhatsApp Group since the last meeting. Some more parishioners have requested to join today. A trailer had been stolen from Detton but was found in Kidderminster.

iii) Cllr Ratcliff / Cllr Tomkinson – Highway Maintenance Report.

The contractor has helped finish clearing the ditch from the Stonehouse crossroads to the brook at Picklebatch and also cleared some spoil from the culvert near the Ford. Cllr Tomkinson proposed putting a list together for jetting at the next Parish Council meeting. Cllr Sales commented that water draining from fields into roads is a constant problem in some places and repeatedly washes out any road repairs. Ideally the drainage issues would be solved first to protect the road. There are two areas near Nash Crossroads which are particularly bad. Someone has tipped more loose chippings into pot holes near Clump Cottage. Shropshire Council now ask that people report highway issues through the Fix My Street app. It is easier to use than My Shropshire, more accurately finds locations, can upload photographs and provides a clear audit trail.

iv) Cllr Hardy reported on an interesting SALC Area Meeting, held over Zoom on Monday evening. Steve Brown spoke about the Local Transport Plan which has many links to Climate Change which was also discussed. There is a general lack of clarity on what constitutes a climate emergency in the parishes though.

v) Cllr Sales commented that the Parish Hall Fete and Garden Party has been deferred until 14th August due to the latest Covid restrictions. Unitary Cllr Harris will remind Cllr Butler about the outstanding IT matter for the Hall.

Initials.....

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

355/06 Financial Matters

- i) Council confirmed the proposed amendments to the Bank Mandate. The councillors who have retired will be removed and Cllr Del Mar and Cllr Barrett will be added. The Clerk will prepare the form for signature at the next meeting.
- ii) Council discussed the proposal to contribute towards Welcome Packs for new residents. Council supported the suggestion to include a pack of SmartWater and the Clerk will order ten packs. Cllr Sales will ask if the Parish Hall would consider providing a parish book. The template for the Christmas Card could be used to make a Welcome Card with useful information and contact details for community groups. Cllr Del Mar confirmed she is happy to distribute the Welcome Packs.

355/07 Payments

- (a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:
 - i) Mrs D McBride – Wages – (June) - £199.80 (Cheque)
 - ii) HMRC – PAYE – (June) - £49.80 (Cheque)
 - iii) SALC – Annual Affiliation Fees - £184.62 (Cheque)

355/08 Unitary Councillors' Reports

The Unitary Councillors' reports had been circulated to all Council members prior to the meeting (copies attached with Minutes) and will be published on the website. Cllr Harris felt it important to build up on all the good practices of his parish councils to help each other. Further to Cllr Hardy's SALC report, Cllr Harris felt it was a conduit to help roll down information from Shropshire Council. Climate Change is a massive subject and even impacts the Pension Fund Committee who need to decide whether to divest from corporate exploration companies. He agreed that there is little information regarding climate emergencies for the parishes. Covid grants will be coming to an end at the end of July and our Place Plan Officer, Vicky Turner should be back in post after that. The number of 'looked-after' children is up 20% to 522 in the last year and more foster carers are needed.

355/09 Parish Matters / Highways

- i) Cllr Barrett had been informed about a notice preventing access to a footpath. She will investigate the issue before taking the matter further. It was noted that some paths are overgrown at this time of year. Cllr Tomkinson has strimmed along the path near Goesland.
- ii) The holes in the road near Clump Cottage will be reported.
- iii) Cllr Ratcliff and Cllr Tomkinson had a look at Pike Common but having looked at the Common map felt a further visit would be beneficial as there are sheds and manure heaps on the land as well as it being overgrown. It was agreed that the area should be tidied up this year and review this again next year for some further improvements. The verge could have some wildflowers sown and perhaps Cleobury Mortimer Town Council would contribute as their residents use the area mostly. There will be a work party on Wednesday 21st July – time to be confirmed.
- iv) Cllr Tomkinson raised concerns that Cllr Butler was not pursuing the issue regarding the damage to the riverbank opposite Pike Common. Not enough work has been done to remove all the tree which has been left very close to the top of the river bank. There is no safety fencing and an outstanding environmental issue. Council agreed that the matter should be taken up with the Environment Agency and Shropshire Council as they were previously involved.
- v) Cllr Del Mar informed the meeting that the Open Gardens event in aid of the Edwards and Hinckesman Foundation is being held on Sunday 25th July.

355/10 Future Agenda Items

There will be an update on Pike Common, also discuss and complete the PCC survey and discuss the status of the Parish Plan at the next meeting.

355/11 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th July 2021 at 7.30pm at Neen Savage Parish Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.19pm.