

NAVESTOCK ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING & PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 14th May 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), David Williams (DW)

Also Present: Clerk Victor Simmons (VS) + 5 members of the public (MOP)

ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

1. Current Chair's welcome: CG welcomed everybody present and read out a generic statement regarding the recording of meetings (NPC now audio record all meetings)

2. Appointment of Chair for 2024/25: MP proposed Chris Gelderbloem (CG) as Chair which was seconded by AE and agreed by all

3. Apologies and reasons for absence: Roy Tyzack (RT) - Illness (*accepted*)

4. Appointment of Vice Chair: CG proposed Rowena-Bere Brown (RBB) as Vice Chair which was seconded by MP and agreed by all

5. Appointment of Officers & Representatives in relation to the following:

Greens Charity: CG, MP and Jan Savill

Planning: Chair & Vice Chair plus all Councillors as deemed necessary

Common Land and Verges: All Councillors

Localism: All Councillors

Working Parties: Curtis Mill - DW, Horseman Side - RT, Murthering Lane - CG,
Navestock Heath - LG, Navestock Side - AE, Shonks Mill - RBB, Roving Brief - MP

Village Show: All Councillors

Village Hall Representatives: Ray Balcombe & Rowena Bere-Brown (RBB)

Parish Bankers: Bank of Ireland, Metro Bank

Internal Auditor: Stevenson & Co. (Phil Beare)

External Auditor: PKF Littlejohn LLP

All of the above appointments were agreed en bloc by the Councillors present

The following statement was agreed:

Re-Confirmation that the Chair can make decisions between Parish Council Meetings in consultation with the Vice Chair and Clerk (delegated powers)

The Annual Parish Council Meeting closed at 19.05

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

19.06 Start

24/29) Chair's welcome & announcements: CG welcomed everybody present to the Parish Council Meeting and reminded them that the earlier generic statement regarding recording still applied. Condolences and recognition were recorded for Roger Bere who had recently passed away and had been both Chair and a Councillor of NPC in the past

24/30) Apologies and reasons for absence: Roy Tyzack (RT) - Illness (*accepted*)

24/31) Declaration of interests with regards to items on the agenda: CG (36.13), AE (36.07), RBB & MP (36.06) - All non-pecuniary

24/32) To approve the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 12th March 2024:
Minutes *agreed* as correct and to be signed by CG

24/33) Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda

19.07 Meeting suspended for public participation

Tony Donnelly (MOP) - Asked if a decision would be made tonight on his general request for NPC to allocate £25K of funds to additional signage and CCTV? **CG** - Advised this would be an agenda item at the July NPC meeting. **Rose Sewell (MOP)** - Felt that signage was lacking within the parish which contributed to an 'unloved' appearance. **Rob Wilkinson (MOP)** - Whilst appreciating it wasn't easy to resolve long standing issues there was a need to change this and make decisions moving forward. **Glen Horton (MOP)** - Felt that the concerned residents group shared the same values as NPC and were committed to both supporting and improving things within the parish. **Joe McNamara (MOP)** - Asked how someone became a Parish Councillor? **CG** - Elections were held every 4 years, the next being in 3 years' time (2027)

19.13 End of public participation

24/34) Action on matters arising from public participation session: Items noted by the Clerk for inclusion in the July agenda

24/35) Reports: To receive brief reports from Borough and County Councillors present:
CG - Following the recent local elections, William Russell, Soni Pavinder Sunger and herself were elected as the 3 Borough Councillors for the new Brizes, Stondon Massey and South Weald Ward

24/36) Matters arising from previous meetings:

36.01) Village Hall Sports Pavilion (build) and parish field issues: MP - The plumber is due on-site Monday 20th May to fit the tank, showers, toilets etc followed by the 2nd fix electrics. *MP dealing*

36.02) Flooding & effluent Horseman Side / Goatswood Lane: CG - Still little change to this long-standing issue. AE - Highways have installed a second culvert under the road which unfortunately has not helped matters, but simply allowed raw sewage to flow more freely. DW & MP - BBC not taking any action over the matter. CG - Green belt status has apparently been removed on the unauthorised traveller sites which may indicate a forthcoming change in situation? *Carried forward*

