

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th March 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 Cleford, Cllr Susan Del Mar, Cllr Olwen Sales and Cllr Alison Price.

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

405/01 Apologies and reasons for Absence from Members
Apologies were received from Cllr Michael Tomkinson.

405/02 Declarations of Interest
Cllr Ratcliff declared an interest in Agenda item 405/06 – Payments and took no part in this item.

405/03 Public Participation Session
Unitary Cllrs David and Pamela Davies were present. It was noted that the new Ford signs and gauges should be installed soon. Unfortunately, the work to repair the road near Goesland has been cancelled again. There is a lot of repair work required on the roads generally.

405/04 Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2026
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2026 be ADOPTED as a true record and were duly signed by the Chair.

405/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillor Reports
i) Clerk's Report

Highways

- Andy Keyland, Highways Maintenance Manager, has confirmed that the depth gauges will be replaced and the grid fitted into the Old School House culvert when water levels drop. We have since been notified that work at the ford including depth gauges is planned to be carried out on 23rd April. Council welcomed this notification but noted that there is a lot of work to be done here and it may take more than one day.
- Resurfacing work due to be carried out between 23-31st March at Goesland has been cancelled.
- Bridgnorth and Shifnal Area Committee of SALC heard that the Environmental Maintenance Grant is to be increased to £1,000 for 2026/27 but have asked Highways to increase this to £1,500. It is understood that not all Councils would be able to match fund £1,500 but for those who can it would be a much more useful amount.

ii) CrimeWatchNeenSavage WhatsApp Group Report – Cllr Sales
There have been no reports of any rural crime or suspicious activity in the past month.

iii) Environmental Maintenance Report – Cllr Tomkinson/Cllr Ratcliff
There has been no further Environmental Maintenance Work since the last meeting.

iv) Parish Hall Report – Cllr Sales
The Committee has not met since the last Parish Council meeting but planning is underway for future events - Big Breakfast on 5th April, WI fund-raiser on 25th April and Applefest on 12th September.

v) Pike Common Report – Cllr Ratcliff
Cllr Ratcliff has mown the grass at Pike Common. A work party to attend to some fallen trees will be arranged for next week. The waste greenery that has been dumped on the common will be removed.

Initials....AJR.....

NEEN SAVAGE PARISH COUNCIL

vi) SALC Area Committee Report – Cllr Hardy

Cllr Hardy had sent a written report and the Minutes of the Meeting will be forwarded to Council members. Cllr Hardy noted the matter of the proposed increase in Environmental Maintenance Grant for 2026-27. Further information is awaited from Shropshire Council. The devolvement of services from Shropshire Council is being met with mixed responses. Some large councils have taken on a lot of responsibilities and increased their precept accordingly. Other parishes are considering purchasing machinery and vehicles to carry out work in their own parishes and contract out work in other parishes. Smaller parishes with fewer Shropshire Council assets and services may struggle to do very much based on staffing and the disproportionate impact on precepts. Members raised ongoing criticism of the state of the roads and poor responses from Shropshire Council.

At 7.54pm Cllr Sales took the Chair for the following item:

405/06 Payments

a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

- i) Mrs D McBride – Wages (March) - £270.40 (Cheque)
- ii) HMRC – PAYE (March) - £67.60 (Direct Debit)
- iii) A Ratcliff – Highway Maintenance Work - £165.00 (Cheque)
- iv) M Tomkinson – Highway Maintenance Work - £198.00 (Cheque)

At 7.55pm Cllr Ratcliff resumed as Chair.

405/07 Unitary Councillor's Report

The Unitary Councillor's report had been received and circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Davies noted the good ditching work undertaken in Neen Savage which helps keep water off the roads and thus reduce road surface damage.

405/08 Policies and Procedures

- i) Council RESOLVED to adopt the updated Standing Orders.
- ii) Council RESOLVED to adopt the new Risk Management Policy.

405/09 Parish Matters / Highways

- i) Council reviewed the Action Log which monitors the progress of community matters. The broadband at the Parish Hall should be digital by now. Some work at the Ford is progressing but there are other issues with holes and missing setts at the Ford. The unauthorized work to the highway, hedgerow and land carried out near Melbury last year, will need to be reinstated.
- ii) The community litter pick event starts on Sunday. Cllr Ratcliff will advertise this and coordinate the event.

405/10 Future Agenda Items

There were no items raised.

405/11 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 29th April 2026, 7.30pm at Neen Savage Parish Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.28pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 406/04) that these minutes are a true record of the Meeting.

Signed.....**Chairman** *Arthur Ratcliff* **Date**.....*29th April 2026*