

NAVESTOCK PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY & MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 10th March 2020 - 19.46 START

Present: Councillors John Parrish known as Mike (MP), Raymond Balcombe (RB), Rowena Bere-Brown (RBB), Adrian Enkel (AE), Christine Gelderbloem (CG)

Also Present: Clerk Victor Simmons (VS), Borough Councillor Roger McCheyne (RM), Essex County Councillor Lesley Wagland (LW)

Members of the public (3), Mary Enkel (ME), Jan Savill (JS), Roy Tyzack (RT)

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

BOWLS CLUB (ME) - The club has shrunk from 30 to 3 members and moving forward only intend holding social evenings. Adverts for new members thus far have drawn a blank.

CHURCH COUNCIL (ME) - Since Mark James retired there's been no vicar for the last year, however Julie Hardy is being licensed on March 30th. The steeple has been repaired following woodpecker damage and among regular events the biannual Flower Festival is due to be held on June 6th/7th.

LUNCH GROUP (ME) - Numbers back to 25 after a drop to 20 resulting in a price increase of £1.00 to £4.00. Thanks to the PC for supporting the group by covering the hire cost of the Village Hall.

SCOUT GROUP (JS) - After 8 years this uniformed and inclusive group has over 70 members across the age ranges (18 from within Navestock) with 12 adult leaders. Last year featured a 10-day camp to Torquay plus a 4-day camp at Belchamps where they received the best troupe award.

CRICKET CLUB (Matt Richards report read by RB) - Another successful season with both Saturday league teams finishing mid table. Major improvements to the playing area and clubhouse have been ongoing over the Winter with new President Mark Prior heavily involved.

VILLAGE SOCIETY (RT) - The society enjoyed numerous social events in their 25th anniversary year. The annual gathering at the NVS tree on the Millennium Common was well attended and the group are assisting with the 2020 Village Show.

VILLAGE HALL (Suzanne O'Shea report read by VS) - The hall continues to be well used with sound finances. Facilities have been improved including the newly refurbished smaller Play Area with astroturf. Chairman Tony Hoyle will be standing down in July although the trustees remain unaltered.

WI (Suzanne O'Shea report read by VS) - Membership is stable with the group flourishing and the usual varied itineraries at meetings. This June sees the 70th anniversary with a lunch party.

LITTLE DOVES (Pam Biddulph report read by RBB) - The Pre-School has now been at NVH for 3 years and has 5 trustees. There are 52 children on the roll with 15/16 members of staff. October saw an Ofsted inspection result in a "good" rating. They plan to stay at NVH for the foreseeable future.

The Parish Assembly closed at 20.20 at which point ME and JS left the room.

PARISH MEETING

20.23 Start

1.) Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everyone present to the meeting. MP thanked CG for her continued work on the Parish Newsletter

2.) Apologies for absence - Councilors David Hoppitt & David Williams (illness), Borough Councilor Cliff Poppy (clash of meetings)

3.) Register of interests - None declared

4.) Minutes of previous meeting - Minutes agreed and signed by MP as correct

5.) Matters Arising

5.1) Policing Navestock - MP says still no reply from the Chief Constable to his 2019 letter. ***Ongoing***

5.2) Newsletter - MP very pleased with the brilliant newsletter plus encouragingly some "gaters" have replied to the content

5.3) Website - RB reports over 1600 hits in 5 months. He is still gradually naming all photographs

5.4) Pretoria Energy / PJ Lee & Sons (Cricket Road) - Clerk reports no progress despite repeated verbal promises from Farm Manager (Chris Aspen) of remedial action. ***Clerk to escalate with letter***

5.5) Letters to Alec's / Little Doves and Village Hall - Clerk reports Little Doves have paid 2019 hire fee for the field and would like it again this Summer. Alec's invoiced for 2 years swing sign rental & Village Hall invoiced for share of new gate project. ***Clerk to monitor***

5.6) Priors Golf Course - CG understands a Mr. Newman purchased the course last Summer but currently there seems little interest in the site from a resale point of view. ***CG to monitor situation***

5.7) Village Show - MP hosting a "discussion dinner" at The Bunker tomorrow evening with approximately 20 expected to attend. ***RT and MP dealing moving forward***

5.8) Church Plaque - MP says the diocese request was posted for 28 days and has now gone to the Chancellor for permission to install the plaque on the wall. ***MP dealing***

5.9) Village Hall Pavilion Extension & grant applications - MP says that still some issues with BBC Planning despite being passed in principle (relates to the corridor between buildings). ***MP dealing***

