

NAVESTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 12th January 2021 - 20.00 START

Present: Councillors John Parrish known as Mike (MP), Raymond Balcombe (RB), Rowena Bere-Brown (RBB), Adrian Enkel (AE), David Hoppit (DH)

Also Present: Clerk Victor Simmons (VS), Essex County Councillor Lesley Wagland (LW) District Councillor Cliff Poppy (CP) from 20.04, Ann Cocklin (AC) - Admin Assistant to LW

This was a virtual meeting via the ZOOM platform. All participants had video and audio connectivity except DH who was audio only

21/01) Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everybody present to the virtual meeting

21/02) Apologies for absence: Councillors Christine Gelderbloem (CG) - (illness - accepted), David Williams (DW) - (technical login issues - accepted)

21/03) Register of interests: AE (tenant at Tyser Green)

21/04) Minutes of previous meeting: Minutes agreed as correct (to be signed by MP at a later date)

21/05) Matters Arising:

05.01) Policing Navestock: MP stated nothing specific to report although item 05.19 would have some relevance. *Carried forward*

05.02) Pretoria Energy / PJ Lee & Sons (Farming Practices): MP not aware of any further problems. Clerk said a report from the cricket groundsman of damage (Green Lane) had proven to be relatively minor with the maize clamp still to be removed. *Clerk to monitor & escalate as appropriate*

05.03) Priors Golf Course: MP stated that CG had regularly distributed relevant updates regarding the Golf Course and that the PROW 38 issue (possible provision of a gate) was still in hand with Essex CC Highways PROW Team. *CG to monitor situation*

05.04) Village Hall Pavilion including potential grant applications: MP says the build is currently on hold due to the weather / ground conditions. *MP dealing*

05.05) Curtis Mill Lane Postcode Issue: Clerk still dealing who has made contact with BBC GIS Officer (Owen James) who will investigate the problem once supplied with details. DH reiterated the ongoing problems residents were having with deliveries. *Carried forward (clerk dealing)*

05.06) Commemorative Plaque (Navestock Side): MP says the plaque is ready to be fitted but the weather continues to hold up installation. *MP & RB dealing*

05.07) Flooding & effluent Horseman Side / Goatswood Lane: MP advised still in hand with the Environment Agency (EA) and LW. AC confirmed it had been recorded with the EA as an incident and

she now had a specific contact to liaise with. **AE & MP dealing**

05.08) Health and Wellbeing: MP said nothing to report as CG not present to provide an update. **Carried forward (topic for discussion by Councilors)**

05.09) Murthering Lane / Stapleford Abbots (Abbots) Golf Course: MP advises that EFDC and BBC are aware of ongoing activities at this location. **Carried forward (topic for discussion by Councilors)**

05.10) Village Hall partition project: MP reiterated the urgency to proceed due to funding deadlines and that the fixings had been purchased. RB to order fire proof curtains ASAP. **RB & MP dealing**

05.11) Priors Golf Course (PROW No. 38): See item 05.03. **Carried forward**

05.12) Spring Farm & Skip-A-Hoy (environmental issues): MP explains the issue is in hand with the EA and we can do no more than keep a watching brief. AE reported that activities at the site continue unabated with noisy concrete crushing and dust the latest problem. **Carried forward**

05.13) BBC (register of members interests): MP advises still ongoing. **Clerk dealing**

05.14) Playground reopening process / Annual Inspection: MP suggests playground to remain closed during lockdown, agreed by councillors. RBB highlighted previous closure sign was missing plus adults using equipment for fitness, MP will replace with more robust sign. AE to replace worn parts purchased following last annual inspection before 2021 inspection ordered. **AE & Clerk dealing**

05.15) Goatswood Lane (safety cut): MP states safety cut still outstanding due to problems of ownership surrounding the verges. AE feels Goatswood Lane no different to Horseman Side where hedges have been cut. LW has agreed to investigate said ownership with ECC. **Carried forward**

05.16) Tyser Green, trees & flooding issues (Swan Housing): Clerk advises progress limited as trees are outside current fencing but probably within the boundary of the site? Clerk has met with CP and Alan Marsh (BBC Arboriculturist) who felt proposed lopping was open to question. He offered to help with site deeds but CP advises he has been off sick since with Covid-19. AE concerned at lack of assistance from Swan Housing plus they had lopped one tree without planning permission, despite all six trees having TPO's. NPC may have to purchase deeds to try and resolve. **Clerk dealing**

05.17) Commonland (Curtis Mill Lane): DH made comment that the area in question was still surrounded by barbed wire with ongoing quad bike issues. AE said there were further problems at "Martins Hearn" with mobile homes and fly tipping. AC and LW said they would check their latest correspondence as they had been in contact with SSSI England. **Carried forward**

