

NAVESTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 14th July - 20.00 START

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

Also Present: Clerk Victor Simmons (VS), Essex County Councilor Lesley Wagland (LW), District Councilor Cliff Poppy (CP)

This was a virtual meeting via the ZOOM platform. All participants had video and audio connectivity except DH who was audio only

1.) Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everyone present to the meeting and thanked them all for their efforts in the current difficult climate. MP thanked Matt Richards for his IT assistance in hosting the virtual meetings and CG for both the newsletter and The Navestock Gang WhatsApp groups

2.) Apologies for absence - Councilor David Williams (technical issues with virtual meeting)

3.) Register of interests - AE as a tenant of Swan Housing, Tyser Green

4.) Minutes of previous meeting - Minutes agreed as correct (to be signed by MP at a later date)

5.) Matters Arising

5.1) Policing Navestock - MP says some success with various issues via our rural Police Officer Mark Sheridan Brown, still problems though with G & T's and fly tipping. **Ongoing**

5.2) Pretoria Energy / PJ Lee & Sons (Cricket Road) - MP reports still no progress regarding damage to Cricket Road or blocked footpaths on Horseman Side due to unsprayed maize. **Clerk to escalate again as appropriate**

5.3) Alec's and Village Hall - Alec's invoiced for 2 years swing sign rental (still outstanding) & Village Hall invoiced for share of new gate project plus asked for donation towards new play area (RBB & RB to chase). **Clerk to monitor & also chase as required**

5.4) Priors Golf Course - CG understands that deals for parts of the land have fallen through with prospective purchasers allegedly losing deposits paid in good faith. The site is now apparently going to auction in September. **CG to monitor situation**

5.5) Village Show - MP confirmed the Village Show had unfortunately been cancelled due to current COVID restrictions. A small virtual event was planned with CG awaiting entries. **CG and RBB dealing**

5.6) Church Plaque - MP says the plaque has arrived and will be installed shortly. **MP dealing**

5.7) Village Hall Pavilion Extension & grant applications - MP says things are moving slowly

awaiting quotes. Hardcore for the foundations & topsoil to level the field are in place. It's hoped the National Citizenship Scheme may supply some labour to help with the field. **MP and CG dealing**

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

5.9) Curtis Mill Lane Postcode Issue - Still in hand with Clerk as the issue is both complex and time consuming. **Carried forward (clerk to investigate further with BBC and possibly Royal Mail)**

5.10) Commemorative Plaque - MP says the plaque has arrived and will be installed once the contents of the "capsule" have been collated. **MP dealing**

5.11) Flooding Horseman Side / Goatswood Lane - MP. No contact from ECC Highways following the surgery cancellation on March 31st. LW advised of a new virtual Highways Surgery on August 10th at 13.15. Also, discussion on the lack of a hedge safety cut for several years. **AE & MP dealing**

5.12) Cutting of Navestock Heath (hay & conservation) - MP states cut delayed due to poor weather but expected to be completed very shortly. **MP to monitor**

5.13) Health and Wellbeing - CG says local moral is good boosted by the WhatsApp groups. She is attending a course the following week. **Carried forward (topic for discussion by Councilors)**

5.14) Murthering Lane / Stapleford Abbots Golf Course (Abbots) - MP outlined planning application to Epping Forest DC for 40 mobile homes although vehicle access lies within Brentwood BC area. Numerous objections submitted including one from NPC. LW requests planning reference from Clerk to possibly involve ECC Highways. **Carried forward (topic for discussion by Councilors)**

5.15) Village Hall partition project - Clerk has been in contact with LW regarding the Locality Fund and she is exploring if we meet the relevant criteria, but is optimistic of success. **Carried forward**

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

NOTE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN SUSPENDED DURING VIRTUAL MEETINGS

7.) Action on Matters Arising from Public Participation - Not applicable

8.) Current Matters

8.1) Priors Golf Course (PROW No. 58) - MP outlines that PROW has been blocked although some confusion exists over the actual owner of the land involved. Clerk has escalated to Essex CC Highways following a complaint from Carol Finney and will pass details to LW to investigate

8.2) Spring Farm & Skip-Ahoy (environmental issues) - BBC Environmental Health are aware of the ongoing issues at this site and are escalating the situation to the Environment Agency

8.3) BBC (register of members interests) - Councillors to check register and update if required

8.4) Playground reopening process - MP states that NPC will not be opening the playground at present due to the COVID health issues surrounding such action. To be kept under review

8.5) National Citizenship Scheme - See 5.7 re Village Hall field. Councillors agreed to fund £100 towards PPE for use in local litter picking initiative driven by the WhatsApp groups. **CG dealing**

9.) Reports from Working Parties - RB reports 90 website hits per week and over 3000 since inception. CG raises bollards placed on verges O/S Black Cottage, Old Road (**Clerk to forward details to LW**). MP reports success of library and agreement reached to spend £100 on additional shelving

10.) Correspondence and Clerks Report - Clerk to liaise with LW again regarding pothole issues as new initiative scheme will shortly be starting up and some confusion exists over what is still outstanding. Main problems are still in Dudbrook Road with RBB to report additional rut to ECC Highways ASAP for inclusion. Clerk received St. Thomas' Churchyard enquiry which was quickly resolved with MP over tree on his land. Clerk will also be replying to Gigaclear regarding ownership enquiry over Curtis Mill Lane

11.) Planning - Brook Cottage application overview mentioned by MP but no significant issues from an NPC perspective

12.) Finance - Cheques to be signed for payroll, MP (Commemorative Plaque), Stevenson & Co. (internal audit). No issues with Metro Bank or the Bank of Ireland to report.

The annual accounts were approved following the internal audit ready for submission to PKF Littlejohn for our limited assurance review (AGAR). The Clerk is dealing with our VAT reclaim for 2019-20.

13.) Discussion Items - AE raised issues regarding trees at Tyser Green involving Swan Housing who dispute ownership. Steve Plumb from BBC has inspected the trees which apparently have a preservation order on them and supplied a report on their condition. **Clerk to investigate / write to Swan Housing**. CG raised the issue of mounting cameras within Navestock regarding fly tipping. CP commented that there are major issues over their use in public areas and BBC were reluctant to go down that route. There was also a major discussion regarding traveler / transit sites and land purchases / planning / trespass involving AE, MP, CP and LW. LW stated that the only real success with such matters were injunctions to stop unauthorised building on purchased land. Matt Richards thanked NPC for use of the astroturf wicket on the village hall field for cricket practice.

Next meeting Tuesday September 8th.

Meeting closed at 21.10