

NAVESTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 11th July 2023 - 19.00 START

Present: Councillors Chris Gelderbloem (CG), Rowena Bere-Brown (RBB), Adrian Enkel (AE), Lucy Gelderbloem (LG), John Parrish known as Mike (MP), Roy Tyzack (RT), David Williams (DW)

Also Present: Clerk Victor Simmons (VS), District Councillor Keith Parker (KP) - (left meeting at 20.45)

23/40) Chairperson's Welcome: CG welcomed everybody present

23/41) Apologies and reasons for absence: None

23/42) Declaration of interests with regards to items on the agenda: AE (Tyser Green)

23/43) To approve the minutes from the Annual Parish Council Meeting & Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 16th May 2023: Minutes agreed as correct and signed by CG

23/44) Matters Arising:

44.01) Village Hall Sports Pavilion (build) and sports field Issues: RT - Were external power points planned for the pavilion plus he had a table to donate? The clerk said they were and would be in place for the village show. MP gave an overview on the next phase of the build which included a meet with the electrician and plumber to discuss water supply and showers etc. **MP & Clerk dealing**

44.02) Flooding & effluent Horseman Side / Goatswood Lane: AE - Voiced concern at the lack of action and the ongoing problem. MP - Reiterated the current position where the EA had effectively passed the issue onto BBC although our MP was trying to apply pressure for action. **Carried forward**

44.03) Health and Wellbeing: CG - There had been a death in the village which prompted a general discussion (MP) on how NPC should respond to such matters in the future. **Carried forward**

44.04) Spring Farm & Skip-A-Hoy (environmental issues): CG - Activities had quietened a little although numerous fires had been reported. Still no meaningful response from the EA or BBC Environmental Health. MP reported ASB from youths placing objects in the road. **Carried forward**

44.05) Tyser Green - tree issues (Swan Housing): AE - The proposed works were now finally completed although the trees needed to be monitored closely moving forward. **Item resolved**

44.06) Neighbourhood Watch including CCTV: CG, MP & DW - An initial camera is now in operation with supposedly others also deployed. There has disappointingly been little feedback / results regarding their effectiveness which is paramount to avoid a loss of momentum. **Carried forward**

44.07) Shonks Mill Flood Storage Area: All - Following the EA zoom meeting on June 26th attended by CG, RBB, MP, RT and the Clerk, there were still general concerns regarding the project. EFDC have passed the plans, but the actual land owners (Church Commissionaires) are also frustrated with the current process. As things stand the only benefit to Navestock is more nature. **Carried forward**

44.08) Navestock Side - sewage discharge: MP, AE & Clerk - Nothing new from either the EA or Strutt & Parker where we have a new contact (Clerk to chase for an update). *Carried forward*

44.09) Sports field hiring policy: MP - No change as still waiting on BYFC to supply a draft lease which is needed for their Football Association grant application for the sports field. *Carried forward*

44.10) Common Land issues within Navestock Parish: AE & DW - Both commented on BBC and their lack of interest in common land issues. This is however a complex matter. *Clerk & CG dealing*

44.11) Security of the “The Green” due to vehicular ASB: Clerk - A new ditch had been dug between Navestock Side and Green Lane with further contractor works to follow down towards the library. A general discussion followed regarding other ASB in the Navestock Side area. *Clerk dealing*

44.12) Navestock Village Hall disabled access: MP - The new ramp is now completed. *Item resolved*

44.13) Coronation of King Charles III - Saturday 6th May 2023: CG & MP - The coronation itself drew limited interest but the digital photograph album is still a work in progress. *Item resolved*

44.14) Shonks Mill Road / Dudbrook Road Lady’s Hill (LHP Submission): All - There was disappointment with the new road line markings at the junction and ECC Highway’s response to the Lady’s Hill gritting issue. The clerk to continue pushing the matter via Ann Cocklin / Lesley Wagland with a suggestion that the gritter only goes up Lady’s Hill before turning around. *Clerk dealing*

44.15) Navestock rubbish and litter issues: CG - Gave an overview of rubbish / litter issues in general although it seems BBC have a legal obligation to litter pick twice a year. *Carried forward*

44.16) Annual playground inspection 2023: MP - Some remedial work had been undertaken following the inspection plus wood chippings were now on site for the ground under the swings. The Clerk had obtained a quote of £750 plus materials for a professional repaint of the equipment during September, which following discussion was agreed. *Clerk dealing*

44.17) Church Road - sewage discharge: CG - Everything is currently working ok. *item resolved*

