

NAVESTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 10th January 2023 - 18.00 START

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

Also Present: Clerk Victor Simmons (VS), District Councillor Keith Parker (KP), members of the public (1)

23/01) Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everybody present

23/02) Apologies and reasons for absence: Adrian Enkel (AE) - Illness (accepted)

23/03) Declaration of interests with regards to items on the agenda: None

23/04) To approve the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 8th November 2022:
Minutes agreed as correct and signed by MP

23/05) Matters Arising:

05.01) Village Hall Sports Pavilion (build) and sports field Issues: MP - Pavilion work had slowed due to Christmas but would recommence shortly. The clerk advised UKPN were due on March 21st & 22nd with MVG Electrical Ltd completing the back-end work in advance. There was consensus that E.ON would be used as the energy supplier with a meter to be ordered. **MP & Clerk dealing**

05.02) Flooding & effluent Horseman Side / Goatswood Lane: MP - A letter from the EA appeared to offer no help in resolving the issue and all NPC could do was continue to press BBC and our local MP to drive things forward. Currently the effluent was as bad as ever. **Clerk, AE, CG & MP dealing**

05.03) Health and Wellbeing: CG - The hub was well attended and a potential tie up with Kelvedon Hatch was planned for the end of January. **Carried forward (discussion topic for Councillors)**

05.04) Murthing Lane / Stapleford Abbots (Abbots) Golf Course: MP - The appeal against the refusal of 40 mobile homes to EFDC had been lost. **Carried forward (discussion topic for Councillors)**

05.05) Spring Farm & Skip-A-Hoy (environmental issues): MP - Skip-A-Hoy have vacated the site however unsatisfactory practices are still being undertaken. CG - BBC Planning is aware of the buildings at the rear of the property and have served an enforcement notice. **Carried forward**

05.06) Tyser Green, trees & flooding issues (Swan Housing): Clerk - AE had advised that the flooding in the ditches was now resolved, however MP thought there was still a highways issue beyond that which would need reporting to ECC. Strutt & Parker (Henry Jex) were unaware that Swan were looking to join with Sanctuary after failing to agree something similar with Orbit Group. As yet no planning application had been submitted for the tree works. **Clerk & MP dealing (flooding resolved)**

05.07) Neighbourhood Watch including CCTV: MP - Limited progress although still urgently required due to continued fly tipping and a recent vehicle theft in Horseman Side. **Carried forward**

05.08) Shonks Mill Flood Storage Area: MP - NPC plus 3 residents had submitted objections. A general discussion followed regarding the planning application and the need for conditions to be applied if passed. The Clerk had emailed Stanford Rivers PC on the matter. ***Carried forward***

05.09) Navestock Side - Sewage Discharge: MP & Clerk - The problem was still occurring although Strutt & Parker (Henry Jex) had no specific update at this point. ***Carried forward***

05.10) Dog waste bin - Navestock Side: MP - A new bin for both dog waste and litter has been made and this will be fitted to the existing stake in due course. ***MP & AE dealing***

05.11) Sports field hiring policy: MP - Still on hold awaiting BYFC supplying a draft lease (initially Sunday mornings use only) which they need for grant application purposes. ***Carried forward (discussion topic for Councillors)***

05.12) Essex Community Initiative Fund (CIF) 2022: MP - NPC were unsuccessful. ***Item resolved***

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

05.14) Proposed changes to ward boundaries in Brentwood Borough Council: MP - Due to happen in 2025. NPC would become part of a new ward (Brizes, Stondon Massey and South Weald) gaining South Weald, Kelvedon Hatch and Stondon Massey but losing Doddinghurst. ***Carried forward***

05.15) Security of the “The Green” due to vehicular ASB: MP - A youth on a motorcycle had been asked to leave The Green only yesterday. Some of the existing ditches were to be re-dug with a new one provided between Navestock Side and Green Lane ASAP. ***Clerk & RB dealing***

05.16) EALC “20’s Plenty” proposal: MP, CG, RBB & DW - Whilst there were locations and times where this initiative may well be applicable, it was felt that rural Navestock was not one of them. The Clerk was advised not to register interest from NPC at this time. ***Item resolved***

05.17) BBPCA AGM - Thursday 1st December: MP - CG had attended on behalf of NPC and found the meeting informative. The new Clerk seemed knowledgeable and a useful contact. ***Item resolved***

05.18) NPC 2023/24 budget and precept: MP - Opened a general discussion and it was agreed to leave the precept unchanged at £22K for the 5th year running. The Clerk / RFO took questions on the budget and explained why the 21/22 precept showed £33K and 22/23 only £11K as the 1st tranche of the latter was paid by BBC a day early (March 31st). ***Item resolved***

23/06) Suspension of meeting for public participation with respect to items on the agenda

18.29 Meeting suspended for public participation

MP invited members of the public to comment on matters relating to the agenda. KP gave an overview on the proposed CCTV masts plus a legal update surrounding traveller sites.