36.03) Health and Wellbeing: CG - The parish lunches were going well with 39 attendees recently, plus the WhatsApp groups continued to be a valuable communication medium. The 'Hub' in Kelvedon Hatch was popular and well attended by Navestock residents. **Carried forward**

36.04) Spring Farm & Skip-A-Hoy (environmental issues): CG - The issues of dumping and burning of waste continues. The EA claimed the site had been cleared in a letter to a resident! The adjacent byway has become a fly tipping hotspot and Simon Taylor (PROW Team) has been approached with a proposal to possibly downgrade its status thus denying access to motor vehicles. **Carried forward**

36.05) Neighbourhood Watch including CCTV: CG - The CCTV was having a positive impact and the BBC control centre was proving responsive. MP - Things were improving but false numbers plates etc were always going to be a challenge unless the police took a more active part. **Carried forward**

36.06) Shonks Mill Flood Storage Area (River Roding Project): RBB - Work is under way but primarily within Stanford Rivers. MP - it was important to police vehicle movements and pass back number plates of lorries breaking the access rules to the contactor (A113 only). **Carried forward**

36.07) Navestock Side - sewage discharge: Clerk - There had been nothing from Strutt and Parker since the last meeting. AE - Has monitored the effluent in the ditch and was certain the issue was not Alec's restaurant but the 3 or 4 properties who hadn't upgraded their systems. **Carried forward**

36.08) Common Land issues within Navestock Parish: MP - There had been a meet involving horse and carts on Curtis Mill Green, where the police had told people to park cars on the bridleway. This is incorrect in law and perhaps consideration should be given to gates for use when appropriate. DW - The incident meant that residents were effectively denied access to and from their properties for several hours and the matter needs further discussion moving forward. **Carried forward**

36.09) Security of the 'The Green' due to vehicular ASB: Clerk - The re digging of the existing ditch was still in hand with the contractor. Moving forward fencing of 'The Green' may be the only real solution. AE & MP - The troublesome motorbike issues had dissipated somewhat after a resident in Mores Lane employed a private security company to assist with the matter. **CG & Clerk dealing**

36.10) Navestock rubbish and litter issues: CG - There had been comments regarding the speed the BBC refuse lorry was travelling at in the village hall car park. Community litter picking initiatives would be starting again soon now that the local elections were concluded. It was noted that resident groups do at times conduct their own litter picks which was appreciated by NPC. **Carried forward**

36.11) Boundary issues - Navestock Heath: CG - This was ongoing and due to the complexity of the matter legal advice would have to be sought. MP - It was incumbent on NPC to not only try to protect the green belt but also land that it owned. **Carried forward**

36.12) ECC Locality Fund 2023: Clerk - The monies had been received in March. **Item resolved**

36.13) Church Road - ongoing sewage issues: CG - Whilst things had improved the outflow pipes / soakaway does appear to be blocked to some degree. BBC can't find documentation regarding the discharge area so the Church Commissioners are trying to assist. **CG dealing**

36.14) Parish roads signage: CG - Several street signs have been replaced by BBC with ANPR, CCTV and fly tipping ones to follow. A general discussion followed regarding faulty finger posts which interestingly had been recently replaced in Wyatts Green. The Clerk will collate a list of those damaged / missing within Navestock to be forwarded to Lesley Wagland. **CG & Clerk dealing**

36.15) BBPCA AGM - Thursday 30th November (report): CG - There was nothing major to report other than the Clerk had received the 2024 membership invoice. **Item resolved**

36.16) Village Gateways: CG - Had looked at various options / pricing and had requested a sample of a possible 'Welcome to Navestock' type sign as opposed to a village gateway. **Carried forward**

36.17) Dudbrook Road / Does Hill memorial: MP - The number of vehicles at the site has dissipated considerably, however there were concerns the location might develop into a meeting place, potentially with ASB. After general discussion it was felt some dialogue with the parents might be the best way forward, with perhaps Mark Sheridan-Brown as the intermediary? **Carried forward**

36.18) Annual playground inspection 2024: Clerk - The painting is close to completion and at that point the inspection will be requested. However, there are some other issues with the surround fencing (broken) and the grass areas (cutting) that need urgent attention. **CG & Clerk dealing**

County Councillor Lesley Wagland (LW) arrived at the meeting (20.00)

