

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th January 2023 at Neen Savage Parish Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Meeting Chairman: Cllr Michael Tomkinson

Clerk: Mrs D McBride.

Present: Cllr Michael Tomkinson, Cllr Sue Barrett, Cllr Olwen Sales, Cllr Sue Del Mar, Cllr Chris Hardy, Cllr Julian Cleford (in part) and Unitary Cllr Simon Harris.

The Vice-Chairman, Cllr Michael Tomkinson welcomed everyone to the January Parish Council meeting.

370/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Council accepted the following apologies:

Cllr Arthur Ratcliff – holiday.

Cllr Julian Cleford – will be late due to work.

Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler – Cllr Simon Harris in attendance.

370/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

370/03 Public Participation Session

There were two members of public present.

370/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd November 2022

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd November 2022 be ADOPTED as a true record and signed.

370/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillors' Progress Reports since the last meeting

i) Clerk's Report

Place Plan and Ford CIL Project

There is still no update regarding the Ford CIL Project. We were expecting a report on the survey of the B4363 from Newbridge to Six Ashes but there is no mention of Neen Savage in the WSP Highway Reports. The work recommendations on the B4363 cover from Kinlet Bank towards the Highley turn.

BT Billing

BT billing was running fine but they have charged us £27 for non-return of old equipment. This was returned and a proof of postage was obtained so the matter will be chased up with the Post Office and BT.

ii) CrimeWatch WhatsApp Group Report – Cllr Sales

There had been a number of comments regarding the quantity of vehicles parked at Six Ashes – these have now been reduced. Last week there was a suspicious van, with a woman and dog inside, noticed at various points around the parish. The van had been taken without permission and the issue was resolved later that day.

iii) Environmental Maintenance Report – Cllr Tomkinson.

The damaged drainage pipe at Picklebatch bank has been replaced and the ditch restored to ensure the water stays off the road. Some work had been done on the ditches and culvert near the Ford too. There are a few more jobs to do subject to finance.

iv) Parish Hall Committee Report – Cllr Sales

A very successful Christmas event was held on Saturday 17th December which raised over £100 to support those in need. The four dying conifers near the entrance to the car park were removed on 13th January together with the old fence. The fence will be replaced and a new native hedge will be planted together with an elm tree in memory of Andy Vanderhook. The plan is that the entrance gates will also be cleaned, re-painted and realigned. The Parish Hall sign has been repaired. Quotes are being sought for the Parish Hall extension. The Fete will be held on Saturday 15th July. The Committee may consider something to mark the King's Coronation in May.

370/06 Financial Matters

- i) Cllr Tomkinson stated that more ditching work is needed on Neen Lane. There followed a discussion regarding the water draining from a field into the road, above the Nash. Cllr Tomkinson will speak with the landowner to consider options to link the field drain to the road drain and keep the water off the road. Cllr Harris advised the Clerk could raise this issue with Highways. Quotes for waste bins will be considered and agreed at the next meeting. Council resolved to apply for the full £1,500 Environmental Maintenance Grant for 2023-24 which the Parish Council will match-fund for work on the highways.

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370/06 Financial Matters (cont'd)

- ii) Council RESOLVED to approve the draft Budget subject to the increase on the Environmental Maintenance Grant and a slight increase to the Precept to £6,000 for 2023-24. This will result in a £1.14 increase per year on an average Band D property.
- iii) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the third quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation to 31st December 2022.

370/07 Payments

Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments and sign cheques:

- i) Mrs D McBride – Wages (December and back pay plus January) - £582.60 (Cheque)
- ii) HMRC – PAYE (December and January) - £145.80 (Cheque)
- iii) Mrs D McBride – Clerk's quarterly admin expenses - £143.91 (Cheque)
- iv) Information Commissioner – Data Protection Fee - £40.00 (Cheque)
- v) A Ratcliff – 30m twin wall drainage pipes (Environmental Maintenance) - £337.18 (Cheque)

There was an additional invoice received after the Agenda had been published. This payment was approved as the Environmental Maintenance Grant will cover this expected expenditure.

- vi) A P Supplies – Environmental Maintenance work - £480.00. (Cheque)

At 8.14pm Council suspended Standing Orders to enable Mr Price to speak about his planning application.

It was ascertained that the business has increased, hence the need for the additional polytunnels. The mobile home is temporary whilst other options are being considered for accommodation. The septic tank and soakaway are installed. There will be no increase in vehicles to the site. All services are now properly connected to the site and not needed over the road any more. Screening and visibility splays will be installed as per planning advice.

At 8.27pm Council re-instated Standing Orders.

