

NAVESTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 14th November 2023 - 19.00 START

Present: Councillors Chris Gelderbloem (CG), 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) + 4 members of the public (MOP) including Tony Wilson (TW - Brentwood B.C.) and Mark Sheridan-Brown (MSB - Essex Police)

23/66) Chairperson's Welcome: CG welcomed everybody present and read out a generic statement regarding the recording of meetings, plus NPC were audio recording all meetings moving forward

23/67) Apologies and reasons for absence: Rowena Bere-Brown - Hospital appointment (*accepted*)

23/68) Declaration of interests with regards to items on the agenda: CG (73.04), RT (72.07), MP (72.08)

23/69) To approve the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 11th July 2023: Minutes *agreed* as correct and to be signed by CG. CG stated that the scheduled meeting on 12/09/23 had been adjourned for technical reasons

23/70) Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda

19.04 Meeting suspended for public participation

TW - Gave an overview of the current situation regarding fly tipping cameras within Navestock which had resulted in offenders being caught. KP gave further updates on this plus referenced potential planning applications in Murthering Lane. MSB gave an update on police activity and reported 72 incidents within the last month. A MOP (Joe) queried changes to the agenda when there hadn't been a Parish Council meeting since July. CG said these were made following legal advice and the Clerk explained the delegated powers available to the Parish Council between meetings. There was a general discussion on fly tipping from moving vehicles and how this should be reported (999).

19.16 End of public participation

23/71) Action on matters arising from public participation session: RT - It was useful to report the number plates of all such vehicles as even if false they could be tied to other recorded crimes

23/72) Matters arising from previous meetings:

72.01) Village Hall Sports Pavilion (build) and sports field Issues: RT - The donated table had been delivered to the pavilion. MP - BYFC were perusing the 5-year lease for Sunday mornings only, which they required to obtain a £30K FA grant for drainage works. Following a site meet we were waiting on a quote from a plumber which was tied to a possible ECC Locality Fund grant. *MP & Clerk dealing*

72.02) Flooding & effluent Horseman Side / Goatswood Lane: CG - No change to this long-standing problem that our MP (Alex Burghart) was trying to apply pressure for action on. *Carried forward*

72.03) Health and Wellbeing: CG - The local WhatsApp groups were working well as a means of keeping the community together, plus a way to create a market place for goods etc. *Carried forward*

72.04) Spring Farm & Skip-A-Hoy (environmental issues): CG - Another long-standing issue with no meaningful response from the EA or BBC Environmental Health. MP - Commented on the illegal overnight burning of obnoxious materials that drew no response when reported. **Carried forward**

72.05) Neighbourhood Watch including CCTV: CG - Already covered under public participation plus the Neighbourhood Watch group were doing a good job. RT - Since November 8th it was now a criminal offence to possess nitrous oxide without a legitimate reason. **Carried forward**

72.06) Shonks Mill Flood Storage Area (River Roding Project): MP - This 12-year project has now been agreed by EFDC and BBC planning with a timetable of works circulated. As local landowners had not agreed to this yet the proposed dates may well be open to change **Carried forward**

72.07) Navestock Side - sewage discharge: Clerk - There had been a site meet on October 12th with Adrian Enkel, the Clerk and Tom Carroll (Strutt & Parker). The area behind Navestock Side, the field to the west plus Tyser Green were walked with Tom Carroll noting all relevant issues. He will be writing to all interested parties, but no update from that as yet. **Carried forward**

72.08) Sports field hiring policy: MP - Nothing new to report but the hiring policy is flexible. It was agreed that moving forward this item could be incorporated into 72.01. **Item resolved**

72.09) Common Land issues within Navestock Parish: CG - A very complex matter to keep under observation, MP suggested picnics on certain areas to ensure that their status was retained. RT - Asked if stray horses were still a problem, it appeared none had been observed. **Clerk dealing**

72.10) Security of the "The Green" due to vehicular ASB: Clerk - Further contractor works to re-dig the ditch between the library and the cricket pavilion were still outstanding. **Clerk dealing**

72.11) Shonks Mill Road / Dudbrook Road Lady's Hill (LHP Submission): Clerk - A response from ECC Highway's had confirmed that they would not add Lady's Hill back into the gritting route. It seems the junction does not meet the threshold of accidents required for action. **Clerk dealing**

72.12) Navestock rubbish and litter issues: CG - An ongoing issue with residents reporting many incidents now. MP - Commented on the effectiveness of the 'FixMyStreet' app as opposed to the BBC reporting system. TW - Gave some insight on the current BBC process re litter. **Carried forward**

72.13) Annual playground inspection 2023: MP - Was now completed. **Item resolved**

72.14) Navestock Community Meeting - Tuesday 4th July 2023: MP - A report had been compiled and hand delivered to resident's doors. CG & MSB - There was talk of possibly another meeting although it was felt a clear steer on the agenda plus aims / goals were required. **Item resolved**

72.15) Boundary issues - Navestock Heath: CG - Had obtained all relevant information and would be compiling a letter for the Clerk to send to the resident concerned shortly. **Carried forward**

