

NAVESTOCK PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY & PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 14th March 2023 - 18.00 START

Present: Councillors John Parrish known as Mike (MP), Ray Balcombe (RB), Rowena Bere-Brown (RBB), David Hoppit (DH), David Williams (DW)

Also Present: Clerk Victor Simmons (VS)

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

CRICKET CLUB: (Matt Richards report read by RB) - The club enjoyed a successful 2022 season with no COVID issues to disrupt play. Both Saturday teams earned promotion with the 2nd XI divisional champions. The tough decision to fold the Sunday XI due to availability problems was taken and instead focus more on T20 midweek cricket. The club is in a sound financial position and continues to improve facilities whilst endeavoring to maintain subscriptions at an affordable level. NCC would like to thank NPC for their support, specifically with regard to security of The Green by way of the new ditch.

LITTLE DOVES CHRISTIAN PRE-SCHOOL: (Pam Biddulph report read by RBB) - Little Doves Christian Pre-school has now been open for nearly 6 years using Navestock Village Hall. We have 21 staff members, with at least 4 coming from within Navestock (plus 4 staff members). Fund raising continues to be a challenge to meet rising costs, which increased Government funding for childcare doesn't fully cover. However, encouragingly we have a waiting list for September 2023 and 2024. We are planning to stay at NVH for the foreseeable future and would like to thank the NVH committee for their continued support.

PARISH LUNCH GROUP: (Suzanne O'Shea report read by VS) - The lunch guest numbers increased to 38, with an average attendance of 32. We lost one of our founder members in Mary Enkel, who was instrumental in setting up the Luncheon Club 33 years ago, who has sadly passed away. The cost remains at £4 for 3 courses plus wine / raffle and thanks to a £300 reserve, the Christmas meal was provided free. Keith Gardner has agreed to take over the books from Janet Porter who has also died.

WI: (Suzanne O'Shea report read by VS) - We continue to meet at the cricket pavilion with numbers holding steady. In June we held our belated 70th anniversary lunch at the Marygreen Manor and as usual had a presence at various village and church events. As encouraged by the NFWI we have put together a small promotional leaflet and advertised locally in a drive to increase membership.

VILLAGE HALL: (Suzanne O'Shea report read by VS) - 2022 saw a return to normality with hirings plus a re-designed website to encourage more bookings. Fees have been adjusted to accommodate rising costs, with improvements such as new signage, hand dryers and a small gas cooker undertaken. Over the Easter holidays work to replace all the ceiling tiles is scheduled. Unfortunately, in November an act of vandalism resulting in smashed doors and windows at the rear occurred, which was repaired under the insurance policy. Thanks to the hard work of the cleaner the hall looks well and is an inviting space.

FIRST NAVESTOCK SCOUT GROUP: (VS) - No report received.

VILLAGE SOCIETY: (VS) - No report received.

CHURCH COUNCIL: (VS) - No report received

The Annual Parish Assembly closed at 18.09

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

18.10 Start

23/14) Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everybody present and thanked them for their work over the previous 4 years given the Parish Council elections prior to the next meeting

23/15) Apologies and reasons for absence: Chris Gelderbloem (CG) - BBC meeting (accepted), Adrian Enkel (AE) - Illness (accepted)

23/16) Declaration of interests with regards to items on the agenda: None

23/17) To approve the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 10th January 2023:
Minutes agreed as correct and signed by MP

23/18) Matters Arising:

18.01) Village Hall Sports Pavilion (build) and sports field Issues: MP - Pavilion work was ongoing with the floor now laid. External electricity provision was progressing well with the GRP kiosk and cable / fuse board to the pavilion installed. UKPN were due on site shortly to connect the feed. Lesley Wagland had helped to secure a Locality Fund grant towards these costs. ***MP & Clerk dealing***

