

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28th January 2026 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 Clefford, Cllr Michael Tomkinson, Cllr Olwen Sales and Cllr Alison Price.

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

403/01 Apologies and reasons for Absence from Members
Apologies were received from Cllr Sue Del Mar.

403/02 Declarations of Interest
There were no declarations of interest.

403/03 Public Participation Session
Unitary Councillors David and Pamela Davies were present. Cllr D Davies reported that he had not received any update regarding the Ford. He attended a site visit to Shirehall where the building is currently abandoned as Shropshire Council's offices are now in the Guildhall. There is a proposal to develop the site for housing but a Task and Finish Group will be set up to look at the costs of this against alternative options. Fire and Police services are interested in the office space. Cllr Davies encourages everyone to report fly-tipping but noted that there are only two people in the whole of Shropshire who can remove it. Some non-statutory services are being discontinued to save around £660,000. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of potholes during recent weeks.

403/04 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th December 2025
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 17th December 2025 be ADOPTED as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

403/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillor Reports

i) Clerk's Report

Highways

Fix My Street have stated that the issues with the depth gauges at the Ford have been assessed and the necessary work will be included in the programme of upcoming maintenance but they are unable to provide an exact timescale. There has been no communication regarding the drainage work at the Ford.

Shropshire Council has given notice confirming the resurfacing work between Goesland and Nethercott will take place between 23rd and 31st March.

National Grid has given advance notice that they plan to undertake the tree trimming along the power lines at Pike Common on 9th April. The road will be closed from the top of Ron Hill to Walfords Bridge.

BT are undertaking pole testing and cabling works on the Walfords Bridge section of Green Lane from 30th March until 1st April with road closures being proposed here also.

Pike Common

There are some trees down in the river which will need removing. A site visit to assess the tree management work required is proposed. The larger fallen tree has been washed downstream towards the Paper Mills Bridge.

Someone has cut up some fallen branches from adjacent land and left them on the Common. These branches probably fell during the recent storm however all the debris has been left on the riverbank side. The ground is extremely wet underfoot.

Initials...AJR.....

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

WI Proposal for a Women In War Silhouette

The WI would like to purchase a female silhouette hoping it could be stored with the other soldier and put out at the same time. If the Parish Council are agreeable then the WI plan to hold a fundraising coffee morning in the Spring to raise sufficient funds to purchase one – (see Agenda item 403/06 iv).

Explanation regarding IT Policy

This is a new policy. The 2025 Practitioners Guide explains the new Assertion 10 (covering digital and data compliance) in the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for the current financial year. In addition to requirements for email management and website accessibility (WCAG 2.2 AA), there is a new requirement to have an IT Policy. A template has been provided to personalise. The IT Policy covers use of IT equipment and systems, awareness of risks, safeguarding data and digital assets, clarifies usage and consequences of breaches. It has been designed to help Councils meet the requirements in the Practitioners Guide and compliance is tested in the AGAR.

- ii) **CrimeWatchNeenSavage WhatsApp Group Report – Cllr Sales**
There was a report of hare-coursing in December and the police attended but no-one was found. There has been some fly-tipping near Mawley Town Farm.
- iii) **Environmental Maintenance Report – Cllr Tomkinson/Cllr Ratcliff**
Cllr Tomkinson and Cllr Ratcliff have undertaken ditching work with the contractor on the road near Clump Cottage. This has helped reduce surface water on the road but the ditch on the other side needs cleaning out too. The culvert near Old School House needs cleaning out again. Cllr Tomkinson will continue to chase up the promised grid. Mud was also cleared from Goesland hollow.
- iv) **Parish Hall Report – Cllr Sales**
The January Jolly on 17th January 2026 was a successful social event. The new external lighting should be operational by the end of this week.
- v) **Pike Common Report – Cllr Ratcliff**
A site visit will take place within seven days to assess the tree work and formulate a plan for the work required.

403/06 Financial Matters

- i) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the third quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation to 31st December 2025.
- ii) Council considered and RESOLVED to approve the draft budget and precept proposals for 2026-27. The Precept will increase to £9,900 for 2026-27 resulting in a £14.52 increase per year on an average Band D property. A sum of £500.00 has been earmarked for Cleobury Sports Centre, should there be a shortfall in the fund-raising, to help keep the Centre open.
- iii) Council RESOLVED to approve and sign the direct debit mandate for the Information Commissioner's Office – Data Protection Fee for 2027 onwards.
- iv) Council RESOLVED to support the proposal to purchase an 'Unknown Women in War' silhouette through fund-raising from Neen Savage WI – total cost £175.00 including VAT.

403/07 Payments

- a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:
 - i) Mrs D McBride – Wages (January) - £270.40 (Cheque)
 - ii) HMRC – PAYE (January) - £67.60 (Direct Debit)
 - iii) Information Commissioner's Office – Data Protection Fee - £52.00 (Cheque)
 - iv) Mrs D McBride – Clerk's quarterly admin expenses - £95.00 (Cheque)
 - v) Shropshire Council – 2025 Election Recharge Fee - £125.00 (Cheque)
 - vi) A P Supplies – Environmental Maintenance - £800.00 (Cheque).

Initials...AJR...

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

403/08 Planning Matters

a) Council considered the following new Planning Application:

i) Reference: 25/04659/FUL (validated: 19/12/2025)

Address: Station House, Bridgnorth Road, Cleobury Mortimer, DY14 8SZ

Proposal: Erection of detached double garage and vehicular access

Applicant: Mr M Price

Outcome: Council RESOLVED to object to the proposal. Council is supportive of a garage being erected but feels that a new access onto the main road would be dangerous. Council would prefer the applicant used the existing access to facilitate the requested garage.

403/09 Unitary Councillor's Report

The Unitary Councillor's report had been received and circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Davies updated the Council earlier in the meeting.

403/10 Policies and Procedures

i) Council RESOLVED to adopt the new Information Technology Policy.

ii) Council RESOLVED to adopt the updated Code of Practice in Handling Complaints.

403/11 Parish Matters / Highways

i) There were no new Parish Matters.

ii) A large pothole at the top of Neen Lane and a pothole between the Pioneer Centre and Monks Retreat have been reported on Fix My Street.

iii) The Spring community litter picking event will take place between Sunday 29th March and Saturday 4th April.

iv) The date for the Annual Parish Meeting was proposed for Wednesday 20th May, subject to Parish Hall availability.

403/12 Policing Matters

Council RESOLVED to set the policing priorities for January – July 2026 as follows:

Thefts (outbuildings), Organized Crime Groups (including thefts of machinery and equipment), Wildlife Crime (poaching and hare coursing), also Fly-Tipping.

403/13 Future Agenda Items

The Action Log will be reviewed at the next meeting.

403/14 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th February 2026, 7.30pm at Neen Savage Parish Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 404/04) that these minutes are a true record of the Meeting.

Arthur Ratcliff

25th February 2026

Signed.....Chairman

Date.....