

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24th January 2024 at Neen Savage Parish Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Meeting Chairman: Cllr Arthur Ratcliff.

Clerk: Mrs D McBride.

Present: Cllr Arthur Ratcliff, Cllr Chris Hardy, Cllr Olwen Sales, Cllr Sue Barrett, Cllr Sue Del Mar and Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler.

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

381/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Council accepted the following apologies:

Cllr Michael Tomkinson and Unitary Cllr Simon Harris.

Cllr Julian Cleford - work.

381/02 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Sales declared an interest in Agenda Item 381/06 (i) Request for funding from the Parish Hall Committee.

381/03 Public Participation Session

There were no members of public present.

381/04 Minutes of Parish Council Meetings held on Wednesday 22nd November and Wednesday 20th December 2023

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on Wednesday 22nd November and Wednesday 20th December 2023 be ADOPTED as a true record and signed.

381/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillor Reports

i) Clerk's Report

Ford Drainage Project

WSP confirmed that following discussions with the drainage design team, work on the design should be completed by the end of February. They appreciate that we have waited patiently for this scheme to be delivered, but advised that winter pressures and adverse weather conditions may affect their contractor's programme of works and so they are unable to provide a specific date regarding delivery on site, however they will provide regular updates. The Clerk will chase this up.

Planning Queries

Following the recent planning application at The Old Vicarage for the erection of a garage, we asked for clarification on a couple of points so that we are better informed in the future:

1. The garage doors permitted are 'up and over' style yet the Conservation Officer had commented that these should consist of vertical planked units and be side hung. We were informed that due to planning process and the risk of appeal if the application was refused, the 'up and over' style doors were permitted.
2. What definition of curtilage is used for Listed Buildings? Council would have thought that the whole site would be covered by the Listed Building curtilage rather than just attachments to the main house. We were informed that land within the ownership of a listed building varies as to whether or not it is curtilage listed. Listed Building Consent was not required as the amended garage was detached from the listed building, and therefore was not affecting the historic fabric of The Old Vicarage.
3. The piggery which was mentioned in the documents was part of a separate application. The proposals to convert/extend the piggery into a holiday let or an annex had been withdrawn.

Boundary Commission proposals for Cleobury Mortimer Division

The Boundary Commission's proposal is to split our Division into two:

1. Cleobury Mortimer with Milson, Neen Sollars, Coreley and Boraston; and
2. Stottesdon with Sidbury, Kinlet, Neen Savage, Hopton Wafers, Farlow, Aston Botterell, Wheathill and part of Bitterley (Cleeton St Mary).

Policing

PCSO Jacqui Fletcher is back on duty and a new PC, Nick Nolan has started with our Safer Neighbourhood Team. They have requested our policing priorities and it was agreed that they should remain the same as last time: Thefts Outbuildings, Organised Crime Groups (thefts of vehicles), Wildlife Crime (poaching, hare coursing).

It was noted that some ditching work has been done by the Ford. Also, the footbridge at Walford's Bridge has been cleared and the railings straightened. The request for deeds with Land Registry will be chased up.

Initials....AJR....

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

- ii) CrimeWatchNeenSavage WhatsApp Group Report – Cllr Sales
Four incidents have been reported since the last meeting. Lamping near Larch Barn, an abandoned vehicle near Clump Cottage, attempted vehicle theft at Meadow Bank and an abandoned car found in a field near Stepple today. These all reinforce our priorities to the local police.
- iii) Environmental Maintenance Report – Cllr Tomkinson/Cllr Ratcliff
Cllr Ratcliff and Cllr Tomkinson had spent a morning with the jetting team at the Nash crossroads area. The contractors will need to come back to finish the job but now understand all the local issues with the drains here. Our local contractor will undertake some further ditching work in the next few weeks. The railings at Six Ashes have been broken and some are now missing. Council will discuss replacing the railings and consider installing heavy-duty planters at the February meeting.
- iv) Parish Hall Report - Cllr Sales
At the recent Parish Hall Committee meeting and AGM held on 12th December, it was noted there is a shortfall in funds for the proposed extension due to increasing costs. The Christmas Event held on Friday 22nd December was a success. There is a strategic planning meeting on Saturday 3rd February where the Committee will look at the identity and purpose of the Hall, discuss the storeroom project and look at a future improvement programme.
- v) Pike Common Report – Cllr Ratcliff
Cllr Ratcliff noted that the Common had been under water a few times during recent floods and felt that the proposed bench will need to be installed further away from the river than planned.
- vi) SALC Area Committee Report – Cllr Hardy
Cllr Hardy reported on the SALC area committee meeting. There was a presentation covering parish councils' role regarding planning applications with emphasis on material considerations, planning history, local planning policies and sustainable development. There have been a number of complaints about the planning enforcement process recently too. Government has made some amendments to legislation around parish councils financially supporting church property. NALC will send out their interpretation of the legislation and how it can be applied.

