

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24th September 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, Cllr Julian Cleford, Cllr Olwen Sales and Cllr Alison Price.

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

399/01 Apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Apologies were received and accepted from Unitary Cllr David Davies.

399/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

399/03 Public Participation Session

There were four members of public present. Concerns were raised that a stone driveway, gates and fencing have now been installed where the unauthorised entrance was created into a field below Melbury. People are now living in the caravan on site which is causing concern to nearby residents.

399/04 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd July 2025

It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd July 2025 be ADOPTED as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

399/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillor Reports

i) Clerk's Report

Cleobury Sports Centre

Cllr Davies has sent a letter regarding the Centre being under threat of closure. Local councils are being asked to consider pledging money to a fund to keep the Centre open. Other funding and options to manage the Centre are being considered until a new contract to operate the Centre is put into place in August 2027.

Christmas Carol Service in Cleobury Mortimer

His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Shropshire will be holding a 'Together at Christmas' Carol Service at St Mary's, Cleobury Mortimer on Tuesday 9th December. It will be the third in the series of local services inspired by The Princess of Wales' annual service at Westminster Abbey. The Lord-Lieutenant wishes to invite representatives of organisations from Cleobury Mortimer and the surrounding parishes who contribute to their communities. It was agreed to put forward Neen Savage PCC, Parish Hall, WI and the Edwards and Hinckesman's Foundation.

ii) CrimeWatchNeenSavage WhatsApp Group Report – Cllr Sales

Two incidents have been reported since the last Parish Council meeting. There was a Kubota vehicle stolen in July and a field gate broken off its hinges in September.

iii) Environmental Maintenance Report – Cllr Tomkinson/Cllr Ratcliff

Cllr Tomkinson has booked the contractor for two days' work in early October. The setts in the Ford have been temporarily fixed by Cllr Ratcliff and Cllr Hardy.

iv) Parish Hall Report – Cllr Sales

The Songs of Praise and BBQ on 24th August was very successful. There was a tidy-up of the Parish Hall grounds on Tuesday 26th August at 5pm. The Applefest held on Saturday 13th September was a great success and also saw the unveiling of the 2025 parish photo. An electrician will be installing a new solar light at the main gate and a light in the car park in the next few weeks.

v) Pike Common Report – Cllr Ratcliff

Cllr Ratcliff will cut the grass on Pike Common in the next few weeks.

vi) SALC Area Committee Report – Cllr Hardy

Cllr Hardy reported on the recent SALC Area Committee Meeting. There was a workshop where everyone could put their views forward on how they valued Shropshire Council services. Shropshire Council is looking to save money and devolve many services to the parishes but concerns including poor communication and working relationships with the parishes is a barrier to achieving effective partnership working with them.

Initials...AJR.....

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

399/06 Financial Matters

- i) Council noted receipt of the VAT reclaim from 2024-25 - £602.13.
- ii) Council noted that the external auditor (PKF Littlejohn) has received and logged the notification of exempt status for the year ended 31 March 2025. There is no review to be performed and no auditor certificate and report, or any other closure documentation to be issued for this reporting year.
- iii) Council discussed various options and quotations for a new notice board to be jointly funded and shared by St Mary's PCC, Neen Savage Parish Hall and the Parish Council. There will be further discussion with the other parties and the matter will then be discussed again at the October meeting.

399/07 Payments

- a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:
 - i) Mrs D McBride – Wages (August & September) - £515.20 (Cheque)
 - ii) HMRC – PAYE (August & September) - £128.80 (Direct Debit).

399/08 Planning Matters

- a) New Planning Application:
 - i) Reference: 25/03322/FUL (validated: 12/09/2025)
Address: Industrial Unit to the South of Station Yard, Cleobury Mortimer, Shropshire, DY14 8SY
Proposal: Erection of an industrial building (retrospective)
Applicant: Mr R Price (The Old Station Business Park, Cleobury Mortimer)
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the application.
- b) Local Connection qualification for planning:
 - i) Council considered the request to confirm 'Strong Local Connection' for Mr & Mrs Bartlett for the 'Build Your Own' Affordable Housing Scheme. Council RESOLVED that there was no strong local connection based on the evidence provided.

399/09 Unitary Councillors' Reports

The Unitary Councillor's report had been received and circulated prior to the meeting. A list of outstanding Fix My Street reports is yet to be sent to Cllr Davies to chase up.

399/10 Parish Matters / Highways

- i) There were no new parish matters.
- ii) The Elcott corner needs improving as it is deteriorating fast. It was noted that the road from Stonehouse to Hollywaste has been repaired.
- iii) Council set the date for the Autumn Litter Pick week from Sunday 19th – Saturday 25th October 2025.

399/11 Policing Matters

Council RESOLVED to delegate the completion of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner's annual Town and Parish Council Survey to the Clerk.

399/12 Future Agenda Items

An update on a proposed notice board for the entrance to the Parish Hall Car Park will be discussed at the October meeting.

399/13 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd October 2025, 7.30pm at Neen Savage Parish Hall.

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed under Item 14 the public and press shall be excluded under S1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

399/14 Employment Matters

Council reviewed the Clerk's salary according to NJC recommendations.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.36pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 400/04) that these minutes are a true record of the Meeting.

Signed.....*Arthur Ratcliff*.....Chairman Date.....*22nd October 2025*.....