

NAVESTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 9th January 2024 - 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), Essex County Councillor Lesley Wagland (LW), District Councillor Keith Parker (KP) + 6 members of the public (MOP)

24/01) Chair's welcome & announcements: CG welcomed everybody present and read out a generic statement regarding the recording of meetings (NPC now audio record all meetings). CG also asked for retrospective agreement regarding AE's absence at the November 2023 meeting as his message reporting sickness had been received too late to be recorded. This was **agreed**

24/02) Apologies and reasons for absence: None

24/03) Declaration of interests with regards to items on the agenda: CG (07.14), MP & RBB (07.06), RT (07.07) - All non-pecuniary

24/04) To approve the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 14th November 2023:
Minutes **agreed** as correct and to be signed by CG

24/05) Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda

19.03 Meeting suspended for public participation

Peter Boyes (MOP) - Gave an overview on behalf of the 'Concerned Residents Group', their focus being on CCTV, police intervention, fly tipping and signage. CCTV (10 cameras required as opposed to current projection of 4). Signage is in an appalling state particularly relating to speed limits, plus 10 'Village Gateway' style signs desirable, will NPC commit funds to the aforementioned? How do NPC propose to spend their current funds in 2024 and what income does their fixed assets produce?

KP - Signage was primarily an issue for ECC Highways, but he felt that 6 cameras were probably the best Navestock could achieve coupled with the wildlife cameras sponsored by NPC. He also raised the proposed Spring Farm planning application for 14 houses which drew some discussion, although ultimately this would be a BBC Planning Committee decision. 'Village Gateway' signage could be problematical as both Highways and planning permission would be required. **Glenn Horton (MOP)** - Reiterated the speeding issue in the Horseman Side area and how the lack of signage made police enforcement virtually impossible. **LW** - Explained how Navestock was regularly championed at County Council level, however it was imperative that every known defect within the parish was reported so as to appear on the Essex Highways interactive map. She then gave an overview of the current pothole initiative situation and how poor repairs should be escalated back within 3 months. Planning was a very complex issue particularly when objections and enforcement come into play. There may well be another Locality Fund in 2024/25, which could potentially help fund additional CCTV. Road signage was a matter for ECC Highways; however, speeding was a police matter that was difficult to enforce in rural areas primarily on safety grounds plus limited resources. Highways funding was currently mainly directed towards potholes, not leaving much for signage etc. **Rose Sewell (MOP)** - Raised the subject of the dire state of Albyns Lane plus the proposed BBC signage.

19.33 End of public participation

24/06) Action on matters arising from public participation session: Clerk to reply to Peter Boyes

24/07) Matters arising from previous meetings:

07.01) Village Hall Sports Pavilion (build) and parish field issues: MP - Thanks to LW for her assistance with the ECC Locality Fund for sports pavilion plumbing materials. BYFC have signed the lease for Sunday morning football required for their £30K FA grant application. ***MP & Clerk dealing***

07.02) Flooding & effluent Horseman Side / Goatswood Lane: CG - Still no change to this long-standing issue that our MP (Alex Burghart) is trying to apply pressure for action on. ***Carried forward***

07.03) Health and Wellbeing: CG - The WhatsApp groups were working well as a means of keeping the community together plus the hub at Kelvedon Hatch was a good resource. ***Carried forward***

07.04) Spring Farm & Skip-A-Hoy (environmental issues): CG - Toxic burning has now become a regular problem & NPC have submitted concerns to BBC regarding the current planning application. DW - Commented on the lack of response to the numerous reports submitted. ***Carried forward***

07.05) Neighbourhood Watch including CCTV: CG - Thanked the 'Concerned Residents Group' for their support in general, who had been part of a meeting with the leader of the council plus the police and BBC enforcement team. A greater police and enforcement presence within Navestock was noted, plus additional CCTV was due before the end of March. A general discussion on locations and camera types followed with Curtis Mill Green as an area highlighted. ***Carried forward***

07.06) Shonks Mill Flood Storage Area (River Roding Project): MP - With planning approved work is due to start this spring, although many issues are likely as the project progresses. ***Carried forward***

07.07) Navestock Side - sewage discharge: RT - Stated things had got worse and was still very unpleasant. AE - 80% of the properties had invested in new sewage systems, however the actual source was unclear. CG - It was a matter for the Church Commissioners as landowners to enforce. Tom Carroll (Strutt & Parker) had advised that Swan Housing had agreed to replace the faulty treatment plant at Tyser Green plus resolve the ongoing soakaway problems. ***Carried forward***

07.08) Common Land issues within Navestock Parish: CG - Nothing new to report. AE - Lots of common land had been lost in recent years for a whole variety of reasons. ***Carried forward***

07.09) Security of the "The Green" due to vehicular ASB: Clerk - Phase 2 of the ditch work to try and deter unauthorised access (quad bikes etc.) was still in hand with the contractor. ***Clerk dealing***

07.10) Shonks Mill Road / Dudbrook Road (Lady's Hill) - LHP Submission: CG, LW & RBB - Despite repeated requests, ECC Highways have refused to reinstate gritting on Lady's Hill. ***Clerk dealing***

