

NAVESTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 12th November 2024 - 19.00 START

Present: Councillors Chrissy 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**), + 4 members of the public (**MOP**), one of whom arrived at 19.40

24/71) 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)

24/72) Apologies and reasons for absence: None

24/73) Declaration of interests with regards to items on the agenda: **CG** (78.12), **RBB & MP** (78.06), **RT** (78.07) - All non-pecuniary

24/74) To approve the minutes from the Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 17th September 2024: Minutes *agreed* as correct and to be signed by **CG**

24/75) Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda

19.03 Meeting suspended for public participation

Keely and Toby Glayshes (MOP) - Were relatively new to the area and had concerns regarding the proposed motorway service areas (MSA's). **CG, MP, AE, LG and RBB** gave an overview of the current situation and how the proposals were likely to play out. It was also suggested that they might wish to join the newly formed Residents Association fighting the MSA proposals, plus the Navestock WhatsApp groups which were a useful source of information. *2 MOP left the meeting.*

19.13 End of public participation

24/76) Action on matters arising from public participation session: None, all items were on the agenda

24/77) Reports: To receive brief reports from Borough and County Councillors present: **LW** - Essex County Council (ECC) would not get involved with any MSA proposals until a formal application was forthcoming. She also advised **CG** to exercise caution on the matter due to her position on the BBC Planning Committee. She commented on proposed Government planning reforms which could possibly affect the current BBC LDP targets. ECC had allocated monies for hardship cases involving people missing out on the winter fuel payments. ECC were rolling out a 'Digital Help Finder Tool' for residents to assess / improve their essential skills in modern life. The Locality Fund was in progress and she would be liaising with the Clerk (**VS**) regarding the NPC bid.

24/78) Matters arising from previous meetings:

78.01) Village Hall Sports Pavilion (build) and parish field issues: **MP** - The container adjacent to the Sports Pavilion has been relocated and the car park membrane laid. The completion of the top surface will have to wait until more favorable conditions in the spring. **AE** - Queried an exposed water pipe near the parish field gate which **MP** will investigate. ***MP & Clerk dealing***

78.02) Flooding & effluent Horseman Side / Goatswood Lane: CG - Was attending a meeting on Friday 15th January regarding the issue involving interested parties. *Carried forward*

78.03) Health and Wellbeing: CG - Navestock WI had increased numbers plus the clubs and parish lunches continue to thrive. The Kelvedon Hatch Hub is well attended, with Navestock residents involved. Reverend Julie Hardy had conducted a poignant Remembrance Day Sunday service, plus a Monday event at the war graves, with the wreathes made by Little Doves children. *Carried forward*

78.04) Spring Farm & Skip-A-Hoy (environmental issues): CG - The planning application has been withdrawn and the next steps are currently unknown. BBC are keeping the site under observation, although it appears there are no longer any residents. **MP** - Despite the mess the site is still green belt land (not brownfield) and should be treated / protected accordingly. **LW** - Following a similar case in late 2023, the Ombudsman had stated that statutory nuisance should be applied to environmental issues, with recourse to the magistrate's court if necessary. *Carried forward*

78.05) Neighbourhood Watch including CCTV: CG - There had been lots of resident reports regarding fly tipping, but despite the growing number of cameras, little in terms of prosecutions with the data. The BBC and police reports for last month were still not available to look at the overall picture. **MP** - Was disappointed to see camera locations being identified on forums. *Carried forward*

78.06) Shonks Mill Flood Storage Area (River Roding Project): RBB & MP - No update although the project was possibly behind schedule as the borrow pit works had not yet started. *Carried forward*

78.07) Navestock Side - sewage discharge: RT - There were no new developments but the ditch had now all but collapsed and was ineffective. Expressed concerns that increased numbers in Alec's could be a factor, but **AE** said that they had a new Klargestor which was regularly checked and was working correctly. **Clerk** - The new Church Commissionaires agents were Savills, who were based in Sevenoaks. Frustratingly, the only option looked to be starting the whole process over again, so would email Savills with an overview of the situation and see what they had to say. *Carried forward*

78.08) Common Land issues within Navestock Parish: CG - This was proving very time consuming trying to put together a meaningful list of common land within the parish. *CG & Clerk dealing*

78.09) Security of Navestock Parish Council assets: CG - Whilst new gates and locks had been fitted at the Village Hall, there were continuing issues with motorbikes on both The Green and the parish field. After discussion, the only solution looked to be fencing to close access points. *Carried forward*

78.10) Navestock rubbish and litter issues: CG - There had clearly been an increase in recent months of fly tipping, which BBC had met with improved clearance rates. Both **DW** and **RBB** felt this wasn't the case and cited examples. Byway 55 between Murthing Lane and Horseman Side had been cleared by BBC, removing 12 tons of rubbish in the process. *Carried forward*

78.11) Boundary issues - Navestock Heath: CG - Communication on the matter has now been drafted and will be sent to the resident concerned in due course. *CG & Clerk dealing*

78.12) Church Road - ongoing sewage issues: CG - The problem is still unresolved with the new system regularly being reset by residents. The outflow pipe issue is still ongoing. *CG dealing*

78.13) Parish roads signage: CG - Some street signs have been replaced with others still outstanding. A major discussion followed regarding missing / damaged sign posts, with **LW** providing insight into ECC's approach to the problem. It seems some local Parish Councils had part funded replacement posts, something NPC could consider. The **Clerk** to send our O/S list to **LW** again. **Carried forward**

78.14) Village Gateways: CG - The agreed NPC position was that simple 'Welcome to Navestock' entrance signage was the solution (not gateways), with locations to be determined in due course. This would then require ECC / Highways agreement before anything could actually be installed. On that basis this proposed new signage can be moved into item 78.13 moving forward. **Item resolved**

