

# NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April 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 and Cllr Sue Del Mar.

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

384/01 Apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Council accepted the following apologies:

Cllr Sue Barrett – work.

Unitary Cllrs Gwilym Butler and Simon Harris.

384/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

384/03 Public Participation Session

There were no members of public present.

384/04 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024 be ADOPTED as a true record and signed.

384/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillor Reports

i) Clerk's Report

**Ford Drainage Project**

WSP and Shropshire Council officers dealing with this project were chased for an update. We have been informed that there is now an issue with legislation regarding the use of CIL funding for the drainage project. Matter to be discussed under Agenda item 384/10 (iii).

**Highways**

The road closure for the scheduled resurfacing of the U8255 (via Nethercott) has been altered slightly. It was originally from the Baveney Road crossroads to the Withies Bank junction but has been extended back to the Bagginswood Road junction. There has been no update from the drainage officers regarding this section of road. Council noted that the excavations in the field near Clump Cottage have been filled in but the drain is still exposed and further investigations will take place by local contractors next week.

Shropshire Council/Kier have informed us that this road will also be closed on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April, from 8am – 4pm, for tree removal work. Access will be provided for residents.

**Land Registry**

Cllr Harris is assisting with chasing up Land Registry for the deeds' registration matter.

**Audit 2023-24**

The accounts and related papers have been dropped off with the internal auditor.

ii) CrimeWatchNeenSavage WhatsApp Group Report – Cllr Sales

A car was swept away from the Ford on 7<sup>th</sup> April and the police were notified. The occupants were rescued and the vehicle recovered. There were reports of hare coursing on 19<sup>th</sup> April. This activity and an associated suspicious vehicle were reported to the police.

iii) Environmental Maintenance Report – Cllr Tomkinson/Cllr Ratcliff

Cllr Tomkinson had nothing new to report this month but has a list for the contractor to work on when they meet next week. Cllr Ratcliff has mown the grass at Pike Common. It will be mown again before the wildflowers come up.

iv) Parish Hall Report – Cllr Sales

The Easter Morning Big Breakfast was a success with a record church attendance too. The Open Event on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April saw representatives from all community groups. ASE Ludlow will commence the remodelling work in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May. This will take four- six weeks to complete. There is a dead tree to remove from the grounds of the Parish Hall. There will not be a Scarecrow Convention and Fete this summer but there will be an event in September.

Initials...AJR....

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## 384/06 Financial Matters

- i) Council noted that the Environmental Maintenance Grant Scheme is running again this year and confirmed the application for £1,500 which includes a full schedule of work and costings.
- ii) Council considered the information available regarding the options to upgrade the website domain name to 'gov.uk' and have corresponding email addresses. It was agreed to put this on hold until more information is available as this is only a recommendation at the moment. Advice will be sought from our current website provider.
- iii) Council reviewed and confirmed the updated Asset Register.
- iv) Council reviewed and confirmed the updated Risk Assessments.

## 384/07 Payments

- a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments and sign cheques:
  - i) Mrs D McBride – Wages (April) - £243.40 (Cheque)
  - ii) HMRC – PAYE (April) - £60.80 (Cheque)
  - iii) Mrs D McBride – Clerk's quarterly admin expenses - £98.00 (Cheque)

## 384/08 Planning Matters

- a) New Planning Applications:
  - i) Reference: 24/00746/FUL (validated: 03/04/2024)  
Address: Landscape Plants Cleobury Limited, Six Ashes Nursery, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8JF  
Proposal: Erection of building for horticulture and office  
Applicant: Mrs. S. Zytke (Six Ashes Nursery, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8JF)  
Outcome: Council felt that insufficient information had been supplied with this application. It is difficult to understand the need for another office building with 15 car parking spaces when there are no additional employees. There is an existing office building on site as well as the Larch Barn offices. Accurate dimensions of the proposed building would be helpful and these should have been submitted with the application.  
If planning is permitted, there should be consideration of the actual location of this building which will be high on the skyline. There must be screening and only low-level lighting to ensure the building does not impact the natural rural environment and parishioners.  
Additionally, if permission is granted for all the proposals, including a large parking area, Council felt it should request that the owners utilize this opportunity to ensure that their overnight delivery lorries park on-site and not on nearby side roads which is often currently the case.
- b) Planning Decision (FOR INFORMATION ONLY):
  - i) Reference: 24/00544/COU (validated: 22/02/2024)  
Address: Upper Baveney Farmhouse, Baveney Lane, Neen Savage, Cleobury Mortimer, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 8LF  
Proposal: Change of use of first floor personal office space to commercial office associated with GPC  
Decision: Grant Permission

## 384/09 Unitary Councillors' Reports

The Unitary Councillors had sent their annual report which had been distributed to all councillors.

## 384/10 Parish Matters / Highways

- i) There were no other parish matters raised.
- ii) Council agreed that there is an urgent requirement for improved safety measures/signage at the Ford following the recent incident. Safety improvements have previously been requested and signage was confirmed as part of the CIL project by Shropshire Council but nothing has progressed. The Clerk will ask that signage is installed as a separate project to the Ford drainage matter as per our original request. The current signage is clearly inadequate as demonstrated by the incident on 7<sup>th</sup> April.
- iii) Council discussed the latest update from Shropshire Council/WSP regarding the culvert and field access elements of the Ford drainage (CIL) project. Council feels that the whole project has been badly handled by Shropshire Council/WSP and has wasted so much time and money over the past five years only to say that there is now an issue with access. Council agreed to undertake a site meeting with the adjacent landowners and propose a local solution to the access issue, taking this out of the CIL project. We will then request Shropshire Council/WSP undertake the remainder of the project as previously agreed.

*Initials.....AJR.....*

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- iv) Cllr Del Mar informed the meeting that there is a pot hole on the B4363 near Larch Barn where the road often floods. Cllr Tomkinson will report this on Fix My Street. It was noted that the blocked drain near Six Ashes has been cleared by Mr Harman and Cllr Tomkinson.
- v) The Annual Parish Meeting is being held on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm at the Parish Hall. Drinks and nibbles will be provided as in previous years. All invitations have been sent out. The final Agenda will be confirmed in a few weeks and then advertised on notice boards, the website and on the WhatsApp Group.

384/11 Future Agenda Items

No other matters were raised for future meetings.

384/12 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024, 7.30pm at Neen Savage Parish Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.08pm.

**It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 385/06) that these minutes are a true record of the Meeting.**

Signed.....**Arthur Ratcliff**.....Chairman Date.....**22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024**.....