18.02) Flooding & effluent Horseman Side / Goatswood Lane: MP - The effluent and smell is as bad as ever. The EA in communication have effectively abdicated responsibility to BBC, who they say have as much authority as they do. BBC need to be pressed to act. ***Clerk, AE, CG & MP dealing***

18.03) Health and Wellbeing: MP - The hub has been well attended on Monday's. ***Carried forward***

18.04) Murthering Lane / Stapleford Abbots (Abbots) Golf Course: MP - The application for 40 mobile homes and subsequent appeal had been refused (EFDC). Although the access gateway was within Navestock, there was nothing else to report / discuss or consider at this time. ***Item resolved***

18.05) Spring Farm & Skip-A-Hoy (environmental issues): MP - The EA are still in negotiation with Skip-A-Hoy although they are in theory clearing the site. BBC Planning is aware of the buildings at the rear of the property and it's unclear why there has been no action over these. The concern will be an application for brownfield status and potentially a small housing estate. ***Carried forward***

18.06) Tyser Green - tree issues (Swan Housing): MP - Planning permission has now been granted for the tree works although no start date is known as yet. ***Clerk & MP dealing***

18.07) Neighbourhood Watch including CCTV: MP - Limited progress although NPC have agreed to make a contribution towards costs when applicable. As a side issue there had been an informal meeting of 20 irate Horseman Side residents regarding fly tipping and rubbish attended by MP and CG. As a result, residents are now complaining direct to the BBC CEO. ***Carried forward***

18.08) Shonks Mill Flood Storage Area: MP - The Clerk was in regular contact with Stanford Rivers PC on the matter and following their last meeting (attended by MP) there is a joint approach moving forward. The Clerk advised that a proposed meeting with the EA had been rejected until such time as all the information (including flood remodelling) was available. *Carried forward*

18.09) Navestock Side - sewage discharge: MP - The problem was still ongoing and in the hands of Strutt & Parker (Henry Jex) with no specific update at this point. *Carried forward*

18.10) Dog waste bin - Navestock Side: MP - The new bin for both dog waste and litter has been made but problems with the paint application had delayed installation. *MP & AE dealing*

18.11) Sports field hiring policy: MP - No change awaiting BYFC supplying a draft least (initially Sunday morning use only) which they need for grant application purposes. *Carried forward*

18.12) Common Land issues within Navestock Parish: MP - Gave an update on possible acquisition of unregistered / non owned land (Section 124 Local Government Act 1972). *Clerk & CG dealing*

18.13) Proposed changes to ward boundaries in Brentwood Borough Council: MP - Due to happen in 2025. NPC will become part of a new ward (Brizes, Stondon Massey and South Weald) which geographically is a huge area. We will hopefully retain CG as a District Councillor. *Carried forward*

18.14) Security of the “The Green” due to vehicular ASB: MP - A new ditch has been dug between Navestock Side and Green Lane with further works to follow. *Clerk & RB dealing*

18.15) Navestock Village Hall disabled access: MP - A temporary rubber ramp is currently in place before the weather allows the new concrete / tarmac apron to be constructed. *MP & RB dealing*

18.16) Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund 2022/23: MP - An application for the village hall ceiling tiles had unfortunately been unsuccessful. *Item resolved*

18.17) PFCC Community Safety Development Fund 2022/23: RBB had been unable to pursue as the CCTV quotes arrived beyond the application deadline. The quote for £6K was discussed at length and would be kept as a benchmark should further grants become available. *Item resolved*

18.18) Parish Council elections - Thursday 4th May 2023: MP - Opened a general discussion but felt there would be sufficient applications to constitute a contested election. The Clerk was attending a meeting at BBC next week to be given all relevant information. RB asked if costs were known, which the Clerk said was anticipated as being between £5000 and £8000. *Clerk dealing*

18.19) Coronation of King Charles III - Saturday 6th May 2023: MP - A newsletter had gone out to all residents inviting them to send a photograph of their property (featuring themselves) for a historical (possibly) digital album. A specific email address was being created. *CG & RBB dealing*

23/19) Suspension of meeting for public participation with respect to items on the agenda

18.35 Meeting suspended for public participation

MP - As there were no members of the public present item 23/19 was opened and closed.