44.18) BBC Register of Interest Forms: Clerk - Now complete and on the BBC website. *item resolved*

44.19) Parish Councils - One Team Service Review - Wednesday 17th May: CG - Gave an overview of the meeting which included other Parish Councils. Planning was a general gripe raised and RBB queried why little information on any enforcement action taken (Clerk to investigate). *Item resolved*

44.20) NPC Insurance renewal (August / September 2023): All - After general discussion it was agreed to defer any merger of the NPC and village hall policies until the 2024 renewal. *Item resolved*

23/45) Suspension of meeting for public participation with respect to items on the agenda

19.53 Meeting suspended for public participation

KP - Gave an overview of the current situation regarding illegal traveller sites and BBC. He explained that ECC paid BBC to cut highway verges twice a year, any cuts beyond that were funded by BBC. There was also a consultation pending to restrict some verge cutting in favour of wild flower areas. He gave a personal view on the green belt and planning plus potential changes before parliament.

20.24 End of public participation

23/46) Action on matters arising from public participation session: None

23/47) Current Matters:

47.1) Advertising review relating to “The Green”: Clerk - The restaurant advertising sign on “The Green” was due for review, after discussion this was raised to £50 per annum. *Item resolved*

47.2) Navestock Community Meeting - Tuesday 4th July 2023: All - 90 residents attended the meeting, however pre submitted questions weren't read out or answered. There was some disappointment at the composition of the “top table” and limited end product. *Carried forward*

47.3) Boundary issues - Navestock Heath: CG - There was possibly encroachment onto NPC land on Navestock Heath. This required further investigation via deeds etc before action. *CG dealing*

47.4) Village Show 2023: CG - Judges are in hand with a volunteer meeting a week before the show. RT - Gave an overview of the field events with 15-20 stalls plus 2 singers, tractor rides, ponies, ferrets, dog show, bar, BBQ, ice cream van plus hamper draw as part of the £3 car entry fee. CG said any social media output to be agreed by all and RT would be supplying a full list of stall holders etc. The Clerk has about £1K in advance stall / brochure fees. *Carried forward*

23/48) Reports from Working Parties: AE - Everything already covered. LG - Lots of fly tipping especially around Old Road plus stray dogs which have gone to Wallace Kennels. Also, an overgrown hedge at the junction of Old Road / Horseman Side (the resident has been written to requesting action). CG - Was looking for someone to cut Navestock Heath possibly during September. The bund built by Cribbs (Murthering Lane) is legitimate. RT - Limited fly tipping in Horseman Side but no real feedback on the in-situ camera. DW - Things have been quiet on Curtis Mill Green although there's an ongoing development behind Chestnut Cottage of concern. MP - Arranging for scrap metal in the village hall to be collected in conjunction with the village show skip being on site. Commented on a new path near Dudbrook Hall plus a dead tree and the lack of a village hall notice board. RBB - Thanked local farmers for deterring hare coursers with “tobelerones” and highlighted low tree branches at Shonks Mill bridge. Raised that a man was sleeping rough in a car in the Shonks Mill area, after discussion deemed to be a police issue.

23/49) Correspondence and Clerks Report: Clerk - The purchase of a replacement minute book was still in hand. We have submitted 4 potholes for the new ECC Highways initiative program. A footpath issue was passed onto Stanford Rivers PC due to its location. It was agreed to remain in the ECC salt bag partnership scheme but decline additional stock this Winter. Driveway issues in Snakes Hill had already been reported to ECC Highways and BBC housing. As the land appeared to not be highways responsibility, the problem looked to be down to the latter. There was a CVS funding workshop on the 21/7 that CG was attending. She also attended the BBPCA meeting on the 12/6 which mainly focused on the withdrawal of councilor involvement in the Local Highways Panel, plus reports on local events.

23/50) Planning: CG - Reported on the application for 6 traveler plots in Horseman Side plus issues surrounding Sheep House. The Legh Cottage appeal was being heard by BBC next week, which NPC were supporting. There was a discussion regarding The Forge which RT gave background information on.

23/51) Finance: CG has checked the accounts / records & everything is in order. Cheques to be signed were approved for Payroll (July), MVG Electrical Ltd. (sports pavilion internal electrics – part payment), Village Hall (Parish lunch hire fees 2022/23) and EALC Training (Chris Gelderbloem).

23/52) Discussion Items and date of next meeting: None.

Next meeting: Tuesday 12th September, 2023

Meeting closed at 21.22

***Victor Simmons
Clerk & RFO to Navestock Parish Council
4th September 2023***