

# NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at Neen Savage Parish Hall commencing at 7.34pm.

Meeting Chairman: Cllr Arthur Ratcliff.

Clerk: Mrs D McBride.

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

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

## 382/01 Apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Council accepted the following apologies:

Cllr Gwilym Butler and Unitary Cllr Simon Harris – work.

Cllr Sue Barrett – work.

Cllr Sue Del Mar - holiday.

## 382/02 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ratcliff declared an interest in Agenda Item 382/07 (a) (iii) Payment for maintenance materials.

Cllr Tomkinson declared an interest in Agenda Item 382/08 (a) (i) Planning Application at Nethercott Cottage.

## 382/03 Public Participation Session

There were two members of public present.

Mr Chris Naylor introduced himself as the Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate.

## 382/04 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 be ADOPTED as a true record and signed.

## 382/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillor Reports

### i) Clerk's Report

#### **Ford Drainage Project**

The Clerk has chased WSP for an update on the delivery of this project and let them know that our Place Plan officer has left so they need to update us directly and not through the Place Plan team. Cllr Harris has also chased WSP and Shropshire Council about the drainage project.

#### **Highways**

The U8255 road from Nethercott to Baveney Lane is due to be resurfaced in the next financial year.

We have also received advance notification that a section of Catherton Road (near the Stonehouse) is to be closed on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June by National Grid for overhead cable work. The official diversions are either from the Stonehouse crossroads, up Common Lane to Hollywaste or out to Farlow Crossroads, up to Hopton Bank garage and onto the A4117.

#### **Environmental Maintenance Scheme**

Our Unitary Councillors were asked if the Environmental Maintenance Scheme will be running again in the next financial year. Cllr Butler commented that it had not been specifically mentioned yet but Shropshire Council will be looking to devolve more to local councils.

#### **BT Broadband and Phone Line**

BT are increasing their prices for the Parish Hall broadband and phone line by 7.9% from 1<sup>st</sup> April. Our contract with them ends in November. Other options for broadband will be explored nearer the time.

#### **Policing**

PC Nick Nolan and PCSO Jacqui Fletcher have both been invited to join our CrimeWatch WhatsApp Group and also to our Annual Parish Meeting.

There is an opportunity to promote SmartWater locally as there have been a number of farm thefts again in recent months in the Cleobury area and attempted thefts in Neen Savage. Council were supportive of the proposal to invite the Rural Crime Officers to our Annual Parish Meeting to give an update on security measures and SmartWater.

#### **Parish Hall extension**

The Parish Hall Treasurer has thanked the Parish Council for their kind offer of £2,500 in principle for the Parish Hall extension.

#### **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Parish Hall is booked for Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May and invitations have been sent out to community groups.

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- ii) **CrimeWatchNeenSavage WhatsApp Group Report – Cllr Sales**  
Since our last meeting there has been a report of fly tipping on Shunesley Lane. More recently, on 22<sup>nd</sup> February there were three farm break-ins in Cleobury parish at Curdale, Upper Bransley and Withypool Farm.
- iii) **Environmental Maintenance Report – Cllr Tomkinson/Cllr Ratcliff**  
Cllr Tomkinson expressed his concern that the drainage needs attending to on Nethercott Lane before the road is re-surfaced. This will be chased up with the local Highways team. There are a number of drains and culverts to be cleaned out under Environmental Maintenance and our contractor has been asked to attend to these. Cllr Ratcliff has the materials to replace the railings at Six Ashes. Cllr Hardy and Cllr Cleford offered their help.
- iv) **Parish Hall Report - Cllr Sales**  
The Parish Hall Management Committee held a very successful planning day on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February. A wide range of topics were discussed including the purpose and identity of the Parish Hall; the financial and human resources required to run the Hall; how the additional storeroom can be created and the best use of the National Lottery funding; future improvements; marketing the Hall and future events at the Hall. There was a further meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February. The Committee has agreed on a logo and will establish a Facebook page. Progress is being made obtaining quotes to create a storeroom from the existing ladies' toilets and an upgrade to the existing men's toilets to be unisex. Quotes are also being sought for lighter tables which will be easier to store along with new chairs. Outside, two lime trees have been cut down to give the third tree room to grow. Next week the brash will be cleared and new hedging will be planted.  
The Church has booked the Hall for an exciting Big Breakfast and Easter Egg hunt on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March.