370/08 Planning Matters

a) New Planning Application:

- i) Reference: 22/04693/FUL (validated: 08/12/2022)

Address: The Old Barn, Neen Savage, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8JU

Proposal: Application under Section 73A of the Town And Country Planning Act 1990 for the erection of 4No polytunnels, siting of 1No mobile home as temporary workers accommodation and installation of septic tank.

Applicant: J P Nurseries (Mr James Price, The Old Barn, Neen Savage, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8JU)

Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support the application with regards to the expansion of a business in the parish but noted that this is a retrospective planning application and we are concerned about a number of issues:

Surface Water drainage - no detail has been provided about the soak away provision for surface water from the additional polytunnels.

Septic Tank drainage - no detail has been provided about the soak away provision for the excess water expelled from the septic tank.

Council would like assurances that full percolation tests are carried out and clear plans submitted for the adequate disposal of such surface and excess water.

Screening from the original planning application is not in place and no screening has been proposed to protect the visual amenity of the historic area of our rural parish.

Visibility splays have not been put into place as per the conditions of the original planning application but Council note that these will, in fact, mean the requirement for more screening on-site, albeit further away from the road. There is very limited space on the South side and no space on the West side on which to put any screening at all. Growing the road side hedge taller is not an option due to the visibility splays condition and any screening then placed between the access route and the Polytunnels would shade them. The screening would need to go between the access route and the pond, but this is not on the applicant's site.

Council note that electricity and water supplies feed into the site over the hedge and above the road from the main farmstead and would ask that these utility supplies are laid underground and the overhead cables removed as soon as possible for safety reasons.

Council question the wording of the application for temporary workers accommodation when the business is thriving and expanding and would ask that a fixed period is issued on the caravan and the applicant given the opportunity to apply for appropriate housing ie agricultural dwelling or a local-connections exception-site affordable house.

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- b) Planning Decisions – FOR INFORMATION ONLY:
- i) Reference: 22/04150/FUL (validated: 28/09/2022)
Address: Neen Savage Parish Hall, Neen Savage, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8ER
Proposal: Erection of extension to the existing hall
Decision: Grant Permission
 - ii) Reference: 22/04462/FUL (validated: 03/10/2022)
Address: Neen House Farm, Neen Savage, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8JT
Proposal: Drainage engineering works
Decision: Grant Permission

370/09 Unitary Councillors' Reports

The Unitary Councillors had sent their monthly report which had been distributed to all councillors. Cllr Harris stated the consultation on Shropshire Council's budget is closing soon. It is expected that there will be a 4.5% increase in Council Tax as well as £50m in efficiency savings. The increase in Council Tax includes the Social Care element. 86% of Shropshire Council's money is spent on Social Care currently. If the North West Relief Road (NWRR) was cancelled, £20 would need to be returned to Government so cancelling the project would not really help the finances. Cllr Harris has asked for the latest report on the NWRR.

Cllr Harris expressed concern that the Boundary Commission have made recommendations from a centralised position and have not considered the format of local parishes with stating their view of only having single-member wards. Options put forward would split Cleobury Mortimer and Farlow parishes in half and have an east and west split of the remaining parishes in the current division; alternatively another option is to have Cleobury town with some parishes to the south for one ward and the remaining rural parishes in another ward. Once the current consultation closes, the Boundary Commission will then consult on their preferred option.

Cllr Harris had spoken to some Severn Trent River Rangers about an historic oil spill but they were unaware of it. He will take this up with other contacts at Severn Trent and find out what the situation is and if it is still being monitored. Severn Trent are planning a £10m investment in a new sewage plant in Cleobury which is good news. It will be good to hear how they will manage discharges into the river going forward especially in regard to the phosphate levels from farming and run-off from roads.

370/10 Parish Matters / Highways

- i) Cllr Del Mar has welcomed the new residents to Keeper's Cottage and Paper Mills with a copy of the Parish book and SmartWater, which was appreciated. More copies of the book need to be ordered for future new residents.
- ii) There has been some random pot hole filling in the parish. Whilst the current system still has some issues, people are encouraged to keep reporting highway problems on Fix My Street.
- iii) Council discussed the latest news on the division boundary review and resolved to make comment that we would prefer to continue with a two-member division and do not want to be separated from Cleobury Mortimer.
- iv) Council agreed to arrange the next community litter picking week from Sunday 26th March until Saturday 1st April.

370/11 Future Agenda Items

Further investment in environmental enhancement will be discussed at the next meeting.

370/12 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd February 2023, 7.30pm at Neen Savage Parish Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.18pm

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 371/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

Michael Tomkinson

22nd February 2023

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....