A MOP left the meeting after leaving written details of his views on items 24/78.16 and 24/79.05

78.15) Locality Fund 2024-25: CG - Already discussed in item 24/77. **RBB** - What did the NPC bid cover? **Clerk** - A salt bin kit, spreader and shovels for the village hall car park. **Carried forward**

78.16) Outline application for a new dual site motorway service area (M25): CG - The MOTO application was currently with BBC Planning, with no further details at present on any determination dates. There was a residents group meeting planned on Thursday 14th November. **Carried forward**

78.17) Village Show 2024: CG - Asked for observations on the now complete Village Show accounts, which were **agreed** and signed off. A debrief / 2025 pre-meet to be held in March **Item resolved**

78.18) Murthing Lane construction traffic issues: CG - As there had been no further complaints, it was decided to remove the item from the agenda pending any future issues. **Item resolved**

24/79) Current Matters:

79.01) BBPCA - September 19th meeting (report) and AGM November 20th: CG - The September meeting had been interesting, with other local Parish issues being aired. The minutes had been recently circulated to Councillors. **CG** was attending the AGM on behalf of NPC. **Item resolved**

79.02) NPC 2025/26 budget and precept (initial discussion): CG, MP & AE - Felt that the precept should increase this time around. **Clerk** - Would be sending out the budget towards the end of December but needed any thoughts on potential 2025/26 spend ASAP. A decision would have to be made at the January meeting as BBC submission was required by 31st January. **Carried forward**

79.03) '20's Plenty for Essex' proposal: CG - Opened a general discussion on the subject, which whilst appropriate in certain locations, it was **agreed** Navestock was not one of those. **Item resolved**

79.04) Village Hall playground seating: MP - Suggested relocating one of the existing benches closer to the playground as opposed to inside. **CG** to investigate this option further. **Carried forward**

79.05) Proposal for a motorway service area (M25) - Welcome Break: CG - Asked if everyone had looked at their presentation, although currently there was no actual planning application. **MP** - Had concerns over the potential for a solar panel farm at a later stage (green belt land). **Carried forward**

24/80) Reports: To receive brief reports from NPC Working Parties: AE - Raised the lack of a safety cut in Green Lane and Royds Lane. **Clerk to email BBC operations for clarification. DW** - There were now

problems on Curtis Mill Green with fly tips. Although EFDC had responded quickly, BBC had not. A large bonfire on November 5th was resolved with both the Police and Fire Brigade in attendance. **RBB** - There had been an abandoned dismantled vehicle in Princes Road, which was dealt with fairly quickly. This opened up a general discussion on the merits / limitations of the current BBC online reporting systems. **LW** encouraged the use of '**Causeway one.network**' as a tool for checking highway works / road closures. **CG** - There had been ragwort dumped in Murthering Lane and other locations, plus the development at Jenkins Farm was progressing well. **LG** - New road signs had been installed in Church Road and reported fly tips had been quickly removed by BBC. **RT** - A mirror has been placed on a telegraph pole at the junction of Horseman Side / Old Road to aid visibility. This prompted a general discussion on their legality / effectiveness. **LW** said that currently Essex Highways took limited action regarding these but suggested any concerns on the matter be referred to her. **MP** - Nothing to report.

24/81) Correspondence and Clerks Report: Clerk - A **MOP** had stepped forward to help with the Library in Navestock Side, but NPC had declined extra exposure outside of the parish. Twenty copies of the Essex Care Services Directory 2025 had been ordered for delivery in the New Year. A resident in Snakes Hill had asked for assistance with a driveway issue that had been ongoing for over 6 months, **CG** making enquiries. There had been dialogue with Kelvedon Hatch Parish Council over the traffic chaos caused by the 'Appetite on the Farm' music event held in August. BBC Operations Department had been emailed regarding safety cut issues (September - item 24.70), no reply as yet. The NPC **Webmaster** was investigating a change to a gov.uk domain address. **CG** was attending an online PROW course on 13/11; the **Clerk** had attended an FOI course on 20/9. The annual BBC Register of Interests update was underway, with 3 of the 7 submitted so far. Tranche 2 of the NPC documentation review / update was still in hand, as time constraints were delaying this initiative. Following a bereavement, a lady in Wales had requested historical Navestock information, which **AE** among others had supplied in some depth. A report stating that 310,027 Essex highway defects were outstanding as of 1/10/24 drew considerable discussion. **LW** was sceptical of the accuracy of this figure and gave an overview of the general ECC Highway's situation including resurfacing and potholes. She apparently has an opportunity to push through a limited number of bad potholes for quick repair. **Clerk to collate and email an NPC list ASAP.**

24/82) Planning: CG - All new applications had been circulated to Councillors for consideration / comment. NPC submitted a consultee objection on 20/9 to the new dual M25 motorway service area (24/00874/OUT). **RBB** - Queried a parish consultation in Mill Lane which wasn't on the planning portal.

24/83) Finance: CG has checked the accounts / records & everything is in order. Cheques to be signed were approved for Payroll (November), PKF Littlejohn LLP (external audit - AGAR 2023/24), EALC (**Clerk** - FOI course), JA Parrish & Sons (Sports Pavilion drainage materials), Navestock Village Society (split of Village Show profit), **Clerk** (Charles Arnold-Baker on Local Council Administration - 13th Edition (Latest) for use by **CG**, Royal British Legion (Remembrance Day donation).

24/84) Discussion Items and date of next meeting: None.

Meeting closed at 21.16 - Next meeting: Tuesday 14th January, 2025

Victor Simmons
Clerk & RFO to Navestock Parish Council
6th January 2025