## 382/06 Financial Matters

- i) The Chairman signed the 2024-25 Budget. A copy will be published on the Council's website.
- ii) Council considered the options and quotes for heavy duty planters at Six Ashes. Council approved the purchase of three planters to improve safety and public amenity at Six Ashes.
- iii) Council considered the quotes for a new laptop for the Clerk and approved the purchase of a new laptop up to £529.00 (including VAT which is reclaimable).

At 8.10pm Cllr Tomkinson took the Chair as Cllr Ratcliff had declared an interest and took no part in the following item.

## 382/07 Payments

- a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments and sign cheques:
  - i) Mrs D McBride – Wages (February) - £403.40 (Cheque)
  - ii) HMRC – PAYE (February) - £100.80 (Cheque)
  - iii) Mr A Ratcliff – wood for Six Ashes railings (Environmental Maintenance) - £230.32 (Cheque)

At 8.12pm Cllr Ratcliff resumed as Chair of the meeting.

At 8.13pm Cllr Tomkinson left the meeting and gave a brief overview of the latest application at Nethercott Cottage as a member of public. The garage and office have been dropped from the previously approved proposals as they pushed the size of the plot over 100m<sup>2</sup> and thus into a commercial development with a resultant higher rate of CIL payable.

## 382/08 Planning Matters

- a) **New Planning Applications:**
  - i) Reference: 24/00371/FUL (validated: 31/01/2024)  
Address: Nethercott Cottage, Neen Savage, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8LA  
Proposal: Demolition of single storey extension and outbuildings, repairs, upgrading and extension of dwelling, installation of sewerage treatment plant, ground mounted solar PV array including change of use of land.  
Applicant: Mr and Mrs J Freeman (Rock House, Ironbridge Road, Broseley, TF12 5AJ)  
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to support this application.

At 8.15pm Cllr Tomkinson rejoined the meeting.

- b) **Planning Decisions (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):**
  - i) Reference: 23/05248/FUL (validated: 05/01/2024)  
Address: Harvest Edge, Neen Savage, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8HG  
Proposal: Erection of shed in garden  
Decision: Grant Permission.

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- ii) Reference: 23/05396/VAR (validated: 13/12/2023)  
Address: Upper Baveney Farmhouse, Neen Savage, DY14 8LF  
Proposal: Removal of Condition No. 4 attached to planning permission 23/03620/FUL dated 04 October 2023  
Decision: Grant Permission.

## 382/09 Unitary Councillors' Reports

The Unitary Councillors had sent their February report which had been distributed to all councillors. There were no matters raised.

## 382/10 Parish Matters / Highways

- i) Concerns had been raised by residents regarding lorry loads of scrap and white goods being brought to a field off Baveney Wood Common. Cllr Tomkinson attended a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February at Baveney Wood with Environmental Services, residents and the landowner to discuss the concerns of importing waste and possible ground contamination. It is noted that Shropshire Council has limited powers. The residents are advised to keep a diary of the issues in case the Environment Agency, as the regulatory body, gets involved. The landowner had agreed to clear the site within six months. Council and residents will keep an eye on this matter due to the environmental concerns affecting the Common and the impact on the track and water supply pipes.
- ii) The Clerk will chase up Highways for the drain pipes to be connected up near Clump Cottage. The jetting team need to come back and cut the roots out of a blocked pipe as they ran out of time when they were out last month.

## 382/11 Future Agenda Items

It was noted that the large tree trunk at the Ford has now been washed away downstream in a recent flood. The fallen yew tree does need attending to though.

## 382/12 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024, 7.30pm at Neen Savage Parish Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.38pm.