72.16) Village Show 2023: CG & RT - Gave an overview of the show which had been a success both on the field and in the village hall, with over 600 in attendance. The previously circulated show accounts were signed off as correct. **Item resolved**

23/73) Current Matters:

73.01) ECC Locality Fund 2023: Clerk - There were positive signs with regards to a grant towards the sports pavilion plumbing, the quote was required by the end of November. *Clerk dealing*

73.02) BBC Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations CG - This had been completed and there was no impact on Navestock moving forward. *Item resolved*

73.03) ASB Navestock Side: CG - There had been vandalism to the rear of the village hall which had been noted. RT - In an unrelated incident a local family had been served with an eviction notice which would be going to court. *Item resolved*

73.04) Church Road - ongoing sewage issues: CG - A newly installed sewage system was causing problems due to faulty outflow pipes. Axis was investigating on behalf of BBC. *CG dealing*

73.05) Parish roads signage: CG - Several faulty road signs (finger posts) had been reported to ECC Highways. No remedial action to date as they appeared to be low priority. *Carried forward*

73.06) Royal British Legion Remembrance Day donation: Clerk - Completed. *Item resolved*

73.07) BBPCA AGM - Thursday 30th November: CG - Attending on behalf of NPC. *CG dealing*

73.08) NPC 2024/25 budget and precept (initial discussion): MP - Hoped that the precept could be held at the current level. Clerk - Budget paperwork would be sent out in December ready for a decision to be made at January's meeting for submission to BBC by 31/01/24. *Carried forward*

23/74) Reports from Working Parties: MP - Opened a general discussion regarding the very poor condition of Curtis Mill Lane which is on EFDC land but is unadopted. *Clerk to approach ECC Highways re the adoption process.* DW - Raised EFDC not tackling planning breaches in the general area which is adding to the road issues. LG - Thanked Mark Prior for cutting Navestock Heath plus raised again the dangerous junction at Old Road / Horseman Side, where the height of the hedge is still an issue despite NPC writing to the resident. RT - Commented on the smell of effluent at the junction of Goatswood Lane / Horseman Side (23/72.02) plus the rejection of a 'speedwatch' request due to safety concerns. CG - There were problems in Murthing Lane with contractor vehicles damaging the road whilst constructing the bund at Middlebrook Farm. The contractor is aware and will rectify issues as required.

23/75) Correspondence and Clerks Report: Clerk - There had been 12 items passed to NATS for their visit in September. The driveway issue in Snakes Hill had been resolved by Axis on behalf of BBC. The new minute book has been sourced from Shaw & Sons and was on order. Issues with PROW 11 being blocked were resolved satisfactorily after CG spoke to the farmer concerned. The NPC insurance policy was renewed ok in August, although the sports pavilion requires a weekly check being an unoccupied building. NPC has applied for the new register of electors published on 1/12/23. NPC had decided against the 'free tree giveaway' on email consensus for various reasons. There had been problems with the latest pothole initiative, where one in Dudbrook Road had not been repaired contrary to notification that it had! The 2024 'Essex Care Service Directory' had been ordered (25 copies only). The BBC CIL had been adopted and would take effect from 15/1/24. KP said 25% of CIL monies go to the local Parish Council if LDP in place, 15% if not and development occurred. The BBPCA meeting on 5/10/23 had been attended by CG who reported nothing major other than dissatisfaction with the new LHP arrangements.

23/76) Planning: CG - All new applications had been emailed out on receipt for consideration / comment and under delegated powers consultee objections were submitted on 14/7, 1/8 and 14/8/23.

23/77) Finance: CG has checked the accounts / records & everything is in order. Cheques to be signed were approved for Payroll (September), BBC (May election costs), Heatherland (village hall skip hire), Clerk (printer ink and stamps), Marsh Limited (NPC insurance renewal 2023), Navestock Village Society (split of village show profit plus return of overpayment), PKF Littlejohn LLP (external audit - AGAR 2022/23), Payroll (November), Royal British Legion (Remembrance Day donation). Clerk - The NPC 2022/23 AGAR was passed by PKF Littlejohn in September with no advisories. There had been some concerns expressed over Metro Bank, but as they were FSCS guaranteed and our balance wasn't in excess of £85K, deemed currently not to be an issue. NPC may wish to consider a second interest account as rates are now increasing plus our cheque only account was starting to cause some issues.

23/78) Discussion Items and date of next meeting: None.

Next meeting: Tuesday 9th January, 2024

23/79) Exclusion of the press and public (start 20.07)

It was *agreed* to close the meeting to the press and public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, on the basis that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

There are currently TWO confidential items to be considered:

79.01) Clerks salary arrangements: Due to the confidential nature of this subject, these minutes are not available for public inspection.

79.02) Annual review of NPC documentation: Due to the confidential nature of this subject, these minutes are not available for public inspection.

Meeting closed at 20.36

Victor Simmons
Clerk & RFO to Navestock Parish Council
2nd January 2024