

NAVESTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 14th January 2025 - 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), + 1 member of the public (MOP)

25/01) 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)

25/02) Apologies and reasons for absence: CG - None

25/03) Declaration of interests with regards to items on the agenda: CG (8.12), RBB & MP (8.06), RT (8.07, 8.15 & 8.16) - All non-pecuniary

25/04) To approve the previously circulated minutes from the Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 12th November 2024: Minutes *agreed* as correct and to be signed by CG

25/05) Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda

19.03 Meeting suspended for public participation

LW - Gave an overview of the larger Locality Fund pot where all 4 County Councillors have to agree on items for inclusion. She was hopeful of £2K being allocated towards the security of The Green following major quad bike damage in November and December. The **Clerk** confirmed receipt and return of the application forms. FixMyStreet reports were no longer being accepted by ECC Highways following a major upgrade to their interactive tool / map, with some additional monies also available. An ECC digital skills website was proving both useful and popular as was another giving flood risk Information, with the potential for preventative grants. The proposed devolution (see 25/09.03) was raised and how this might affect Parish Councils and green spaces as part of a new unitary authority, with an Essex Mayor. The rationale behind the ECC decision to vote in favour of requesting to be part of the Devolution Priority Programme was explained, which would mean no County Council elections in 2025. It appeared the new Government were determined to proceed with this process. **LW** spoke briefly about social care and the availability of NHS Continuing Care and its application process.

19.23 End of public participation

25/06) Action on matters arising from public participation session: None, as any relevant items were already on the agenda

19.24: LW left the meeting after being thanked by CG for her attendance and help with NPC issues

25/07) Reports: To receive brief reports from Borough and County Councillors present: CG - None as LW had already covered this during public participation

25/08) Matters arising from previous meetings:

08.01) Village Hall Sports Pavilion (build) and parish field issues: MP - Nothing new to report, although he was checking pipes etc after the meeting given the cold weather. **CG** - Was waiting on a heating quote for the sports pavilion with gas being the likely power source. **MP, CG & Clerk dealing**

08.02) Flooding & effluent Horseman Side / Goatswood Lane: CG - Effluent had been mentioned at a recent appeal meeting regarding one of the traveller sites. As this was expected to be a condition if planning approval was granted, it was **agreed** the item could be closed for now. **Item resolved**

08.03) Health and Wellbeing: AE - Raised the issue of still no safety cut in Horseman Side, Goatswood Lane, Murthing Lane, Green Lane and Royds Lane. **Clerk** - Had emailed BBC Operations on December 3rd with a locations map, but as yet had received no reply. Given the hedge cutting embargo between March and September, would email again to chase the matter. **Carried forward**

08.04) Spring Farm & Skip-A-Hoy (environmental issues): CG - The site was now closed off with no residents. There had been a couple of small fires that were possibly caused by youths accessing via the byway. **AE & MP** - Could the reason / source have been internal combustion? **Carried forward**

08.05) Neighbourhood Watch including CCTV: MP - Was disappointed that some camera locations had been posted on forums. Also, it appeared that footage obtained was only being viewed retrospectively. **AE** - Thought there was 24/7 monitoring? **CG** - No data available. **Carried forward**

08.06) Shonks Mill Flood Storage Area (River Roding Project): RBB & MP - There had been flooding across some local roads. Minimal site activity, probably linked to the poor weather. **Carried forward**

08.07) Navestock Side - sewage discharge: Clerk - Had confirmed that Alastair Deighton was the correct contact at Savills for Navestock Estate Management. As yet, no reply to an email on this particular issue. **CG** - Was meeting him on 20/1/25 to discuss various matters. **Carried forward**

08.08) Common Land issues within Navestock Parish: CG - Following her recent PROW course, she suggested and it was **agreed** to join The Open Spaces Society (£45 PA). **CG & Clerk dealing**

08.09) Security of Navestock Parish Council assets: CG - With the parish field now relatively secure, focus was on The Green and damage caused to the cricket square late last year. The discussion centred around a new larger ditch, fencing (2 quotes so far) and other potential solutions. It was agreed to form a working group of interested parties as a matter of urgency. **Carried forward**

08.10) Navestock rubbish and litter issues: CG & RBB - This was an ongoing problem although there had been a litter pick in Old Road by two child residents as part of 'The Duke of Edinburgh Award' scheme. **CG** would complete any paperwork needed to confirm their activity. **Carried forward**

08.11) Boundary issues - Navestock Heath: CG - Was still collating the relevant documentation before forwarding to the resident concerned. **CG & Clerk dealing**

08.12) Church Road - ongoing sewage issues: CG - Despite occasional resets of the system, everything now seemed to be functioning to an acceptable standard. **Item resolved**

08.13) Parish roads signage: CG - Had spoken to Highways regarding installation of replacement fingerposts if purchased by NPC (approx. £500 each) plus 'Welcome to Navestock' signs. No formal reply as yet, but there was a discussion on potential design / material types. **Carried forward**

08.14) Locality Fund 2024-25: Clerk - Gave an overview of the salt bin and associated kit that had been purchased, plus the monies had been claimed and received. The bin was located to the left of the main VH doors with the spreader and additional shovels in the committee room. **Item resolved**

08.15) Outline application for a new dual site motorway service area (M25) - MOTO: CG - The application was still with BBC planning. **RBB** - The Northeast Residents Association group (NERA) had been given permission to place posters on NPC notice boards and were very active. **Carried forward**

08.16) Proposal for a motorway service area (M25) - Welcome Break: CG - No further information had been received although NPC's stance would likely mirror the MOTO application. **Carried forward**

