

NAVESTOCK PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL ASSEMBLY & MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 9th March 2021 - 20.02 START

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

Also Present: Clerk Victor Simmons (VS), Essex County Councillor Lesley Wagland (LW) District Councillor Keith Parker (KP), District Councillor Roger McCheyne (RM), BBC Leader Chris Hossack (CH) - (20.07)

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

ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY

LUNCH GROUP: (Suzanne O'Shea report read by VS) - The group has not met since March 2020 due to "lockdown". However, two of the "team" have been delivering a weekly hot lunch, cooked by The Eagle PH to parishioners living alone in the Village. This has been organised by the Benefice with a BBC grant.

VILLAGE HALL: (Suzanne O'Shea report read by VS) - Chairman Tony Hoyle has retired, with Ray Balcombe taking up the reins and Roy Tyzack joining the committee. We have been awarded 2 Business grants within the year, plus the Parish Council bought and installed a curtain divider. As well as small necessary repairs, the windows were replaced in the committee room, the floors sanded and re-sealed, followed by a deep clean and car park pot holes filled in. We are hoping to replace the hall main doors.

WI: (Suzanne O'Shea report read by VS) - The W.I. held its last meeting in February 2020. However, members did meet in the garden of School House in the summer for a cup of tea and chat. We were due to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of Navestock W.I. in June 2020 with lunch at Mulberry House, but sadly this has had to be postponed until 2021. Members have kept in touch by phone and e-mail.

CHURCH: (Mary Enkel report read by VS) - We started by welcoming our new Priest in Charge to the Benefice, The Rev Julie Hardy. With normal services cancelled, regular virtual ones have become the norm with a summer PCC meeting held in a marquee in the Rectory garden. Rev Julie has secured funds to help vulnerable people who are struggling to cope; however, church funds are very low.

BOWLS CLUB: (Mary Enkel report read by VS) - I am afraid that the Bowls club has closed down. We had only 3 members and decided that it was not a viable option. Although a social evening was a solution, none of the remaining members wanted to carry on. The money in hand has gone to The Village Hall.

VILLAGE SOCIETY: (Roy Tyzack read by VS) - In common with other groups and associations across the country, the activities of the NVS have been seriously curtailed. However, we managed to keep in touch with our members through emails and visits when allowed and appropriate. In May, despite the restrictions, we managed to hold a VE day 75th anniversary gathering on the green outside the cottages at Navestock side. Some innovative events followed including a full colour Christmas calendar.

CRICKET CLUB: (Matt Richards) - The club continues to flourish with considerable investment in the last year on improving ground facilities. Cricket was finally possible from Mid-July onwards albeit under strict Covid guidelines. We were fortunate to secure funding from BBC during the winter and plan to invest in pavilion improvements in 2021 including a new roof at the rear of the building and dressing room doors.

LITTLE DOVES: (Pam Biddulph report read by RBB) - Little Doves Christian Pre-school has now been open for nearly 4 years in Navestock Village Hall. We are a charity which is run by 5 trustees and 3 new people are assisting. The new play area provided by NPC is fully used and recent improvements to the village

hall and car park are much appreciated. Keeping up with Covid guidelines is an undoubted challenge but one we have met head on. I still have 15 staff members and I am pleased to say there are 4 local families and 2 staff members from within Navestock. We are planning to stay at NVH for the foreseeable future.
SCOUT GROUP: (VS) - No report received.

The Parish Assembly closed at 20.17

PARISH MEETING

20.18 Start

21/14) Chairman's Welcome: The Chairman welcomed everybody present to the virtual meeting and thanked the Parish Councilors for their continued work during the current lockdown

21/15) Apologies for absence: David Williams (DW) - (technical login issues - accepted) & Cliff Poppy

21/16) Register of interests: None declared

21/17) Minutes of previous meeting: Minutes agreed as correct (to be signed by MP at a later date)

21/18) Matters Arising:

18.01) Policing Navestock: MP stated nothing specific to report. *Carried forward*

18.02) Pretoria Energy / PJ Lee & Sons (Farming Practices): MP not aware of any further issues. Clerk said several maize clamps were still in place. *Clerk to monitor & escalate as appropriate*

18.03) Priors Golf Course: CG stated that PROW 38 was still in hand with Essex CC Highways PROW Team and that the landowner currently had 35 stray horses on his property. The situation is very challenging with PC Mark Sheridan-Brown also involved. *CG to monitor situation*

18.04) Village Hall Pavilion including potential grant applications: MP says the build is still on hold due to the weather / ground conditions and BBC have yet to decide on the planning application for extended hours / use of the changing facilities. *MP dealing*

18.05) Curtis Mill Lane Postcode Issue: Clerk still dealing who has made contact with BBC GIS Officer (Owen James). Upon detailed investigation there are 2 properties in Curtis Mill Lane that have Curtis Mill Green postcodes which require changing to resolve the issue. *Carried forward (clerk dealing)*

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

18.07) Flooding & effluent Horseman Side / Goatswood Lane: MP advised still in hand with the Environment Agency (EA). LW advised that frustratingly they now wanted the matter re-reported and that she intended taking the matter further via ECC. *Clerk, AE & MP dealing*

18.08) Health and Wellbeing: CG is attending a youth engagement course and reported encouraging local interaction via the WhatsApp groups. *Carried forward (topic for discussion by Councilors)*

18.09) Murthering Lane / Stapleford Abbots (Abbotts) Golf Course: MP advises nothing new to report on this matter. *Carried forward (topic for discussion by Councilors)*

