

NAVESTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 23rd July 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), Essex Police - Mark Sheridan-Brown (MSB) + 10 members of the public (MOP)

24/43) 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). CG thanked MP, VS, Joe McNamara and Ray Balcombe (both MOP) for their assistance with the playgrounds

24/44) Apologies and reasons for absence: None

24/45) Declaration of interests with regards to items on the agenda: CG (50.12), MP & RBB (50.06), RT (50.07) - All non-pecuniary

24/46) To approve the minutes from the Annual Parish Council Meeting and Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 14th May 2024: Minutes *agreed* as correct and to be signed by CG. Tony Donnelly (MOP) queried the minutes with regard to his comments about residents' safety, and how unsafe woman in particular felt within the parish. Clerk - This was recorded in the Parish Meeting (open forum) minutes from 14th May, which were on the NPC website. However, as this was not an official Parish Council meeting, these minutes were not listed for approval

24/47) Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda

19.03 Meeting suspended for public participation

Chris Finney (MOP) - What process and timescale will NPC use in response to the MOTO planning proposals? There have been 30 fly-tips in the last month, most uncleared. What can residents do to assist with this issue, plus he supported additional cameras in some capacity. **Tony Donnelly (MOP)** - Had proposed the £25K for an additional camera to support / complete the 'ring of steel'. He felt that high reserves to deal with traveller incursions wasn't needed, as it was covered by ECTU (Essex Countrywide Traveller Unit). Additional cameras would help to make residents feel safer plus reduce crime. **Jane Jackson (SAPC)** - Talked about the Murthing Lane bund development and the adverse effect it was having on Stapleford Abbots and surrounding roads. This was due to construction traffic deviating from the agreed route due to intimidation. **Rob Wilkinson (MOP)** - Asked what views individual Councillors had on the proposed MOTO development? **CG** - All of the above were items on the agenda. **LW** - The Locality Fund was available again but she would like applications ASAP. Fly tips were a major issue and the police thought some of it was organised crime. She was compiling a report to explain what the Borough and County Council intended to do moving forward, but had been unable to arrange a meeting involving interested parties. A new pothole crew was available and she would like reports of the worst ones, preferably with ECC Highways reference numbers. **Robert Kennedy (MOP)** - Had written to Jonathan Stephenson (CEO BBC) on various matters and failure of services. The eventual reply declined a meeting as BBC were introducing new processes based on national criteria and available funding. **MSB** - Explained his role locally plus changes to the beat areas. There had been overtime patrols recently until the early hours looking for

fly-tipping in particular, but unfortunately this had not produced any results. It was unclear at this stage if these would continue or not. **CG** - A community policing event was due in Navestock soon
19.33 End of public participation

19.35: *LW left the meeting (BBC meeting to attend)*

24/48) Action on matters arising from public participation session: None, all items were on the agenda

24/49) Reports: To receive brief reports from Borough and County Councillors present: **CG** - LW had already given a report during public participation plus limited activity due to the recent elections

24/50) Matters arising from previous meetings:

50.01) Village Hall Sports Pavilion (build) and parish field issues: **MP** - Electricity and water was now connected, however the new car park wouldn't be ready for the village show. A new field gate was in place, with some additional security measures required. **CG** suggested an opening ceremony possibly in September, with rooms named after key participants in the build. **MP & Clerk dealing**

50.02) Flooding & effluent Horseman Side / Goatswood Lane: **CG** - Still no change to this long-standing issue, our **MP** (Alex Burghart) has asked **NPC** for a report. **AE** - Affinity Water have apparently connected supplies to St. Michaels and further pipe work has been laid to carry effluent. **MP & CG** - Wondered if the lack of Government interest indicated a bigger agenda? **Carried forward**

50.03) Health and Wellbeing: **CG** - There were no major problems although it was noted that **BBC & Axis** had gone the extra mile to assist a local resident. **RT** - Raised the issue of noise emanating from Alec's Restaurant and whether their licence covered current outdoor music events? **Carried forward**

50.04) Spring Farm & Skip-A-Hoy (environmental issues): **CG** - The site has been relatively quiet of late and the current planning application was still with **BBC**. **RT** - The recent photographs from the site poured scorn on the **EA** suggestion that the site had in fact been cleared. **Carried forward**

50.05) Neighbourhood Watch including CCTV: **CG** - The perceived effectiveness of the cameras had been undone of late by an explosion of fly-tipping, with byway 34 targeted in particular. Clearance rates were unsatisfactory, although new **ANPR** signage was now in place. Despite evidence being retrieved, only one case was being pursued, with still no **BBC** data forthcoming. **Chris Finney (MOP)** - Despite assurances, **BBC** failed to give any dates of when fly tips would be collected. **Carried forward**

