

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 26th July 2023 at Neen Savage Parish Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Meeting Chairman: Cllr Arthur Ratcliff.

Clerk: Mrs D McBride.

Present: Cllr Arthur Ratcliff, Cllr Michael Tomkinson, Cllr Chris Hardy, Cllr Olwen Sales, Cllr Julian Cleford and Cllr Sue Barrett.

The Chairman, Cllr Arthur Ratcliff welcomed everyone to the July meeting.

376/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Council accepted the following apology:
Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler.

376/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

376/03 Public Participation Session

There were no members of public present.

376/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28th June 2023

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28th June 2023 be ADOPTED as a true record and signed.

376/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillor Reports

i) Clerk's Report

Land Registry

The forms and documents for Land Registry have been reprinted and are ready to send again by registered post.

Highways and WSP Site Meetings

The Clerk thanked Unitary Cllr Harris for his assistance in helping to arrange meetings with Andy Keyland and Chris Haslam from Highways and also with Jon Eastwood, WSP to look at the Ford and Six Ashes.

Place Plan

The Clerk is meeting Vicky Turner, Place Plan Officer on Monday 7th August in Cleobury to discuss the status of the Place Plan especially following recent meetings and issues with the Highway IIG/CIL projects.

ii) CrimeWatch WhatsApp Group Report – Cllr Sales

There have been no incidents reported. New residents to the parish have been added to the Group.

iii) Highways Site Visit Report – Cllr Tomkinson/Cllr Sales

- Cllr Tomkinson had circulated a written report on the Site Meeting with Highways Officers on Monday 17th July. The meeting was very useful and positive. All issues along the road from Nash, via Clump Cottage, Nethercott and Goesland to Detton were looked at and options for improvements were discussed with local landowners and residents. Cllr Harris added that Highways have been massively under-funded for years but this is now improving. He is still awaiting an organisation chart for Shropshire Council.
- Cllr Tomkinson stated there had been a meeting on Monday 24th July with a WSP officer, Parish Council representatives and landowners to look at the drainage issues near the Ford and also the road safety concerns at Six Ashes. The options to improve water flow from fields and drains near the Ford were discussed. Rather than leaky dams our preferred solution is for a large pipe to be installed under the road near Old School House, at a better angle to improve water flow into the culvert (which would be cleaned out) to an open ditch all the way alongside the road to the Ford (apart from one gateway which would require a pipe). Safety concerns at Six Ashes were noted but a full survey and report is required with options for consideration. The WSP officer will check on the status of this matter as money had been allocated by Shropshire Council for this purpose under the IIG/CIL scheme.

iv) Environmental Maintenance Report – Cllr Tomkinson/Cllr Ratcliff.

Cllr Tomkinson will chase up the work required with Mr Harman. Cllr Tomkinson will send a full jetting list to Highways for action. Cllr Tomkinson has undertaken a few hours strimming and gully clearing.

v) Parish Hall Report - Cllr Sales

There was a Tidy-Up of the grounds on Wednesday 5th July. The Scarecrow Convention and Fete was held on Saturday 15th July. The weather was a bit wet but it was a successful social event for the community.

Initials...AJR.....

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376/06 Financial Matters

- i) Council reviewed the Bank Mandate (as per Financial Regulations) and were satisfied that it meets the Council's requirements.
- ii) Council reviewed and confirmed the variable direct debit for BT (as per Financial Regulations).
- iii) Council resolved to approve the quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation to 30th June 2023.
- iv) Council noted the costings for a replacement bench at Six Ashes and approved a maximum budget of £300.00.
- v) Council noted that the external auditor (PKF Littlejohn) has received and logged the notification of exempt status for the year ended 31 March 2023 and that there is no review to be performed and consequently no auditor certificate and report, or any other closure documentation to be issued for this reporting year.

376/07 Payments

- a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments and sign cheques:
 - i) Mrs D McBride – Wages (July) - £227.40 (Cheque)
 - ii) HMRC – PAYE (July) - £56.80 (Cheque)
 - iii) Mrs D McBride - Clerk's quarterly admin expenses - £113.17 (Cheque)
 - iv) Neen Savage Parish Hall – five parish books - £50.00 - (Cheque).

376/08 Planning Matters

- a) Planning Decisions
 - i) Reference: 23/01473/FUL (validated: 24/04/2023)
Address: Stone House, Catherton Road, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 0LF
Proposal: Conversion of existing outbuilding into home office/games room and holiday let including first floor extension
Decision: Grant Permission
 - ii) Reference: 23/01474/LBC (validated: 24/04/2023)
Address: Stone House, Catherton Road, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 0LF
Proposal: Works to facilitate the conversion of two (attached) outbuildings into home office and holiday let including reinstatement of first floor
Decision: Grant Permission

376/09 Unitary Councillors' Reports

The Unitary Councillors had sent their monthly report which had been distributed to all councillors. Cllr Harris confirmed he had spoken with Andy Wilde about the issues with Highways. Shropshire Council use Kier for some work but also Multevo and other contractors for Highways work. Cllr Harris feels that highway maintenance is moving in a positive direction. Unfortunately the situation with the CIL funding for projects and lack of action by Highways managers has not improved. This money is not working well for us and there is clearly a log jam with all the projects. Cllr Harris advised that we ensure the Six Ashes safety review is on the Place Plan. Shropshire Council have passed a motion to ban the sale of disposable vapes. The motion has now gone to the Local Government Association to press the Government to ban them too. Despite comments in the media, Shropshire Council is not bankrupt and is making good progress on savings. Central Government has also given Shropshire another £20m which will help its reserves. Following a report of positive staff appraisals from the head of HR at Shropshire Council, Cllr Harris has asked about the number of Shropshire Council staff who have lost their jobs for incompetence. He will report on the answer when it is received.

376/10 Parish Matters / Highways

- i) Cllr Tomkinson noted that some of the ash trees at Six Ashes have been marked with orange paint. Shropshire Council will be contacted to ascertain if this is due to tree surgery or felling being required.
- ii) Cllr Ratcliff has made a bench for Pike Common. Council agreed it can be located in the open area facing the river. A work party to install the bench will be arranged over the summer.
- iii) Council completed the annual Police and Crime Commissioner's Town and Parish Council survey.

376/11 Future Agenda Items

Cllr Tomkinson noted that volunteers will be needed to assist with road clearing near Clump Cottage and gully clearing near Goesland.

Initials...AJR.....

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376/12 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th September 2023, 7.30pm at Neen Savage Parish Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.53pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 377/04) that these minutes are a true record of the Meeting.

Arthur Ratcliff

27th September 2023

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....