

NAYLAND-with-WISSINGTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

held on 10th March 2008 in the Church Hall at 8pm (preceded by Executive Meeting at 7.30)

Chairman's Report

When you set questions for a quiz, you hope you ask questions for which there is only one answer; so when setting the Quiz last year we asked for the unit of pressure, we were not prepared for the storm that arose. However, it was the only hitch in the first event of the Community Council year.

A Summer passed and it was soon Firework Night – the weather was kind, the sausages for the hot dogs delicious, and the bangers in the fireworks spectacular, so much so that people were left wanting more of everything.

Along came the Christmas Bazaar with new decorations, some new exhibitors and we lost some of our traditional participants. Yet there was a different atmosphere, and all the stalls appeared to do well, including a lady from SESAW who said she would be coming back because we were so friendly.

Thanks to Claire Prescott, we also erected our Christmas Tree, but with a new modern feel – blue lights that gave the sitting a quite different look. The carols around the tree were as warm as ever just before Christmas.

All the events made money to supplement the grants requested from the Village Societies. We were delighted to continue our support for the new Playgroup building and the Youth Club. The Community Council was happy to give a grant to help the endowment fund of the Village Hall, but were disappointed that the Parish Council could still not commit itself and the monies set aside for the Hall to the joint management of that fund with the Community Council and the Village Hall Management Committee.

The Community Council prides itself not only in running events itself, but supporting either through participation of financial the endeavours of individual Societies in the Village. With so much going on, it would be easy to become confused or miss out on events. Fortunately the Community Times in 2007 got even better and, under the editorship of Lorraine Brooks and the team involved, has been an absolute credit in bringing to life the life of the Village. It would be marvellous if, in between publications, we could all make use of the exceptional Village website provided by Graham Griffiths - your Chairman is guilty as charged, but promises to do better in 2008.

A couple of years ago, we started to care for the Village Hall gardens by meeting once a quarter, or, when it was right in the season, to smarten up our own patches and it as a good time to get messy. The gardens still look good, but they are done when we can and not as a community team; we will try to do better this year.

The council said goodbye to Mark Stephens-Row who had to resign and is looking for at least two further members. Please come forward; it will help us do a lot more.

At the end of last year, the Council took two important decisions:

The first was to organise a Village Festival instead of a Street Fayre for 2008 and you will see progress on this elsewhere in the Community Times.

The second was to change the charges for advertisements in the Community Times to allow for greater editorial space, and this will be implemented in mid 2008.

Nayland has a justifiable place in many minds as a good place to live. A key part of this is the diversity of activities that many of our Societies develop. The Council applauds all those Societies who are members for their efforts in creating programmes and events throughout the year. These are supported by the executing of the Community Council whom I warmly thank and appreciate for their comments, advice and always being there on the day.

The Treasurer and members thanked Alan for his excellent enthusiasm and dedication during the past year.

Treasurer's Report

The Community Council accounts were adopted at the meeting. Bryan Smith expressed thanks to Richard Cave for examining the accounts. David George congratulated Bryan and members thanked him for his efficiency and keeping them very well informed.

Election of Officers

The following Officers were re-elected: **Chairman** Alan Hodges; **President** Ken Willingale; **Vice-President** Roy Evans; **Vice-Chairman** Jenny Smith; **Treasurer** Bryan Smith; **Secretary** Hazel Gardiner; **Executive:** David George, Tricia Hall, Claire Prescott, Barry Wakefield, Joan Moore, Lorraine Brooks, Andrew Gowen; **Individual:** Iain Wright

Dates of Meetings 2008/9

12 May; 14 July; 8 September; 10 November; 12 January 2009; 9 March 2009 (AGM). All are on Monday in the Church Hall at 8pm (preceded by Executive meeting at 7.30pm).

Village Quiz

The Quiz had once again been a success with excellent questions, imaginative team names and a great atmosphere. Next year the quiz would be held on the first Friday in March and a raffle would be included.

Grant Applications

It was agreed to provide a grant of £400 to 15 year old Daisy Warren who is going on a world challenge expedition trip. Her costs will be £3,500 including equipment and inoculations. She has already raised the majority through work and fundraising. It was hoped that on her return Daisy would come along and tell us about her trip and write an article for the Community Times.

Community Times

Lorraine Brooks reported that feedback from advertisers regarding the changes in advertising had been positive. Many agreed with our efforts to increase space for village news. All those affected mid subscription term have now been finalised - we will gain two pages of space and an increase in revenue. This does not take into account our regular non-subscription advertisers or our casual one-off advertisers.

Playgroup Building

It was reported that work has now started and a photographic record of progress is being compiled. The children are very excited to see their new building progressing.

Village Festival

Members were reminded that two Village Festival Meetings had been held and dates set for Friday, Saturday and Sunday 11th, 12th and 13th July. A draft programme based on contributions offered had been compiled:

Friday evening: a themed Cinema Evening

Saturday morning: a guided footpath walk; a Treasure Hunt;

Saturday afternoon: an Art Exhibition; a Flower Arrangement/Decoration Show; a Historic Village & Artifact Exhibition; an Antiques Roadshow; a Duck Race on the river; a Choir performance.

Saturday evening: a Barn Dance.

Sunday afternoon: a Picnic on the playing field (tea, coffee and bar in the Village Hall); a Sports Day with family attractions; a Carpet Bowls Competition.

Sunday evening: a Music Hall Evening

Running the weekend will require a tremendous effort and teamwork. It is hoped that those societies who weren't able to offer an entertainment will assist in running the programme. The next Village Festival meeting will be held at 7pm on 28th April in the Village Hall Committee Room (before the Village Assembly in the Hall).

Any Other Business

David George reported that the new warden for Parkers Way came from Ipswich and there no longer provided a service taking residents to the doctor's surgery. The Royal British Legion are now fulfilling this need. In consultation with the surgery enquiries were being made with the council to see whether provision of a drop-off point was possible.

It was pointed out that the rubbish left from the bonfire needs clearing as 'rubbish is encouraging rubbish'. Alan Hodges agreed to chase this up.

Concerns were expressed regarding the speed at which the Village Hall Management Committee carried out maintenance, particularly work to the leaking roof which had resulted in damage to the flooring. Mr Hodges suggested that anyone with concerns could attend the VHMC meetings held on the first Monday of each month.