

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27th March 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 Julian Cleford, Cllr Michael Tomkinson, Cllr Sue Barrett, Cllr Sue Del Mar and Unitary Cllr Simon Harris.

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

383/01 Apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Council accepted the following apology:
Cllr Gwilym Butler.

383/02 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ratcliff, Cllr Tomkinson and Cllr Hardy declared their interests in Agenda Item 383/06 (a) (iii), (v) and (vi) Payments.

383/03 Public Participation Session

There were no members of public present.

383/04 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28th February 2024

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28th February 2024 be ADOPTED as a true record and signed.

383/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillor Reports

i) Clerk's Report

Ford Drainage Project

WSP and Shropshire Council officers dealing with this project have been chased for an update. Unitary Cllr Simon Harris has also been pressing Shropshire Council to acknowledge our correspondence and give an indication of timescales for this project.

Highways

With the scheduled resurfacing of the U8255 Nethercott/Baveney Lane in mind, Highways officers have been chased to ensure the jet washing and drainage issues are resolved near Clump Cottage.

Spring Litter Pick Week

More people than ever offered their help with the Spring Litter Pick for which we are all very grateful. Twenty-three people took part and all areas were covered.

Vital Link

Contact has been made with the editors asking if we can submit information that may be of community interest such as the Annual Parish Meeting, rural crime information, litter picking events, the health and wellbeing survey and other parish news ie road improvements ie surface-dressing, resurfacing and environmental maintenance.

Land Registry

Land Registry have been chased up but they still cannot give an indication of how long it will take to process our applications.

Place Plans

Shropshire Council's Health and Wellbeing Survey is currently underway. People are encouraged to take part to give their views on what makes somewhere a good place to live, what are their biggest concerns and what can be improved. The survey closes on 21st April 2024. The Place Plan for infrastructure has been updated but not yet published. References to moving the parish boundary to Six Ashes have been queried.

ii) CrimeWatchNeenSavage WhatsApp Group Report – Cllr Sales

Since our last meeting there has been a report of a burnt-out car near Common Lane in Cleobury Mortimer parish. Country Treks at Stottesdon had a trailer stolen and there had been some comments on the WhatsApp about vehicles being parked at Six Ashes.

iii) Environmental Maintenance Report – Cllr Tomkinson/Cllr Ratcliff

Cllr Tomkinson informed the meeting that there had been three days of ditching as well as clearing culverts and gullies around the parish. The pipe on Picklebatch bank was reset and firmly fixed in place. One drain near the Nash could not be cleared and needs jet-washing. More ditching is required and it was agreed to continue with this work as money has been allocated in the 2024-25 budget and the work makes a noticeable improvement to drainage. It is hoped that Shropshire Council will continue to support this work through the Environmental Maintenance Grant. There will be further excavations to find the lost drain between Nash and Clump Cottage.

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iv) Parish Hall Report - Cllr Sales

The Parish Hall Management Committee had not met since our last Council meeting but have appointed ASE Ludlow to undertake the work to convert the ladies' toilets into a storeroom, the gents will be upgraded and become unisex toilets. A new shed will be placed to the rear of the building on a concrete base. Forthcoming events include the Big Breakfast on Sunday 31st March and the Open Morning on Saturday 13th April. The WI are organising the Open Morning and would like all local groups to have a presence at this event. Cllr Ratcliff volunteered to represent the Council.

v) Pike Common Report – Cllr Ratcliff

Cllr Ratcliff has not been able to cut the grass here yet as the ground is too wet. The memorial bench will be placed near the notice board, once the plaque has been supplied.

vi) SALC Area Committee Report – Cllr Hardy

Cllr Hardy reported on the recent Area Committee meeting which was held over zoom. The motion to ensure developers have enough funds to cover all infrastructure and other conditions as laid out in planning consent was rejected. This matter did, however, highlight concerns from parishes that planning permissions are subject to amendments, often to the detriment of communities ie non-delivery of affordable housing. The Committee once again, resolved that parishes do not need to pay an area Committee fee. This was agreed last year but SALC still invoiced everyone for these fees. The invoice will be scrutinized closely when it arrives before it is submitted for payment. Parishes raised concerns about road closure signs being put out (or left out) when there is no closure; fears of fly-tipping if Household Recycling Centres are closed and the proposed charging structure for green waste collections.

