

# NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 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 Sue Del Mar, Cllr Michael Tomkinson and Cllr Alison Price.

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

398/01 Co-option of new councillor and receive signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

Mrs Alison Price was co-opted onto the Parish Council and duly signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

398/02 Apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Julian Cleford and Cllr Olwen Sales.

398/03 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ratcliff declared an interest in Agenda Item 398/08 Payments.

398/04 Public Participation Session

There were three members of public present, also Unitary Cllrs David and Pamela Davies.

Mr Barrett shared his proposals to build a new three-way galvanised notice board to be installed near the entrance to the Parish Hall car park. Designs and costings had been prepared and already presented to the Church and Parish Hall Committees. Council asked the Clerk to get other quotes together and put this matter on the next Agenda for discussion at the September Council meeting.

Residents living near Melbury have been contacted by Shropshire Council's Planning Department and will receive a further update on the issues around the new access created from the highway to a field below Melbury.

398/05 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025 be ADOPTED as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

398/06 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillor Reports

i) Clerk's Report

**Unitary Councillor**

The list of our issues and concerns was sent to Cllr Davies in June. He has also been sent our meeting dates and informed that we are happy to see him at every meeting but understand that we have to share him with other parishes.

**Police / Rural Crime**

At the meeting on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, we had seven police representatives present including the Assistant PCC Steve McCabe, James from Communications, Sergeant Stephen Mason, PC Phil Nock, PC Karan Latt, PCSO Jacqui Fletcher and PCSO Declan Miller. There were also nine members of public present.

Mr McCabe informed the meeting that he takes feedback from communities to inform policing plans and systems and with the PCC, holds the Chief Constable to account for the operations of the police service. Mr McCabe stated that crime figures have come down recently especially with shoplifting and theft, but violent crime and domestic abuse has increased.

PC Phil Nock stated that rural crime has dropped by 75% - most likely as 80% of organised crime gangs have been locked up. The police generally better understand the impact of rural crime and urge people to report all suspicious activity as well as incidents in progress. PC Nock reiterated the process of reporting rural crime and is aware that it may increase once crops have been harvested off the fields.

**Lloyds Bank update**

The updated Mandate has been received by Lloyds and is being reviewed. The first invoice for fees has been received which includes a £4.25 monthly fee, 10p per direct debit and 50p per cheque.

ii) CrimeWatchNeenSavage WhatsApp Group Report – Cllr Sales had sent a written report.

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

iii) Environmental Maintenance Report – Cllr Tomkinson/Cllr Ratcliff

Cllr Tomkinson had nothing new to report since the last meeting. It was agreed that the contractor needs to be booked. The setts in the Ford can be replaced now that the river is low.

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

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- iv) Parish Hall Report – Cllr Sales had sent a written report.  
Plans are ongoing for the Applefest to be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September. A tidy-up of the Parish Hall grounds will be held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August at 5pm. Everyone who can help is invited to join the working party. A suggestion has been made that the two notice boards at the Parish Hall should be replaced by one large notice board. This would have three sections – one each for the Parish Council, the Hall and the PCC. Mr James Barrett has offered to make the notice board and will obtain some samples for consideration. The likely cost could be in the region of £600 total. The Hall Committee will bring a proposal to the next Council meeting for their consideration of their portion of the costs.
- v) Pike Common Report – Cllr Ratcliff  
Cllr Ratcliff has mown the grass on Pike Common since the last meeting.

## 398/07 Financial Matters

- i) Council resolved to approve the quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.
- ii) Council noted receipt of the Environmental Maintenance Grant - £750.00.

At 7.59pm Cllr Tomkinson took the Chair and Cllr Ratcliff took no part in the following item.

## 398/08 Payments

- a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments and sign cheques:
  - i) Mrs D McBride – Wages (July) - £257.60. (Cheque)
  - ii) HMRC – PAYE (July) - £64.40 (Direct Debit set up)
  - iii) A Ratcliff – Environmental Maintenance Work - £140.00 (Cheque)
  - iv) Mrs D McBride – Admin Expenses (April – June 2025) - £95.00 (Cheque).

At 8pm Cllr Ratcliff resumed as Chair of the meeting.

## 398/09 Unitary Councillors' Reports

A report from our Unitary Councillor had been received and circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Davies asked for the parish Fix My Street reference numbers so he can chase up outstanding highway issues. Cllr Tomkinson will action this. Council reiterated previous concerns that pot hole filling is sporadic, without any quality control and some roads are so poor that they now need resurfacing. Council also stated that it would be keen to undertake some small pot hole repairs if Shropshire Council progresses the trial in Neen Sollars parish.

## 398/10 Parish Matters / Highways

- i) There were no new parish matters.
- ii) Highway issues had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

## 398/11 Shropshire Council consultation 'Call for Information'

Council went through the questionnaire and stated its view. The Clerk will submit the completed form.

## 398/12 Future Agenda Items

A replacement Notice Board for the entrance to the Parish Hall Car Park will be added to the September Agenda.

## 398/13 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 7.30pm at Neen Savage Parish Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.27pm.

**It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 399/04) that these minutes are a true record of the Meeting.**

Signed.....*Arthur Ratcliff*.....Chairman Date.....*24<sup>th</sup> September 2025*.....