50.06) Shonks Mill Flood Storage Area (River Roding Project): **RBB** - Despite assurances from the contractor, piling had gone on 3 times longer than promised and the road closures were not as stated. **MP** - Due to the discovery of a Hobby nest, the borrow pit works had been stopped as an exclusion zone of 450m was in place. The Wildlife Trust were monitoring the site. **RBB** - Had been invited to an 'opening party' and would raise the issue of **CCTV** in Shonks Mill Road. **Carried forward**

50.07) Navestock Side - sewage discharge: **MP** - It appears that Savills have replaced Strutt & Parker as the Church Commissioners agents for Navestock. **Clerk** - **NPC** have had no notification of this, so will investigate further ASAP. **RT** - The ditch carrying the sewage discharge is blocked in places and is collapsing in on itself. Also, the sewage smell continues to be an issue to residents. **Carried forward**

50.08) Common Land issues within Navestock Parish: **CG** - Nothing new to report. **MP & AE** - Any issues that **NPC** can't resolve would be passed onto **BBC** as the larger authority. **Carried forward**

50.09) Security of the 'The Green' due to vehicular ASB: Clerk - Gave an overview of issues over the last 2 years with focus now on securing all NPC assets from such activity. CG - NPC had one quote for fencing around 'The Green' which may be the only longer-term solution. **CG & Clerk dealing**

50.10) Navestock rubbish and litter issues: CG - There had been a major escalation of late with one possible factor being no significant enforcement or prosecutions. MSB - BBC was the lead agency in collating information, but confirmed things had got worse in recent weeks. AE & MP - Both reported dumping of rubbish bags at the roadside plus oil being discharged regularly onto Crown Road and Dudbrook Road. RT - Had found dumped rubbish from cars in Green Lane with address information which had been reported, however there had been no feedback on this. **Carried forward**

50.11) Boundary issues - Navestock Heath: CG - Will be drafting a letter with associated maps to the resident concerned before considering taking any further action. **CG & Clerk dealing**

50.12) Church Road - ongoing sewage issues: CG - The new system is still proving problematical with regular call outs upon breakdown. The outflow pipe problems are ongoing involving BBC. **CG dealing**

50.13) Parish roads signage: CG - Various Road and ANPR signs had been replaced / fitted with others still outstanding. The NATS team had also been involved with cleaning signs. **Carried forward**

50.14) Village Gateways: CG, AE, DW, RT & RBB - The idea of village gateways had been previously discussed and decided against, however there was support for simple Navestock entrance signage. There were concerns over locations and land ownership plus possibly maintenance. **Robert Kennedy (MOP)** - There were 9 entrance points into the parish so location and cost were definable. RT - Suggested a working party might be appropriate? CG - Would collate further data. **Carried forward**

50.15) Dudbrook Road / Does Hill memorial: Clerk - It appeared that activities at the site had dissipated somewhat, which a local resident had confirmed. MP - There was still activity at times including quad bikes, perhaps indicating a social meeting location. That said, as the parents of the deceased had visited it was felt appropriate to keep the matter open for now. **Carried forward**

50.16) Annual playground inspection 2024: Clerk - The equipment painting and subsequent inspection was now complete, with a few items identified actioned as required. **Item resolved**

50.17) BBPCA meetings March 21st & June 20th (reports): CG - The meetings had been of interest highlighting various local issues. Three new Parish Councils had been created in Essex. **Item resolved**

50.18) Locality Fund and Local Community Fund 2024-25: CG - LW had given a brief overview of the scheme earlier and NPC were currently compiling a list of items for consideration. **CG & Clerk dealing**

24/51) Current Matters:

51.01) Proposed development of a new dual site motorway service area (M25): CG - NPC have a Zoom meeting with MOTO on 8/8, which will be followed by a consultation event in the Village Hall in early September. A general discussion followed involving councillors and MOP's which focused on NPC's approach / policy to the proposals, which at this stage was purely at an information gathering stage. CG - NPC were unable to commit to any specific action plan until sufficient information was obtained; however, residents and other local parishes would be kept

informed of developments as the situation evolved. **Carried forward**

51.02) Village Show 2024: RT - Gave an overview of arrangements for the show field events and brochure distribution / advertising. MP - Explained the latest position regarding grass cutting and sports pavilion car park works. CG - Only toilets would be in the village hall. **Carried forward**

51.03) NPC Insurance renewal (August / September 2024): Clerk - Explained that the NPC Insurance (land and sports pavilion) would stay separate from the village hall policy until the buildings were fully connected. At that point an umbrella policy was envisaged. **Carried forward**