05.18) ECC Highways Pothole Initiative: AC and LW advised that the pothole list compiled by the Clerk was now awaiting repair with a target date of February. **Carried forward**

05.19) Neighbourhood Watch including CCTV: MP said that a recent stolen vehicle followed by resident cameras highlighted the worth of CCTV. BBC had offered to purchase one camera with NPC

committed to a second. These would also help with the constant fly tipping problems. The legal issue of photographing the public highway was being looked into by BBC (Tracey Lilley) and LW offered to check with Essex CC legal services. LW also suggested checking with our insurers plus considering appropriate signage. **Carried forward**

05.20) Princes Road (potholes & flooding issues): AC advised that jetting of the ditches had been scheduled by ECC Highways which should help resolve the flooding issues. **Carried forward**

05.21) Navestock Side (overgrown hedge junction of Princes Road): AC advised that the matter was still under investigation by ECC Highways awaiting an action plan. **Carried forward**

21/06) Public Participation with respect to items on the agenda

NOTE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN SUSPENDED DURING VIRTUAL MEETINGS

21/07) Action on matters arising from public participation - Not applicable

21/08) Current Matters

08.1) NPC Fixed Asset Policy & register: MP explained that a recommendation following our 2019-20 AGAR was for NPC to have a Fixed Asset Policy and register. This would include things like the village hall, sports field and telephone box. The Clerk will look to produce said policy and register for approval at the March Parish Council Meeting. **Clerk dealing**

08.2) NPC budget 2021-22: MP explained the current healthy NPC financial position would be eaten into once the sports pavilion build was under way. Whilst expenditure had increased in some areas, it had decreased in others due to Covid-19 (i.e., village hall hire). **Item resolved**

08.3) NPC Precept 2021-22: MP recommended holding the 2021-22 precept at the 2020-21 level (£22K) which was endorsed by councillors. **Item resolved**

21/09) Reports from Working Parties: AE reported flooding issues in Goatswood Lane plus general litter problems across the parish endorsed by MP. RB reported that the village hall floor sanding and resealing project was complete plus an extensive deep clean of the building had taken place. DH was unhappy with the general condition / excessive traffic in Curtis Mill Lane plus again, litter issues. CP expressed sympathy with the litter problems but explained that due to Covid-19 BBC staff levels were badly affected plus resource had been moved to help with the vaccination programme. He also stated that the LDP was continuing to move forward. LW explained that she had £2K of funding available for food and essential services and welcomed any ideas? She reiterated that the Locality Fund deadline was the end of March which MP was confident NPC would be able to meet. She also said that ECC were putting huge focus on children, including food and laptop provision whilst lockdown continued. Both ECC and Brentwood Mutual Aid were collecting / wiping / redistributing laptops and iPads, at which point our Parish IT consultant (Matthew Richards) offered to explore providing some spare equipment his company had. LW went into detail on the vaccination rollout and stressed that everything was under

NHS control and not local GP's etc. **Clerk to supply Matthew Richards with LW email address**

21/10) Correspondence and Clerks Report: Clerk advises that everything received has already been covered save resident Carol Finney offering support to the Parish. The Clerk had suggested she might like to become involved with the regular tidying / sorting of the library books. There was also mention of Essex Climate Change initiatives and the forthcoming 2021 census on March 21st

21/11) Planning: MP said the owner of Meadow View had expressed his displeasure at the NPC consultee comments regarding his planning application to both the Clerk and CG. Secondly, whilst we had no objection to an application for a bund at Middle Brook Farm, it was felt there should be a condition ensuring any lorry damage to lanes / verges during construction should be rectified

21/12) Finance: MP has checked the accounts / records & everything is in order. Cheques to be signed for payroll & printer ink, PKF Littlejohn LLP (AGAR fee) & EALC (Health & Wellbeing Conference). Our 2019-20 VAT reclaim had been received in full

21/13) Discussion Items: AE started another discussion on the new BBC recycling arrangements involving, CP, MP & RBB. The crux of the matter was that although many items say recyclable, they are NOT all accepted by the BBC scheme. It was suggested to direct residents to the council website which detailed exactly what could be placed in the relevant bags. AE raised some footpath / signage issues opposite The Green / village hall, MP said it required in depth consultation with the relevant maps to take any further. CP highlighted the BBC Parish Council Liaison meeting (virtual) with Chris Hossack on January 21st at 6.00 pm, which both MP and the Clerk were aware of and would be attending

Next meeting Tuesday March 9th 2021.

Meeting closed at 20.55

**Victor Simmons
Clerk to Navestock Parish Council
2nd March 2021**