At 8.01pm Cllr Sales took the Chair as Cllr Ratcliff, Cllr Tomkinson and Cllr Hardy had declared their interests and took no part in the following item.

383/06 Payments

- a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments and sign cheques:
- i) Mrs D McBride – Wages (March) - £243.40 (Cheque)
 - ii) HMRC – PAYE (March) - £60.80 (Cheque)
 - iii) Mr C Hardy – Six Ashes railings work (Environmental Maintenance) £60.00 (Cheque)
 - iv) Mrs D McBride – Reimbursement for new laptop computer - £499.00 (Cheque)
 - v) Mr M Tomkinson – Environmental Maintenance work - £225.60 (Cheque)
 - vi) Mr A Ratcliff – Environmental Maintenance work - £372.00 (Cheque)
 - vii) Michael J Green – Safety planters – (Environmental Maintenance) - £978.00 (Cheque)
 - viii) A P Supplies – Environmental Maintenance work - £1,610.40 (Cheque)

At 8.05pm Cllr Ratcliff resumed as Chair of the meeting.

383/07 Planning Matters

a) New Planning Applications:

- i) Reference: 24/00544/COU (validated: 22/02/2024)

Address: Upper Baveney Farmhouse, Baveney Lane, Neen Savage, DY14 8LF

Proposal: Change of use of first floor personal office space to commercial office associated with GPC

Applicant: GPC (Mr & Mrs Louise and Emma Purchase, GPC House, Baveney Lane, Neen Savage, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8LF)

Outcome: Council felt unable to make a conclusive response on this latest proposal due to some anomalies in the application ie there is to be a bathroom in the office/garage but there is no information about waste management. There has also been a lack of clarity around the sequence of recent planning applications at this site.

- ii) Reference: 24/00861/CPE (validated: 01/03/2024)

Address: Avelana View, Upper Baveney Farm, Baveney Lane, Neen Savage, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8LF

Proposal: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use as an unrestricted dwelling without complying with condition limiting occupancy to a person employed in agriculture

Applicant: Mr Louis Purchase (Upper Baveney Farmhouse, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8LF)

Outcome: Council RESOLVED to object to this application as there is a shortage of affordable local housing in our parish, highlighted by the number of exception-site affordable housing which has been taken up by local families. Council is concerned that agricultural tenancy regulations have not been adhered to in recent years and the property should not have been let outside this legislation.

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b) Planning Decisions (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):

- 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
Decision: Grant Permission.

383/08 Unitary Councillors' Reports

The Unitary Councillors had sent their March report which had been distributed to all councillors. Cllr Harris asked if the Clerk would write directly to the WSP officer dealing with the Ford drainage project again and ask for timings for project delivery. Cllr Harris has chased up the Place Plan team about publishing the updated version but raised concerns that some projects have disappeared off the draft Plan. Cllr Harris has asked SALC for their help with ongoing issues with Fix My Street as communications are still poor and logged issues are not being prioritised nor are they clearly represented. There is a concern that SALC is not representing the parishes enough with a number of issues. Cllr Harris highlighted a recent Panorama episode which explained how many county councils are struggling financially due to the exponential increase in the number of people needing care and support which the county has to pay for. Cllr Harris has asked for information on the contract with Price Waterhouse Cooper (PWC) to be sent to all parishes. PWC are working with Shropshire Council to help achieve the £62m savings required. Cllr Harris stated that no decision has been made on the Household Recycling Centres and is aware of the massive objections by town and parish councils. Veolia's contract is being reviewed currently and this will be followed by a public consultation on the new proposals.

383/09 Parish Matters / Highways

- i) There were no other parish matters raised.
- ii) Cllr Barrett asked about the proposed work on the Nethercott to Goesland road as the map shows closure from Shunesley to Baveney Crossroads. It was noted that some of the outstanding drainage issues need to be resolved as a matter of urgency if the road is being resurfaced in June. Cllr Tomkinson will work with our contractor to dig and try to locate the lost drain near Clump Cottage and let Highways know what they have found. The verges can also be scraped back to ensure the full width of the road is re-laid with tarmac.

383/10 Future Agenda Items

Council will consider upgrading the website to a gov.uk domain. Final plans for the Annual Parish Meeting will be discussed next month.

383/11 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th April 2024, 7.30pm at Neen Savage Parish Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.05pm.