381/06 Financial Matters

- i) Council considered the request for funding from the Parish Hall Committee towards the proposed extension to the Hall. Council agreed to support the project in principle and will earmark £2,500 from Neighbourhood Fund and general reserves for the project. The money can be released when the project goes ahead.
- ii) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the third quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation to 31st December 2023 with the following adjustments to the earmarked reserves: the remaining Neighbourhood Fund money of £1,741.47 will be allocated for the Parish Hall extension together with £758.53 from general reserves; money earmarked for Election Expenses (£885) and Six Ashes (£300) was transferred to the general reserve.
- iii) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the draft Budget for 2024-25. There will be a small increase to the Precept which will be £6,500 for 2024-25. This will result in a £2.65 increase per year on an average Band D property.

381/07 Payments

- a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments and sign cheques:
 - i) Mrs D McBride – Wages (January) - £227.20 (Cheque)
 - ii) HMRC – PAYE (January) - £57.00 (Cheque)
 - iii) Information Commissioner – Data Protection Fee - £40.00 (Cheque)
 - iv) Mrs D McBride – Clerk's quarterly administration expenses - £88.00 (Cheque).

381/08 Planning Matters

- a) New Planning Applications:
 - i) Reference: 23/05396/VAR (validated: 13/12/2023)
Address: Upper Baveney Farmhouse, Baveney Lane, Neen Savage, DY14 8LF
Proposal: Removal of Condition No. 4 attached to planning permission 23/03620/FUL dated 04 October 2023
Applicant: Mr Louis Purchase
Outcome: Council had no comment to make on this application and will leave it with the Planning Officer to determine.

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- ii) Reference: 23/05248/FUL (validated: 05/01/2024)
Address: Harvest Edge, Neen Savage, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8HG
Proposal: Erection of shed in garden
Applicant: Martin Cutler
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support the application.

b) Planning Decisions (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):

- i) Reference: 23/04534/FUL (validated: 14/11/2023)
Address: The Old Vicarage, Neen Savage, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8JU
Proposal: Erection of a garage
Decision: Grant Permission.

381/09 Unitary Councillors' Reports

The Unitary Councillors had sent their monthly report which had been distributed to all councillors. Cllr Butler was pleased to note that the Clerk vacancies in Hopton Wafers, Farlow and Wheathill have been filled. Cllr Butler asked if the Parish Council would consider making a financial contribution towards Cleobury Mortimer Men's Shed to help with their insurance. The Shed currently has 30-40 members and often help with small maintenance and carpentry projects. The Council is launching a Joint Needs Assessment in February to find out what is important to people, their health and accessibility of services etc. The survey will be online but will also be available in Cleobury Library. Everyone is encouraged to get involved and have their say. Cllr Butler confirmed there has been a lot in the press about finance. The issues which affect Shropshire Council are mainly due to the increasing costs of adult social care and children's services. Despite budgeting for a 30% increase this year, there is still a shortfall of £34m which is unsustainable. Council Tax income will not cover this eventually but it is hoped the Government will help county councils with this in their Spring settlement otherwise some services and facilities may be lost. Social care is a burden on the county council which must balance its books whereas NHS Trusts get their debts written off. Cllr Hardy asked how Shropshire Council is trying to reduce the number of children in care. Cllr Butler said this is through improved Early Intervention Team work who assist families but there is now a trend of children coming into care from 'wealthier' families with issues of drug/alcohol abuse.

381/10 Parish Matters / Highways

- i) The Perspex cover on the metal notice board by the Parish Hall car park entrance will be removed.
- ii) There were no other highways matters raised.
- iii) The community litter-picking week will run from Sunday 17th to Saturday 23rd March 2024.
- iv) The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th May 2024.

381/11 Future Agenda Items

Council will review the costs for a new laptop for the Clerk at the next meeting.

381/12 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th February 2024, 7.30pm at Neen Savage Parish Hall.

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed under Item 13 the public and press shall be excluded under S1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

381/13 Employment Matters

Council reviewed the Clerk's salary according to NJC recommendations.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 382/04) that these minutes are a true record of the Meeting.

Arthur Ratcliff

Signed.....Chairman

28th February 2024

Date.....