

NAVESTOCK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday 14th July 2026 - 19.02 START

Present: Councillors Chrissy Gelderbloem (CG), Rowena Bere-Brown (RBB), Adrian Enkel (AE), John Parrish known as Mike (MP), David Williams (DW)

Also Present: Clerk Victor Simmons (VS) + 2 members of the public (MOP)

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

26/43) 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).

26/44) Apologies and reasons for absence: CG - Lucy Gelderbloem (LG) - Working (*accepted*)

26/45) Declaration of interests with regards to agenda items: MP & RBB (26/50.05) - Non pecuniary

26/46) To approve the previously circulated minutes from the Parish Council Meeting - Tuesday 12th May 2026: Minutes were *agreed* as correct and to be signed by CG

26/47) Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda:

19.05 Meeting suspended for public participation

CG - As no members of the public wished to speak, item 26/47 was opened and closed

19.06 End of public participation (meeting reopened)

26/48) Action on matters arising from public participation session: CG - None

26/49) Reports: To receive brief reports from Borough and County Councillors present: CG - None

26/50) Matters arising from previous meetings:

50.01) Navestock Sports Pavilion (build) and parish sports field: CG - The sports field has been cut twice in preparation for the Village Show and cleaning of the pavilion was in hand. MP - Suggested it was probably time to remove this as a specific agenda item which was *agreed. Item resolved*

50.02) Health and Wellbeing: CG - No issues to report other than various events had been held at St Thomas' church. AE - Raised the problem of once again a lack of highway safety cuts. This seemed to be a general issue within Navestock as RBB confirmed similar problems in Princes / Shonks Mill Road. CG and the Clerk to both contact the BBC works depot to raise the matter. *Carried forward*

50.03) Spring Farm & Skip-A-Hoy (environmental issues): CG - Arris fencing and screening had been erected around the site which had improved the outlook considerably. *Carried forward*

50.04) Neighbourhood Watch including CCTV: CG - Fly-tipping was continuing, however the ongoing prosecution of an individual had been adjourned due to a non-appearance at court. *Carried forward*

50.05) Shonks Mill Flood Storage Area (River Roding Project): MP - Work is ongoing with hopefully completion by this coming winter. CG - Despite a request by NPC it now appears that the EA project team will not be able to facilitate any display material at the Village Show. *Carried forward*

50.06) Common Land issues within Navestock Parish: CG - The issue of common land in Navestock Side where a bund had been built was still unresolved. This is despite both a letter and visit by **CG** to the property owners' opposite. It was *agreed* to send a more formal letter with NPC to take action if the bund was not removed. **AE** - Unauthorised grazing of horses was occurring in Well Lane near to Waterhouse Pond. At this stage it was felt that appropriate signage should be installed. **DW** - There were still nefarious activities on Curtis Mill Green where the police had been contacted. ***CG dealing***

50.07) Navestock rubbish and litter issues: MP - There was still an asbestos fly-tip in Shonks Mill Road that had now been reported (via Fix My Street) on two separate occasions. ***Carried forward***

50.08) Boundary issues - Navestock Heath: CG - Distributed maps showing the encroached area of Navestock Heath which affected both NPC and Church Commissionaires land (who had been made aware). It was *agreed* that NPC should take legal action via our solicitors (GEPP & Sons). ***CG dealing***

50.09) Navestock Parish roads signage: CG - The speed reduction signage works in Horseman Side between the M25 and Dytchleys Lane had commenced. On discussion Councillors were undecided regarding the general topic of road signage including gateways within the Parish. ***CG & Clerk dealing***

50.10) Motorway service areas (M25) update: CG & RBB - No official updates had been received but NERA were active with fund raising and had taken two stalls at the Village Show. ***Carried forward***

50.11) Village Hall playground seating: CG - The picnic bench was now assembled and located on the grassed area next to the playground in preparation for the Village Show. ***Item resolved***

50.12) NPC grounds maintenance: CG - Gus Gelderbloem has been strimming around the village hall as required and clearing pathways onto Navestock Heath following a resident report. ***CG dealing***

50.13) Navestock Village Show 2025: Clerk - The outstanding monetary issues surrounding the 2025 Village Show were now complete with the Village Society cheque sent and cleared. ***Item resolved***

50.14) NPC tree management: CG - Prince Tree Surgery were due on site in late September and there was a brief discussion on potentially altering the intended work schedule. **CG** to contact Matt Prince to discuss this which may necessitate another pre works site visit. ***CG dealing***

50.15) NPC composition 2026 (casual vacancy): CG - There had currently been little interest in filling the post. **Clerk** - The deadline was November due to the May 2027 elections. ***Carried forward***

50.16) NPC Recreational Sensory Garden: CG - The garden is now complete with the NWI using the area at the Village Show. Ongar Garden Centre had been approached with a view to donating plants. **RBB** - There was barbed wire from the old field fencing which needed attention. **MP** - Hoped that the scouts and pre-school would utilise the new facility. **Clerk** - Had sent the monitoring form and photographs to BBC who were happy with the completed project. **CG** - Some signage needed to be installed acknowledging the funding contribution made by BBC prior to the show. ***Carried forward***

50.17) Village hall car park issues: CG - Opened a general discussion on the car park surface which broadened out to the ongoing issue of unauthorised parking. Potential new signage and exit charges were broached. **RBB** - A new Village Hall sign had been installed on the road fence. ***Carried forward***