08.17) Village Hall playground seating: CG - After investigation, relocating the existing benches was not an option as they had been dedicated and sited in memoriam by residents. A general discussion followed on a recycled plastic picnic bench instead which met with approval. **Carried forward**

08.18) NPC 2025/26 budget and precept (decision): CG & MP - The proposed £5K precept increase effectively represented a 4% annual rise given the last increase was in 2019/20. After discussion it was **agreed** to submit this figure to BBC. The Clerk was thanked for his hard work. **Item resolved**

25/09) Current Matters:

09.01) BBPCA - AGM November 20th (report): CG - Had unfortunately been unable to attend due to a last-minute personal matter. As yet there were no minutes available to report on. **Clerk** - There was still no permanent Clerk, with Kim Harding from West Horndon Parish Council standing in on a temporary basis. The 2024/25 affiliation fees were due to be sent out in February. **Carried forward**

09.02) Defibrillator update following emergency use: RBB - Gave an overview of the recent use and explained what the monitoring of the defibrillator involved on a weekly basis. **Clerk** - An annual cost had been built into the 2025/26 budget to cover usage and probable replacement every 7/8 years. **RT** - Suggested that a second defibrillator on the west side of Navestock would be desirable. This met with general approval and potential locations and funding options were discussed. **CG** and **LG** to broach the subject with a resident at a possible site and report back. **Carried forward**

09.03) Essex County Council debate 10th January - Local Government reorganisation: CG - LW had already explained this in some detail during public participation (see item 25/05). **Item resolved**

09.04) VE Day 80 - 8th May 2025: RT - The beacon will be lit at 9.30pm on the day and he will register this on behalf of NPC. **RBB** - There is not an extra Bank Holiday, but the early May one is earmarked for celebrations. **MP & AE** - There was an issue with the pulley on the flagpole which needed to be resolved so that the VE Day flag could be flown on May 8th. **Carried forward**

25/10) Reports: To receive brief reports from NPC Working Parties: DW - Raised the condition of Albyns Lane which is dangerous. Still issues with the rubbish bins overflowing in Curtis Mill Green plus some properties had experienced power outages, the cause of which UKPN had been unable to identify. **RBB** - The safety barrier at the junction of Princes Road and Dudbrook Road had been damaged in an accident. An old issue of no salt gritting on Dudbrook Road was discussed due to the number of ice related accidents this winter. Could NPC try again to get this reinstated on the route given two care homes in Dudbrook Road? The generally poor condition of the road surface in Princes Road (including

potholes) was raised. There was ongoing flooding issues in Shonks Mill Road near the bridge during heavy rain. **RBB** would report to Highways with photographs if possible. **AE** - Still bad flooding outside of the library in Navestock Side which at times became an ice rink. Could a salt bin be sited at this location? **Clerk to investigate all these issues on the ECC Highways map and escalate with LW as appropriate.** **CG** - The Skip-A-Hoy site was now secure although general fly tipping in the area continued. There had been complaints of lorries speeding in Murthing Lane plus the potholes in Curtis Mill Lane had reappeared. **LG** - There had been a stripped car dumped in Church Road plus a caravan in Old Road which had now been removed. **MP** - Apart from the dangerous roadside ruts in Dudbrook Road a large quantity of mattresses had been dumped in Does Hill. **RT** - The effluent smell in Horseman Side had dissipated and some of the 40mph signs had been cleaned. **CG** - Was still chasing clarification from BBC regarding the status of the traveller sites in Horseman Side / Goatswood Lane. **RBB** - Raised concerns over bogus flyers being circulated which had nothing to do with NPC but could be construed as such.

25/11) Correspondence and Clerks Report: Clerk - Tranche 2 of the NPC documentation update had been delayed again due to the workload created by other ongoing issues. Kelvedon Hatch Parish Council had asked BBC to keep both themselves and NPC informed of future local events, following the traffic chaos caused by the 'Appetite on the Farm' music event held in August. The ongoing safety cut issues had already been covered in item 25/08.03. The NPC **Webmaster** was still investigating a proposed change to a gov.uk domain address. **CG** had attended a PROW course on 13/11, which had thrown up some interesting information regarding powers relating to land / verges at the side of roads. The driveway problem in Snakes Hill had finally been resolved and the resident concerned had thanked NPC for their assistance. Following the quad bike damage to The Green in late November / December, the police had supplied three crime reference numbers. Due to the significant cost of repairs, the Cricket Club may be forced to submit a claim to their insurance company. A new Community Safety and Engagement Police Officer for Brentwood (Rebecca Ryan) had introduced herself to the Parish Council.

25/12) Planning: CG - Due to her position on the BBC Planning Committee she would not be taking an active part in this item of the agenda. **Spring Farm (24/01247/FUL)** - Following a lengthy debate regarding this application, there was a consensus to submit a consultee comment outlining NPC concerns over the proposed development. **Old Priors Golf Course (24/01298/FUL & 24/01299/FUL) plus Stan Sted Cottage (24/01281/HHA)** - Following discussion there was a consensus to submit a consultee comment outlining NPC concerns over these proposed developments. **21.10: DW left the meeting**

25/13) Finance: CG has checked the accounts / records & everything is in order. Cheques to be signed were approved for Payroll (January), **Clerk** (stamps and village hall salt bin plus associated kit), **RBB** (Defibrillator - replacement electrodes and ready kit)

25/14) Discussion Items and date of next meeting: CG - A provisional date of Tuesday 18th March was set for the 2025 Village Show pre meet at The Bunker

Next meeting: Tuesday 11th March, 2025 preceded by the Navestock Annual Parish Assembly

Meeting closed at 21.40

Victor Simmons
Clerk & RFO to Navestock Parish Council
3rd March 2025