

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 22nd October 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 Michael Tomkinson, Cllr Olwen Sales and Cllr Alison Price.

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

400/01 Apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Julian Cleford.

400/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

400/03 Public Participation Session

Unitary Cllr David Davies was in attendance.

400/04 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24th September 2025

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24th September 2025 be ADOPTED as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

400/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillor Reports

i) Clerk's Report

Single-Plot Exception Site application update

The Council's response was sent to the applicant, his planning agent at Berry's and Shropshire Council's Housing Officer. The applicant and his agent from Berry's will reapply for the 'Strong Local Connection' and attend the November meeting. There has been a lack of understanding of the process and the type of information required to support the application. Council noted that an email received from the applicant had contained personal sensitive information and had been immediately deleted and reported to the sender.

Christmas Carol Service

The invitations have arrived by email for the parish guests to attend the 'Together at Christmas' Carol Service at St Mary the Virgin, Cleobury Mortimer at 6pm on Tuesday 9th December. They will be forwarded on.

Parish Council Election 2025

Shropshire Council has notified us that there will be a £125 recharge fee – to be invoiced in January 2026.

Cleobury Sports Centre

The Friends of Cleobury Sports Centre request for financial support, to help keep the Centre open until the new contract comes into place in August 2027, had been circulated to all members. Council agreed to consider this request at the next meeting, bearing in mind current Council reserves are quite tight but the draft budget for next year will be prepared soon and this could be put in for consideration along with other projects.

Highways

There will be a site meeting at the Ford with Andy Keyland from Shropshire Council Highways and Unitary Cllr Davies on Friday November 7th at 10am. Cllr Tomkinson and the Clerk will attend.

Action Log Review

Council reviewed the following matters:

1. Ford issues including drainage, depth gauges, safety signs, railings and washed away setts will be highlighted to Andy Keyland on 7th November.
2. Some information has been received from Land Registry following our application for deeds for Baveney Wood Common and the Parish Hall.
3. Management of the website and an upgrade to the domain name to gov.uk is still under consideration.
4. Six Ashes parking issues are ongoing but have improved slightly with less vehicles blocking the car park and the road beside Belle Vue Garage. There have been a number of incidents where vehicles have been unable to pass each other on the B4201 due to the parked cars on the roadside verge outside the Garage.
5. The Broadband to the Parish Hall is very poor and other options including Starlink will be investigated.
6. There are a number of outstanding highways issues which are being chased up with Shropshire Council including the missing safety barrier and inadequate culvert at Goesland, poor road surface on the B4201 and Neen Lane as well as the recurring potholes on the Elcott corner which is causing damage to vehicles.
7. Pike Common and the nearby riverbank area is suffering from Himalayan Balsam but upstream of Walfords Bridge there is an area of Japanese Knotweed as well. The abutment to the footbridge is damaged and has not yet been repaired by Shropshire Council.

Initials.....

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

- ii) **CrimeWatchNeenSavage WhatsApp Group Report – Cllr Sales**
Two incidents have been reported since the last Parish Council meeting. A suspicious vehicle had been captured on CCTV at Mawley Town Farm and was later involved in a theft. A trailer was stolen from Cleeton St Mary and abandoned in a field at Six Ashes.
- iii) **Environmental Maintenance Report – Cllr Tomkinson/Cllr Ratcliff**
Cllr Tomkinson has undertaken two days' work with the contractor earlier this month. All the ditches in Neen Lane have been cleaned out but there is a broken culvert near The Old Barn which needs repairing to keep excess water off the road. The neighbouring resident will send information on this culvert to the Clerk to follow up on. There will be further work with the contractor next week. Cllr Ratcliff has cut the grass on Pike Common.
- iv) **Parish Hall Report – Cllr Sales**
The Parish Hall Committee met on 7th October. The electrician will be installing a new solar light at the main gate and a light in the car park on 3rd November. The Committee agreed to spend up to £250 towards a community notice board subject to all parties agreeing to the design. The Harvest Service was held on Sunday 13th October followed by a Lunch in the Parish Hall. The Committee are purchasing a banner to be displayed at Six Ashes to promote the Hall.

400/06 Financial Matters

- i) Council RESOLVED to approve the second quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation.
- i) Council considered and approved the six-monthly review of the Council's risk assessments.
- ii) Council confirmed the re-appointment of Mrs M Wood as Internal Auditor.
- iii) The revised specification and quotation for new notice board had not been received and this matter was deferred until the information is supplied. The Council needs to have a firm written specification and quotation for this work before committing public money to this project.

400/07 Payments

- a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:
 - i) Mrs D McBride – Wages (October) - £320.40 (Cheque).
 - ii) HMRC – PAYE (October) - £80.00 (Direct Debit).
 - iii) Mrs D McBride - Clerk's quarterly administration expenses - £95.00 (Cheque).

400/08 Unitary Councillors' Reports

The Unitary Councillor's report had been received and circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Davies reported that the road drain beyond the Stepple boundary is being repaired soon and the road will be resurfaced.

400/09 Parish Matters / Highways

- i) It was noted that the website profiles for Cllrs Cleford, Price and Tomkinson need to be updated.
- ii) All highway concerns will be raised with Mr Keyland on November 7th at the Ford site visit.
- iii) The Wreaths will be collected and put ready in the Parish Hall for Remembrance Sunday. The Vice-Chair will lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

400/10 Future Agenda Items

The proposed notice board for the entrance to the Parish Hall Car Park will be discussed at the next meeting if the revised specification and quotation has been received. The funding request for Cleobury Sports Centre will be discussed at the November meeting. The planning 'Strong Local Connection' will be discussed once a new application and additional supporting information has been received.

400/11 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th November 2025, 7.30pm at Neen Savage Parish Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.56pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 401/04) that these minutes are a true record of the Meeting.

Signed.....Chairman

26th November 2025

Date.....