

NAVESTOCK PARISH MEETING (OPEN FORUM) MINUTES

Tuesday 14th May 2024 - 18.15 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)

1. NPC Chair's welcome: CG welcomed everybody present and invited members of the public to air their views on matters affecting Navestock Parish during this open forum.

2. Robert Kennedy: Gave an overview of the objectives and aims of the Concerned Residents Group (CRG) and stressed their commitment to assist NPC regarding issues within the parish. He also referenced a new issue on the horizon, namely the proposed M25 service stations (MOTO). He commented on the current NPC assets and monies held, which was a very strong position moving forward to enable action on the CRG proposals.

3. Tony Donnelly: Gave a personal example of how CCTV was effective and can lead to the prosecution of offences. Whilst the existing cameras were proving very useful, there was good reason to add more and there was no need to wait for further data on the current situation. He asked the Councillors present to commit £25K of NPC's current funds towards the infrastructure projects being discussed tonight (particularly an additional camera). He also stated that more cameras would improve residents' safety, particularly women. CG noted the comments which Councillors would consider.

4. Rose Sewell: Signage within the parish (street signs) was very poor despite BBC replacing several recently. CG explained that street signs were the responsibility of BBC not ECC Highways, who dealt with all other street furniture including sign posts. However, gateway signs were not the responsibility of either authority, but could potentially be funded by resident groups if they raised appropriate funds.

5. Glenn Horton: Felt that gateway signs could facilitate other useful signage to be erected as well. Small steps were required to help improve things, but there was a need to start somewhere. This was all part of attempting to install a sense of pride back into the parish. There was also a realisation that there could be difficulties finding suitable locations for signage, but that was no reason not to try.

6. Rob Wilkinson: More distribution / highlighting of issues within the parish was required, using the various different mediums now available. He distributed some draft flyers which could possibly be used on the parish notice boards. CG explained how this was already being done using the regular newsletters delivered to every property within Navestock plus the WhatsApp groups.

Meeting closed at 18.50

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