5.10) Snakes Hill Sewerage Tank - MP says nothing new to report as BBC still apparently purchasing land as part of the solution. ***Situation to be monitored by Councilors***

5.11) Village Hall Gates Locks - MP reports now resolved ok with a chain and combination padlock

5.12) Jan 31st Celebrations - MP reports that both the Union Jack was flown and the beacon lit

5.13) Curtis Mill Lane Postcode Issue - Clerk reports that the problem appears to boil down to 2 properties needing their postcode changed following loss of through access some 40 years ago!
Clerk to investigate further with BBC and possibly Royal Mail

5.14) Commemorative Plaque - MP says nothing further to report at this point. ***MP dealing***

5.15) Flooding Horseman Side / Goatswood Lane - Clerk reports limited progress with BBC environmental health and Highways via email. LW offers 20-minute slot at a Highways Surgery on March 31st to give a summary of the situation / lack of progress to date. ***AE & MP dealing***

6.) Public Participation with Respect to Items on The Agenda

20.50 Meeting adjourned for public participation

LW explains major flooding everywhere and ECC are attempting to prioritise O/S jobs. They are expecting a reasonable budget for potholes (1000 reported in 2 months). She suggests report online via the highways website but email her with reference number of anything urgent. She has surgeries coming up for local issues plus a £10K budget to distribute to good causes. Coronavirus - Essex Public Health report 2-4 weeks to delay problem then 2-3 months before the peak. Children should be ok but potentially will be spreaders. The carer community at serious risk plus ECC think 24% of staff could be N/A due to illness. Hand washing identified as crucial to stop spread. RT has reported a serious fly tip in Green Lane involving Hermes parcels and has involved the police with his investigations. RM reports the Brentwood Local Development Plan was submitted late December

21.08 End of Public Participation

7.) Action on Matters Arising from Public Participation

Clerk to email Lesley Wagland regarding her £10K good causes grant pot. Our bid is for a flexible partition in the village hall to divide up the space to assist current user groups and help attract future lettings. The estimate for the scheme is approximately £1600.00. ***Clerk to monitor Green Lane fly tip***

8.) Current Matters

8.1) Byway 55 Curtis Mill Green - No further issues

8.2) Great British Spring Clean / Essex Village of the Year 2020 - No direct PC involvement but the Cricket Club assisting around the vicinity of The Green at their pre-season working party

8.3) Health & Wellbeing - CG wishes to take a future course on the matter. RBB suggests a flyer on the website or perhaps a community news item. ***CG to update moving forward***

9.) Reports from Working Parties

RBB raised ditch erosion in Princes Road at the junction with Dudbrook Road / Lady's Hill. MP requested a "slow" sign on the downhill road surface. **Clerk to email LW with details / photographs.** RBB reports NATS work in Princes Road had been a success. RB suggested that issues for the clerk needed supporting photographs to assist with location / exact issue. RBB raised pothole issues in Princes Road previously reported to Highways. **Clerk to email details to LW again**

21.20 RT left the meeting

CG reported 4 caravans on Willow Cottage site now plus obtrusive lights at the front of Black Cottage, Old Road. AE commented on the recent police raids at various locations but noted they no longer kept locals up to speed with operations. RB said PC Paul Harrison's Twitter feed may be a possible new contact route. AE raised road safety in Horseman Side as the horse riders concrete dismounting blocks near the M25 road bridge have been moved by ECC. He also raised no litter pick in Goatswood Lane and encroaching hedges into road. **Clerk to report to ECC / LW after further investigation.** AE raised lights and bonfires at Sheep House (Horseman Side). LW suggested write to owners and then BBC Environmental Health if no response, although complaints by neighbours would be required as law is very difficult to enforce (statutory nuisance one option) **Situation to be monitored by Councilors**

10.) Correspondence and Clerks Report - Alec's had requested possible use of The Green to the Cricket Club on August 31st, options to be considered and advised nearer the date

11.) Planning - No issues with any planning applications

12.) Finance - Cheques were signed for payroll, Village Hall (hire fees April 2019 - March 2020), JA Parrish & Sons (Village Hall gates & post) and Clerk (Cricket Road signs). It was noted that the proposed Village Hall contribution towards the new Play Area was not a fixed amount but a donation

13.) Discussion Items - AE asked if the Union Jack was being raised on VE Day. CG wondered if Village Socials might be an event to consider moving forward. MP said this year's Village Show would be themed around VE. LW made everyone aware of Safer Essex Roads Partnership Driving Skills aimed particularly at the over 70's

Next meeting Tuesday May 12th following the Annual Parish Meeting commencing at 19.45.

Meeting closed at 21.52