

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th June 2025 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 Julian Cleford, Cllr Michael Tomkinson and Cllr Olwen Sales.

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

397/01 Apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Sue Del Mar and Unitary Cllr David Davies.

397/02 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ratcliff declared an interest in Agenda Item 397/07 Payments.

397/03 Public Participation Session

There was one member of public present. Further concerns were raised regarding the recently created entrance from the highway to a field below Melbury. A driveway has now been laid with stone from the highway, over the ditch into the field. The Clerk was asked to write to Shropshire Council's Planning Department regarding the number of concerns around this site.

397/04 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21st May 2025

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 21st May 2025 be ADOPTED as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair. The draft Annual Parish Meeting Minutes have been circulated. The audio recordings from the meetings in May will now be deleted.

397/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillor Reports

i) Clerk's Report

Unitary Councillors

The Clerk met the local Unitary Councillors at the Cleobury Market on 21st June. They have said they will try and get round all their parishes but there is lot to get to grips with and they cannot get to all parishes every month. Council confirmed Cllr Davies would be welcome at every meeting but accepted that attending every three months may be more realistic. Council agreed for the Clerk to write to Cllr Davies highlighting all our concerns regarding Highways, the Ford, Six Ashes etc and invite him to a drive round the parish to show him the issues.

Police / Rural Crime Meeting

The next meeting is at 6pm on Thursday 3rd July. The Police and Crime Commissioner may also attend this meeting along with our local Inspector and Sergeant in addition to PC Nock and PCSO Miller.

Pike Common

National Grid will be undertaking some tree-trimming work this year to clear branches from their asset. This will involve reducing the height on a number of willow, ash, sycamore and hazel trees. There will likely be a road closure for the work. All arisings will be taken away and not chipped due to the proximity of the river.

Cllr Ratcliff had informed the Clerk that there is Japanese Knotweed as well as Himalayan Balsam growing on the riverbank upstream from Pike Common (above the footbridge). This can be highlighted with the relevant landowner (when identified) and reported to Shropshire Council Drainage Team and possibly Severn Trent. Advice on dealing with this concern has been sought from the Environmental Protection Team at Shropshire Council. This is not a notifiable weed but it should not be allowed to spread.

Environmental Maintenance Grant

This year's grant application has been accepted and is going through to the next stage.

ii) CrimeWatchNeenSavage WhatsApp Group Report – Cllr Sales

There have been no incidents reported since the last Parish Council meeting.

iii) Environmental Maintenance Report – Cllr Tomkinson/Cllr Ratcliff

Cllr Tomkinson noted some pot holes and edging work has been completed by Shropshire Council's contractors. Cllr Sales noted the pot hole at the Lower Elcott corner was filled but has broken up already. Cllr Tomkinson will report this. It is hoped our local contractor will be on site soon to undertake more ditching and culvert work.

iv) Parish Hall Report – Cllr Sales

The parish photograph event on Sunday 22nd June was very successful. Around 110 people were present with tea, cake and strawberries being served. Plans continue for Applefest on 13th September.

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

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

- v) Pike Common Report – Cllr Ratcliff
In addition to the presence of Japanese Knotweed growing on the riverbank, the abutment to Walford's Bridge is damaged; the Clerk will report this to Shropshire Council's Access Team. Cllr Ratcliff will cut the grass on Pike Common next week.
- vi) SALC Area Committee Report – Cllr Hardy
Cllr Hardy was unable to attend the recent SALC Area Committee meeting but the Minutes will be circulated when they have been received.

397/06 Financial Matters

- i) Council approved and signed the Bank Mandate Form to authorise the Clerk to have delegated access to start the process to set up Business Banking Online. Further approval by Council signatories will be required once this stage is complete.
 - ii) Council confirmed there were no conflicts of interest with PKF Littlejohn LLP.
 - iii) Council received and noted the Internal Auditor's reports.
 - iv) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve AGAR Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2024/25.
 - v) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the accounts and bank reconciliation for the year ending 31st March 2025.
 - vi) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve AGAR Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25.
 - vii) Council RESOLVED to certify the Parish Council's exemption from a limited assurance review.
- All sections of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return were completed and signed.

At 8.22pm Cllr Tomkinson took the Chair and Cllr Ratcliff took no part in the following item.

397/07 Payments

- a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments and sign cheques:
- i) Mrs D McBride – Wages (June) - £257.60. (Cheque total £515.20 included payment for May)
 - ii) HMRC – PAYE (June) - £64.40 (Direct Debit set up)
 - iii) Mrs M Wood – Internal audit fee - £100.00 (Cheque)
 - iv) A Ratcliff – Annual Parish Meeting expenses - £30.85 (Cheque).

At 8.24pm Cllr Ratcliff resumed as Chair of the meeting.

397/08 Unitary Councillors' Reports

A report from our Unitary Councillor had been received and circulated prior to the meeting.

397/09 Parish Matters / Highways

- i) Cllr Ratcliff has replaced the missing chevrons sign on the Paper Mills corner on the B4363.
- ii) Other highway issues had been discussed earlier in the meeting.
- iii) The Action Log was reviewed. The missing setts in the Ford will be added to the Log. Cllrs Ratcliff, Tomkinson and Hardy volunteered to refix the setts which have been washed out in winter floods. The railings on the south east side of the Ford are in poor condition; the Clerk will report this on Fix My Street.

397/10 Future Agenda Items

Co-option of a new councillor will be added to the July Agenda.

397/11 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 23rd July 2025, 7.30pm at Neen Savage Parish Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.43pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 398/05) that these minutes are a true record of the Meeting.

Arthur Ratcliff

Signed.....Chairman

23rd July 2025

Date.....