18.33 End of public participation

23/07) Action on matters arising from public participation session: None

23/08) Current Matters:

08.1) Navestock Village Hall disabled access: MP - A simple concrete apron will be constructed in front of the main doors once the weather allows to solve the problem. ***RB & MP dealing***

08.2) Platinum Jubilee Village Halls Fund 2022/23: MP, RB, RBB - An application for new ceiling tiles would be submitted before the January 20th deadline following quotes. ***RB dealing***

08.3) PFCC Community Safety Development Fund 2022/23: MP, RBB, CG & RB - After extensive discussion RBB was going to investigate CCTV for the village hall, sports pavilion and cricket club. The Clerk advised the deadline for applications was February 17th. ***RBB dealing***

08.4) ECC Locality Fund 2022/23: The Clerk announced that NPC had been successful in obtaining £1,750.00 towards the sports pavilion electricity supply. This was in no small part thanks to help from Lesley Wagland and limited applications from other PC's. ***Item resolved***

08.5) Parish Council elections - Thursday 4th May 2023: MP - Existing Councillors needed to consider if they wished to stand for re-election plus encourage new applicants. ***Carried forward***

08.6) BBC Tree Planting Initiative: MP - Not for NPC due to concerns that new trees which had to be planted on public land may attract future problems (insurance liability etc). ***Item resolved***

08.7) Coronation of King Charles III - Saturday 6th May 2023: MP - Asked whether there was an appetite for an NPC event? After discussion the primary suggestion was some sort of digital photographic record produced of interested parishioners / properties. ***CG & RBB dealing***

23/09) Reports from Working Parties: MP, RB and CG - Nothing to report. DW - Reported constant problems with numerous large lorries accessing Curtis Mill Green causing severe damage to the road / lane. DH - Complained of similar traffic / road damage in Curtis Mill Lane which was an EFDC issue. RBB - Flooding problems in Princes Road which may be once again due to the ditches? MP thought a water leak was probably to blame this time, RBB to investigate / monitor and report as appropriate.

23/10) Correspondence and Clerks Report: Clerk - NATS were currently in Navestock regarding an overgrown hedge in Shonks Mill Road, however this may well have to be passed over to the tractor team. A dangerous broken signpost at the junction of Church / Sabines Road was still unresolved, the Clerk had escalated via Ann Cocklin to Highways. It was still unclear what signs ECC were repairing due to budgetary constraints, although KP suggested Highway signs were a statutory requirement. CG reported some new PROW signage in Murthering Lane. The 2023 BBPCA membership fee was £8.50 (to be paid in April). A disturbing email had been passed onto the relevant authorities by CG regarding possible modern slavery issues in the Goatswood Lane area.

23/11) Planning: MP & CG - There were no issues with any new applications received.

23/12) Finance: MP has checked the accounts / records & everything is in order. Cheques to be signed were approved for Payroll (January), Clerk (stamps), R. Balcombe (website renewal and domain), Cavendish Laboratories (sports field soil samples), Royal British Legion (Remembrance Day donation), TCG Disiti Ltd (sports pavilion flooring), UK Power Networks (sports pavilion power supply). MP asked the meeting to approve a bonus payment to the clerk for additional hours spent on NPC business during the year which was agreed.

23/13) Discussion Items and date of next meeting: MP - Our existing minute book was coming to the end of its lifespan and needed replacing soon. The Clerk to investigate options moving forward with possibly advice from the EALC, as the current system of sticking pages in seemed somewhat antiquated. MP - Would a large old-style fire safe be a good idea in the committee room cupboard for important historical documents to be stored in? There was general approval if one could be sourced.

Next meeting: Tuesday 14th March, 2023

Meeting closed at 19.04

***Victor Simmons
Clerk to Navestock Parish Council
6th March 2023***