18.36 End of public participation

23/20) Action on matters arising from public participation session: None

23/21) Current Matters:

21.1) Shonks Mill Road / Dudbrook Road Lady's Hill (LHP Submission): MP - There continues to be accidents at this junction with perhaps the answer a solar panel T junction sign. Clerk to investigate an LHP submission as their next meeting was March 21st. There was also concern that gritting of the Lady's Hill downslope had been curtailed this winter. *Clerk dealing*

21.2) BBC Street Trading Policy: MP - The new policy means in theory that traders have to be at least 10 metres away from main roads (A128 being an example). *Item resolved*

21.3) Navestock rubbish and litter issues: MP - This had become a massive problem and NATS would be directed to "hotspots" on their 4 annual visits. In discussion other options were considered although the potential costs given 21 miles of roads in Navestock would probably be prohibitive (double taxation). Ultimately the issue belonged to BBC. *Carried forward*

21.4) Annual playground inspection 2023: MP - Asked for approval to proceed with the annual playground inspection which was agreed. RBB and RB raised access arrangements / previous highlighted issues which had been dealt with by AE with replacement parts. *Clerk dealing*

21.5) NPC Fixed Asset Policy & Register / Reserves Policy 2023 (for approval): MP - Asked for approval of these which was agreed. The Clerk advised that the assets had been increased by £90K to include the sports pavilion. MP - The reserves policy set an arbitrary figure to match the precept of £22K although monies could be earmarked above this if appropriate. *Item resolved*

23/22) Reports from Working Parties: RB - He was joining the police panel which covered Epping, Ongar and Brentwood. A discussion followed on paying for additional policing / private security. RBB - Reported a burnt-out car in Shonks Mill Road plus the concerning ongoing pothole situation. DW - Commented on the disappointing police response to reported issues. DH - Gangs of youths were using catapults to cause damage in the Curtis Mill Lane area. MP - Had reported dumped asbestos in Beacon Hill and Dudbrook Road. He was still keen on the idea of a fire safe / filing cabinet in the NPC cupboard.

23/23) Correspondence and Clerks Report: Clerk - Ride London is taking place again on Sunday 28th May. BBPCA meeting on 13th March - apologies sent plus their Clerk requested to amend the December minutes to reflect that CG was representing NPC not BBC. The minute book is full and the Clerk had received EALC confirmation that paper records are mandatory, therefore there was agreement to purchase a new book (£156 + VAT). Clerk asked if we wished to sign up to "Keep Britain Tidy"? As in previous years NPC will organise their own events. A fishing enquiry regarding Lady's Lake was passed on by MP to the incumbent club. The defibrillator pads had passed their expiry date, RBB asked to order replacements. The ECC changes to Recycling Centre's had come into force, meaning booking was now required to visit in most instances. Upon investigation by CG, it was deemed not worth applying for the BBC UKSPF grant, but instead wait for other forthcoming opportunities. Communication regarding "Village Gateways" was discussed, but despite its merits in some locations Navestock was not deemed to be one based on limited verge widths plus installation charges and potential repair costs.

23/24) Planning: MP - There were no issues with any new applications received.

23/25) Finance: MP has checked the accounts / records & everything is in order. Cheques to be signed were approved for Payroll (March), MVG Electrical Ltd (sports pavilion power supply) and BBPCA (subscription 2023/24).

23/26) Discussion Items and date of next meeting: RBB mentioned the village hall flag which had been taken down due to its poor condition. RB said the flag master was rotating the new NPC flag for official occasions and another he had purchased for general daily use.

Next meeting: Tuesday 9th May, 2023

Meeting closed at 19.26

***Victor Simmons
Clerk to Navestock Parish Council
8th May 2023***