50.18) BBC - Increased allocation of traveller's sites: CG - Nothing new from BBC on this subject. A new development in Goatswood lane was discussed which had also been raised in an email by Stapleford Abbots Parish Council. **Clerk** - Had replied to SAPC informing them that NPC were fully aware of the development as were the BBC enforcement team. ***Carried forward***

50.19) Annual playground(s) inspection 2026: Clerk - The inspection was completed on the 26th May with a few minor defects identified. These have been dealt with by Ray Balcombe and the **Clerk** with a tree near the playground to be addressed by Prince Tree Surgery in September. *Item resolved*

50.20) Navestock Village Show 2026: CG - Opened a general discussion on how the show preparation was progressing. Everything seemed to be covered with some different attractions planned for 2026. The show risk assessment had been completed and the **Clerk** was dealing with the Dog Show insurance. **CG** was still looking for additional sponsors plus expressed thanks to Emerantia Clauson and Kandice for building the new Village Show website. She also thanked the gentlemen organising the classic cars plus the Blackmore and Toot Hill ladies for their help and advice. *Carried forward*

50.21) NPC IT upgrade 2026: Clerk - The new website and email addresses are still a work in progress. Hopefully the site will go fully live towards the end of August but will require suitable photographs etc. Forwarding will be applied from the old domain address to the new gov.uk one *Clerk dealing*

26/51) Current Matters:

51.01) NPC IT Policy 2026 (adoption): Clerk - Explained why the new IT policy was required as part of changes to the AGAR process (assertion 10), which was duly *agreed* and adopted. *Item resolved*

51.02) Sports Pavilion energy plan renewal (August 2026): Clerk - Explained that the current energy plan with E.ON Next expired on August 1st. After discussion it was *agreed* to renew with our current supplier on a new one-year fixed deal as opposed to their 'Business Flexible Plan'. *Item resolved*

51.03) NPC Insurance renewal (August / September 2026): Clerk - Had spoken to Hugh Savill regarding a possible umbrella policy covering both bodies, with the premium apportioned based on current costs. The policies expired on different dates (NPC 31/8) and NVH (26/9). *Clerk dealing*

51.04) Greens Charity boundary issues: CG - This matter was for information only with the Church Commisionairs also involved. It was a separate issue to agenda item 26/50.08. *Item resolved*

26/52) Reports: To receive brief reports from NPC Working Parties: AE - Reported fly-tipping issues on Horseman Side, some of which were on private land. He also raised the question of common land being eroded which should be taken up with adjacent property owners. **MP** - Gave an overview of previous problems and how the 12-year rule should be taken into account. **DW** - Reported ongoing motorbike issues on Curtis Mill Green with the police being made aware. **CG** - Mark Pryor has agreed to cut Navestock Heath again. There had been a marked increase in large vehicles using Jenkins Farm plus BBC enforcement were looking into excessive earth movements including hardcore in Sabines Road. **RBB** - An unauthorised speed restriction sign had appeared on a telegraph pole in Navestock Side. Asked if any contact information was available should problems occur during the 'Appetite on the Farm' event at Kelvedon Hall in late August. **CG** will make enquiries. **MP** - Was constantly reporting fly-tipping as he travelled around the Parish.

26/53) Correspondence and Clerks Report: Clerk - The 'No to Moto' donation cheque had been sent and cleared. The RCCE had been informed that NPC did not wish to pursue the affordable housing opportunity or take part in a needs survey. On request, Laura Atkinson was sent details of the original Tyser Green scheme but had not replied or made further comment. NATS had been in Navestock week commencing 1st June, but it was unclear if any of the requested work had actually been completed or not? NPC have remained in the ECC Highways 2026/27 'Salt Bag Partnership' but had not requested any salt this year. The AGAR was submitted on 30th June

with the conclusion notice expected during September. BBC had sent out an 'emergency preparedness' questionnaire which on discussion it was agreed to hold in abeyance, awaiting expected further Government information on the subject. A comprehensive BBC 'Community Governance Review' booklet was currently being distributed to all residents / properties regarding proposed changes in 2027.

26/54) Planning: CG - The Alec's Restaurant application to replace a pergola and thus increase seating capacity had been passed. There was however no reference to the potential increased parking issues in Navestock Side that this would exacerbate. NPC had therefore referred this decision back to the BBC Planning Chair with no feedback so far. An appeal had been submitted regarding car storage at the old Priors Golf Course site in Horseman Side. On discussion NPC confirmed support of the initial refusal of planning permission for this application.

26/55) Finance: CG has checked the accounts / records & everything was in order.

Cheques to be signed were approved for:

**Payroll (July), NERA - Northeast Residents Association (No To Moto donation),
Navestock Village Society (split of 2025 Village Show profit),
Fenland Leisure Products Ltd. (Playground(s) inspection 2026),
Clerk (Bennett's Contracting - Cut of sports field),
MRD Landscapes Ltd. (Recreational Sensory Garden build),
Dot Print (2026 Village Show brochure), R. Bere-Brown (Village Show rosettes),
GEPP & Sons Solicitors (Common land registration - Navestock Heath),
Town and Country Pests (Village Hall and Sports Pavilion pest control).**

26/56) Discussion Items and date of next meeting: AE - Asked if a thank you could be sent to Corporal Scott Middleton who had kindly donated a flag, **Clerk** to deal. **CG** - Thanked everybody for their hard work and closed the meeting.

Next meeting: Tuesday 8th September, 2026 @ 19.00

Meeting closed at 20.42

***Victor Simmons
Clerk & RFO to Navestock Parish Council
1st September 2026***