51.04) NPC annual documentation review / adoption of policies (tranche 1 of 2): Clerk - Gave an overview of the rationale to update the current NPC documentation to the latest NALC Model Standing Orders, Financial Regulations & Code of Conduct plus the NPC Constitution. It was hoped to adopt further policies in September (tranche 2), with everything then published on the website. The Councillors agreed unanimously to **adopt** said policies. **Item resolved**

51.05) Murthering Lane construction traffic issues: CG - Gave an overview of the development and the approved planning application. SACP were very unhappy with the development and cited various perceived planning breaches including deviating from the agreed traffic route. They had complained to BBC enforcement and the contractors JRL, but little had changed. CG - NPC would monitor the situation and keep SACP informed of any developments. **Carried forward**

21.10: Some MOP left the meeting

51.06) Proposal by the Concerned Residents Group (CRG) requesting NPC allocate £25K of funds towards Navestock infrastructure projects: CG - BBC were happy with the current camera coverage and potentially had PFCC funding available for more cameras. A general discussion involving Councillors and MOP followed regarding additional camera's, NPC reserves, public safety and the lack of data from BBC to make an educated decision. CG - Asked Councillors to vote on the proposal which was unanimously defeated. MP - Was asked and listed items still on the wish list to fully complete the Sports Pavilion and parish field car park which was extensive. **Item resolved**

21.30: AE, MSB and some MOP left the meeting

24/52) Reports from Working Parties: MP - An electricity pole on Navestock Heath opposite Randalls Cottages had been replaced, but an NPC sign now needed refixing on the new pole. LG - Mark Pryor had kindly agreed to cut the Heath this year and there had been a large fly-tip in Church Road. CG - The hedge at the junction of Old Road and Horseman Side needed cutting again, LG would email the resident concerned. Murthering Lane had been relatively quiet apart from construction traffic already discussed. DW - There was a major problem on Curtis Mill Green with rubbish collection, where the service was split between EFDC and BBC. Due to increased resident numbers the existing bins were insufficient. CG would speak to the BBC Depot Operations Manager and Ray Balcombe at EFDC. RT - A large part of Horseman Side had been resurfaced and he felt the smell at the junction of Goatswood lane had decreased. He also referenced the hedge at the junction of Old Road which was far too high. There was some potentially dangerous parking outside the unsightly commercial units opposite Watton Farm.

24/53) Correspondence and Clerks Report: Clerk - NPC was supporting the Deal Tree Surgery car park expansion led by KHPC. NPC were remaining in the 2024/25 ECC Salt Bag Partnership, but additional salt was not required. The switch from analogue to digital telephone lines was due locally later this year. The NPC AGAR was submitted to PKF Littlejohn on 30/6, with the conclusion due in September. There had been no requests to view the accounts during the public rights period. A resident in Snakes Hill had been supported regarding a faulty driveway which was being repaired by Axis on behalf of BBC Housing. Local PC Clerks had been discussing arrangements regarding playground inspections, with those using BBC dropping the service due to poor response times. NPC have used an external company for several years with no such problems. NATS had been in Navestock W/C 1/7 and had dealt with 9 issues submitted by NPC. The EALC AGM was on 26/9 at Colchester football stadium. The Clerk attended a BBC Parish Council Forum at the Town Hall on 9/7, which centered mainly on planning and processes employed. LW had requested NPC submit their worst 3 potholes for a new repair initiative due to start shortly.

24/54) Planning: CG - All new applications had been emailed out on receipt for consideration / comment. NPC has raised concerns to BBC Planning as a consultee regarding the scoping request for a new dual M25 motorway service area (24/00551/EIASO).

24/55) Finance: CG has checked the accounts / records & everything is in order. Cheques to be signed were approved for Payroll (July), EALC/NALC Affiliation 2024/25, JAM Parrish (SP - Base unit and sink), N. Frost (Playground painting), Stevenson & Co (Internal audit 2023/24), Fenland Leisure Products Ltd. (Playground inspection 2024), R. Bere-Brown (Village Show rosettes), W. Keen Ltd. (Parish field car park), G. Gelderbloem (Parish grounds maintenance), J. Hayes & Co Plumbing & Heating Ltd (Sports Pavilion plumbing), Heatherland Ltd (Skip hire - Sports Pavilion build and Village Show), Navestock Village Hall (Parish lunches hall hire 2022-23 & 2023-24).

24/56) Discussion Items and date of next meeting: None. CG - Due to a clash with a planning meeting at BBC, the next NPC meeting was being put back a week, start time 19.00 as usual.

Next meeting: Tuesday 17th September, 2024

Meeting closed at 21.50

Victor Simmons
Clerk & RFO to Navestock Parish Council
9th September 2024