18.10) Village Hall partition project: MP said the curtain was now installed and working and the Locality Fund grant monies received. *Item resolved*

18.11) Spring Farm & Skip-A-Hoy (environmental issues): MP explains the issue is still in hand with the EA. CG confirmed unlicensed work continues unabated but after contact with both the EA and BBC there still appears to be no date when the site has to be vacated? *Carried forward*

18.12) BBC (register of members interests): MP advises still ongoing. Clerk explained that BBC had failed to update their website despite the relevant information being sent to them. *Clerk dealing*

18.13) Playground reopening process / Annual Inspection: MP suggests playground to remain closed during lockdown. Clerk has ordered the 2021 inspection via Fenland LP. *MP & Clerk dealing*

18.14) Goatswood Lane (safety cut): AE advises that the safety cut is now completed. *Item resolved*

18.15) Tyser Green, trees & flooding issues (Swan Housing): MP / Clerk advises little progress with regards to the trees despite conversations and emails with Strutt & Parker (land agents). ECC have been to site regarding flooding issues which AE states have been ongoing for 15 years. *Clerk dealing*

18.16) Commonland (Curtis Mill Lane): CG said that barbed wire was still an issue plus quad bikes destroying the SSSI land. LW stated that ECC had removed the wire only for it to quickly reappear. CH joined the conversation and apologised for lack of action by BBC on this and other matters. He pledged to look into this problem & asked for a list of O/S BBC issues to be sent to KP. *Clerk dealing*

18.17) ECC Highways Pothole Initiative: LW advised that the NPC potholes on the list in Dudbrook Road were scheduled for completion on 4th-6th May. *Carried forward*

18.18) Neighbourhood Watch including CCTV: MP and CG both said the lack of movement on this issue was incredibly frustrating for both residents and councillors alike. Little had happened in the last 9 months with issues surrounding GDPR and the DPIA apparent stumbling blocks. CH and KP gave an overview from a BBC perspective and LW would seek some legal clarifications from ECC. CH was hopeful things would move forwards in the near future. *Carried forward*

18.19) Princes Road (potholes & flooding issues): MP advised that ditches had been dug out and hedges cut back in preparation for scheduled ECC Highways jetting of the drains. LW said pothole work was due on 10th-12th March with additional patching on 22nd-24th March *Carried forward*

18.20) Navestock Side (overgrown hedge junction of Princes Road): MP advised that the hedge has now been cut back as requested. *Item resolved*

21/19) Public Participation with respect to items on the agenda

NOTE: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN SUSPENDED DURING VIRTUAL MEETINGS

21/20) Action on matters arising from public participation - Not applicable

21/21) Current Matters

21.1) NPC Fixed Asset Policy & register for approval: MP explained that following our 2019-20 AGAR NPC were advised to have a Fixed Asset Policy and register. The document produced by the Clerk was duly adopted ready for the 2020-21 AGAR. ***Item resolved***

21.2) 2021 Census - March 21st: MP explained that NPC would do what they could to assist parishioners with the national census bearing in mind current Covid restrictions. ***Item resolved***

21/22) Reports from Working Parties: AE reported further general fly tipping issues in Horseman Side plus fires behind Springvale Farm. There also appeared to be building work going on behind Lizvale Farm? CG said the sewerage work in Snakes Hill was now complete with the company moving onto a similar project in Church Road. This work was expected to take 6-8 weeks. DH was unhappy with the general state of Curtis Mill Lane and the apparent lack of litter picking. RB said the website continued to receive a considerable amount of hits plus the village hall curtain project was now finished

21/23) Correspondence and Clerks Report: Clerk advised that the NATS team were due in Navestock W/C 22nd March. The Parish Path Adopters had been active within Navestock and had reported defects on 39 of the 47 footpaths they had walked within the parish (endorsed by LW). This covered PROW's with defects mentioned by AE at the last meeting. Both MP & the Clerk attended CH's virtual BBC meeting on 21st January, where one item of interest was a pilot in Blackmore to re-evaluate, the SLA following the end of the discretionary grant in 2017/18. The Clerk thanked CH for BBC's swift response to fly tipping and environmental issues (Tracey Lilley)

21/24) Planning: MP said the current situation regarding the Meadow View planning application was unclear which CG expanded on further. There was also concern over an application regarding land usage opposite Clementines in Murthering Lane. KP said he would investigate both matters and report back

21/25) Finance: MP has checked the accounts / records & everything is in order. Cheques to be signed were approved for payroll, J & C Joel (village hall curtain), Walkers Cleaning Services (village hall floor sanding / reseal and deep clean), J.A. Parrish & Sons (village hall curtain fixings & labour)

21.32 - CH left the meeting

21/26) Discussion Items: MP thanked RM for his work over the years given his impending retirement at the local elections on May 6th. RM in turn wished CG good luck at the election and offered his support. LW gave an ECC budget report including new trees funding, over 5000 laptops distributed, a review of care sector / precept and thanks to the hard work of Highways during a very difficult winter due to the

exceptionally bad weather. There may also be extra funding to expand the Local Highways Panel remit. LW was pleased to have secured £1500 for the Reverend Julie Hardy for families with hardship issues. The EALC are administering a food support fund of up to £3K and a “stop the spread” fund of up to £5K. RB mentioned the forthcoming Village Show and MP said there was a requirement to release the schedule ASAP with help from show coordinator Roy Tyack

Next meeting and Parish AGM Tuesday May 11th 2021

Meeting closed at 21.45

***Victor Simmons
Clerk to Navestock Parish Council
18th May 2021***