24/37) Current Matters:

37.01) BBPCA meeting March 21st (report): CG - Had been unable to attend so a report was on hold until the minutes were distributed. Clerk - Currently the BBPCA had no Clerk due to the previous incumbent resigning and were having problems filling the post. **Carried forward**

37.02) Local elections May 2nd (report): CG - Reiterated what had been previously said in agenda item 24/35 and congratulated Lesley Wagland who had been re-elected as a Borough Councillor for Ingatestone, Fryerning and Ingatestone ward. **Item resolved**

37.03) Locality Fund and Local Community Fund 2024-25: Clerk - Gave an overview of this year's Locality Fund as NPC were currently collating potential ideas prior to an application. LW - Reinforced this with general comments around funding in Essex. **Carried forward**

37.04) Sports Pavilion Electricity Contract Renewal: Clerk - The original one-year contract with E.ON Next had now expired and after discussion it was agreed to renew for a further year. The building should then be in full use & NPC better placed to explore pricing options. **Item resolved**

24/38) Reports from Working Parties: DW - Made reference to a massive pothole in Albyns Lane (the adopted road). The specific location was needed to escalate via LW. **AE** - Hoped the safety cut would be completed satisfactorily this year plus there had been some damage to the library windows. MP said he checked the library every Sunday and did rotate books between Toot Hill, Wyatts Green and Navestock. **RBB** - The Princes Road pothole repairs had been disappointing with only limited issues resolved. LW explained the problems in getting value for money whilst retaining an element of quality within current parameters. **CG** - Still some issues regarding the bund works at Middlebrook Farm, plus more heavy lorries going into Jenkins Farm causing concern. Also, byway 55 between Murthering Lane and

Horseman Side was fast becoming a fly tip hotspot. **LG** - Two large trees had fallen on Navestock Heath in the recent storm and it was hoped Mark Pryor would cut the grass again during the Summer. The ditches had been cleared in Sabines Road by the local farmer with some hedge planting undertaken, but sadly a burnt-out car had been reported in Old Road. The notice board had been given a long overdue paint by CG. **MP** - Two bags of asbestos in Church Road had been reported to BBC.

24/39) Correspondence and Clerks Report: Clerk - As mentioned in agenda item 24/36.09 some serious ASB issues in Mores Plantation had surfaced. Following intervention by a private security firm, the police and Strutt and Parker the matter had calmed somewhat. Security of NPC assets, namely the sports field and 'The Green' was under review. NPC had been asked to support Kelvedon Hatch PC with regards to additional car parking at Deal Tree Surgery, which had been agreed. Essex Botany Group had conducted surveys within Navestock and identified 130 species of plant. The proposed 2 new service stations on the M25 had missed the deadline for this meeting but would be on the July agenda. The FOC portrait of King Charles III had been received and passed over to the village hall committee. NPC had offered support to a resident in Snakes Hill regarding driveway issues, although it was actually a BBC matter. Ride London was happening again on May 25/26th and may cause some limited access issues for Navestock residents. The next BBC panel meeting (primarily planning) had been deferred until September. NPC had received an enquiry to create a 'dog field' by a private concern, which had been declined. Due to the geography of Navestock it had been decided not to enter the 'Essex Village of the Year' competition. Finally, LW's administration assistant Ann Cocklin was retiring at the end of May and the Clerk had emailed on behalf of NPC thanking her for all her assistance over the past 4/5 years.

24/40) Planning: CG - All new applications had been emailed out on receipt for consideration / comment and there were none that warranted further involvement by NPC.

24/41) Finance: CG has checked the accounts / records & everything is in order. Cheques to be signed were approved for Payroll (May) and JAM Parrish (sports pavilion sanitary ware and water tank).

The meeting approved the 2023/24 annual accounts following internal audit and the 2023/24 AGAR. The Clerk advised that the Public Rights Notice period would be between June 3rd and July 12th.

24/42) Discussion Items and date of next meeting: CG - The next meeting was Tuesday 9th July at 19.00. AE - Asked about chasing BBC regarding the annual safety cut. The Clerk said that he had the Operations Manager email address and would do so nearer the official cutting period which was October to February only.

Next meeting: Tuesday 9th July, 2024, 19.00

Meeting closed at 20.38

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