07.11) Navestock rubbish and litter issues: CG - Despite some action in Navestock today the general litter picking and fly tip response had been very poor of late. KP - BBC was struggling to fill vacancies in the relevant departments. AE - Had experienced difficulties at the Coxtie Green Recycling Centre despite booking. RT - Reported no such issues and said the system was working ok. ***Carried forward***

07.12) Boundary issues - Navestock Heath: CG - A letter had been sent to the resident concerned and NPC were currently waiting for a reply before considering further action. ***CG & Clerk dealing***

07.13) ECC Locality Fund 2023: CG - Thanked LW and the Clerk for their efforts (see also 07.01) as securing grants was a difficult and time-consuming matter. *Clerk dealing*

07.14) Church Road - ongoing sewage issues: CG - Despite a new system the existing outflow it connects to is now blocked causing major issues. The BBC Director of Housing is now involved plus the Church Commissioners whose land the system discharges into. *CG dealing*

07.15) Parish roads signage: CG - Following submission of various signage issues to BBC they have agreed to look at the matter to see what may be possible within their current budget. Some external quotes have also been obtained as a potential back up plan with NPC funding. *Carried forward*

07.16) BBPCA AGM - Thursday 30th November (report): CG - Had unfortunately been unable to attend at short notice and until the minutes are circulated no report is possible. *CG & Clerk dealing*

07.17) NPC 2024/25 budget and precept: CG - The budget had been previously circulated to Councillors and it was *agreed* that the precept should remain unchanged at £22K. *Item resolved*

24/08) Current Matters:

08.01) Defibrillator: Clerk - Following discussion with the village hall Secretary confirmation had been received that the defibrillator insurance covered theft. RT - Sadly this was not an uncommon occurrence and labelling / tags on the machines were a useful safeguard. RBB - Confirmed that the NPC machine had all the necessary security markings. *Item resolved*

08.02) Curtis Mill Lane: CG & DW - Essex Highways have indicated some remedial action may be possible, but as this is a byway it would be limited to purely making it passable. *Carried forward*

08.03) EV Chargepoints in Navestock: CG - Following general discussion it was felt there were no suitable locations in Navestock where such a facility could be installed. *Item resolved*

08.04) HUG2 Funding Private Sector Homes: CG - The deadline for this funding was 26/01/24, however, there were no obvious properties that met the criteria. *Item resolved*

08.05) Hedgehog Awareness: CG & AE - Whilst sympathetic to this initiative it was felt that road signage wasn't applicable in Navestock at this time. Clerk to reply accordingly. *Item resolved*

24/09) Reports from Working Parties: MP - Nothing to report. **LG** - The hedge at the junction of Old Road and Murthing Lane has now been cut by the resident following a letter from NPC. This needs to be monitored as it's a dangerous junction sight line wise. **RBB** - The Shonks Mill Road layby dweller appears to have moved on despite MP supplying him with hot beverages. The WhatsApp group had been useful recently warning people of flooded roads. Does Navestock need a second defibrillator? Whilst a good idea any location would require an electric supply, so not really practical. **CG** - Still some resident complaints regarding the bund works at Middlebrook Farm. The contractor is happy to assist with any issues. **AE** - Still flooding issues at the junction of Green Lane and Navestock Side with water running off of the fields. LW offered to escalate if there was a ECC report number. **RT** - The Golf Club in Horseman Side's planning application for practice areas approved. Lee Farm Cottage had been suffering from wood theft recently. **DW** - Reported the very poor state of Albyns Lane due to numerous potholes. LW said the problems on this road were already in hand and gave an overview of Highway protocols.

24/10) Correspondence and Clerks Report: Clerk - The 'Local Government Boundary Commission' consultation on new divisions, boundaries and names closes on 19/2/24 for online comment. We have received the revised electoral register issued on 4/1/24 plus the new parish minute book. There have been concerns regarding posters and mail shots regarding ASB within Navestock featuring the NPC email address. This is nothing to do with NPC and the source is currently unknown. The BBC 'Civic Dinner' is on Friday 5th April which CG is attending. BBC adopted the 'Supplementary Planning Document' to support the LDP on 20/12/23. Essex Police 'Rural Engagement Team' have a new single point of contact for Brentwood District (Joe McCarthy) who has indicated he would be attending our next meeting in March.

24/11) Planning: CG - NPC had referred the Legh Cottage refusal back to the planning committee, but this was rejected by the Chair. A letter of concern was submitted re the Spring Farm development.

24/12) Finance: CG has checked the accounts / records & everything is in order. Cheques to be signed were approved for Payroll (January), Clerk (printer paper and stamps), R. Balcombe (website renewal and domain), Shaw & Sons Ltd. (new minute book).

24/13) Discussion Items and date of next meeting: AE - Raised the issue of safety cuts to hedges in Horseman Side and Murthing Lane beyond the M25 towards London. These regularly seemed to be missed also resulting in verge damage. LW gave an overview of ECC Highways policy on such matters. Clerk to email BBC Operations Department to highlight the issue.

Next meeting: Tuesday 12th March, 2024

Meeting closed at 20.35

Victor Simmons
Clerk & RFO to Navestock Parish Council
4th March 2024