

Minutes from the meeting held on 4th September 2019 in the Church Hall

Rachel Hitchcock welcomed members to the meeting.

- ◆ **There were 15 members present:** Rachel Hitchcock, Julie Clark, Maggie Ryan, Lorraine Brooks, Bryan Smith, Claire Buller, Tricia Hall, Vicki Sargent, Jo Metson, Trevor Smy, Justin Dowding, John Partridge, Tracy Le Grys, Karen Freeman, Chris Hunt.
- ◆ **Apologies were received from:** Colin Ramsell, Sally Dalton, Parish Council representative, Rob Swan, Wendy Sparrow, Ken Willingale, Iain Wright, Luke Rumbelow.
- ◆ **Minutes of the last meeting** held on 3rd July 2019 were approved (*proposed Julie Clark, seconded Claire Buller*).

MATTERS ARISING:

◆ **Executive Committee:**

Action by:

Rachel Hitchcock reminded the meeting of the urgent need for more members on the Exec. We meet just six times a year. It is an enjoyable friendly village committee and an ideal way for those new to the village to become involved and meet new friends. Contact Rachel on 263169 or rachel_hitchcock@hotmail.com if you would like to know more.

Members expressed their best wishes to Colin Ramsell, who is currently poorly in hospital, for a speedy recovery and for his forthcoming birthday. Rachel also expressed our grateful thanks to Colin, for his good humour and support as a stalwart member of the Exec for many years. He stepped into the breach as acting Chairman, a valuable role at the time, and supported the Community Times as distribution leader for a decade. Colin is moving to Capel St Mary but will still be involved with the Art Group and HortSoc.

Rachel advised that Luke Rumbelow has moved house to Stratford St Mary but wishes to remain involved with the CC. Rachel confirmed this is not contrary to our Constitution and unlikely to be an issue with the Charity Commission.

It was felt that the seating being arranged in a circle for the meeting is much nicer.

- ◆ **Fundraising Activities & Events:** Ideas for fund raising projects to benefit the CC are always welcome.
- ◆ **Community Defibrillator:** Defibrillators are located at the Village Hall and at the Fire Station. Rachel Hitchcock felt there should be another training session at some point. The community defibrillators are designed to be used with no training but as well as teaching basic first aid and resuscitation techniques the awareness sessions serve to increase community confidence in using the defibrillator should the need arise.
- ◆ **Nayland 10k Fun Run:** The meeting was pleased to hear that the 2020 Nayland 10k will be able to go ahead as car parking provision will be available on Nayland Meadow for one more year, by kind permission of the Nayland Land Company.
- ◆ **Village Hall Store:** Claire Buller said the second session to tidy the CC store at the village hall was really successful. With the help of the footballers it is a great improvement. Thank you to all who helped. The Village Hall Committee are going to put some storage shelving up. Please would those using the store replace things tidily.
- ◆ **Village Hall Garden:** The next gardening morning is on 12th October from 9am. Please come along to help if you can to tidy the CC garden, or your own society gardens.

Rachel
Hitchcock

TREASURER'S REPORT: Maggie Ryan gave her report.

- **Breakdown of profits:** Quiz £210, Community Times £1,057.50, Village Calendar (£292), Nayland 10k £1,414.40, Bonfire (£1,035.22)
- **Grants paid:** Lizzie's Fund Endurance Walk £170, £94 Nayland & Wiston website.
- **Current Position:** The accounts show reserves of £23,243.64, represented by Deposit a/c monies £10,667.91, Current a/c monies £12,502.95, Cash in hand £72.78. We hold £368.50 for the Services Fund and £10,000 VH roof grant is pending. This evening's grant to the Village Hall is £779.99. **Therefore, unencumbered assets are £12,095.15.**

◆ **GRANTS & DONATIONS:**

- **Village Hall Cooker:** A grant application had been received by the VHMC. They need to replace a cooker at a cost of £1,559.98. The grant requested was for £779.99. Members considered our own finances and felt they would be able to support this grant, but hoped for favourable weather for Bonfire Night to boost our funds. The grant was agreed (*proposed Rachel Hitchcock, seconded Bryan Smith*)

Maggie Ryan

Concerns were expressed that grant policy must be adhered and grant applications should be submitted at least two weeks prior to our meetings.

The meeting was reminded that the CC can consider grants to other village organisations that are run for the benefit of our community.

- ◆ **Correspondence:** There had been no correspondence not included elsewhere.
- ◆ **Community Times & Websites:** Lorraine Brooks gave the usual plea for contributions for the coming issue. This issue celebrates 30 years of the Community Times, which was founded by Keith Worricker in 1989. To celebrate this landmark this issue will have a colour centre insert with photographs celebrating village events and activities that have taken place during 2019. The cost of £129 was agreed (*proposed Rachel Hitchcock, seconded Claire Buller*).

Lorraine
Brooks

It has unfortunately been necessary to blacklist an advertiser for non-payment of advertising; Security Smart UK based at Bures.

The Nayland & Wiston website is coming up for 2 years old and remains well used. Justin Dowding said this year had seen 5,000 new unique viewers and 40,000 page views. Surprisingly perhaps the demographic of viewers is people age 65 and over!! There is a spike of viewers (around 200) on the afternoon of Bonfire Night.

- ◆ **Village Calendar:** Lorraine Brooks was pleased to say that Sally Dalton is home from hospital and recuperating; the meeting wished her a speedy recovery.

The 2020 calendar is available to buy in the Post Office and at Forget Me Not. Forty calendars have been sold. They will be available at various village events. Iris Sebba and Wendy Sparrow will be distributing and selling calendars but we need to widen the net so would be grateful for help with selling at other venues/events. Claire Buller said she would make enquiries about selling them at Boxted Vineyard.

Calendar
Team

Claire Buller

- ◆ **Forthcoming Activities:**

- **Bonfire Night on Tuesday 5th November, 6.30 for 7pm:** The fireworks have been ordered, Julie and Kristian Clark will be attending pyrotechnic training. Anyone handling fireworks must have been trained to comply with our insurance. Iain will liaise with the firework team.

Iain Wright
Julie Clark

The Anchor Inn have kindly agreed that their overflow car park can be used, the village hall car park will be used only for disabled parking. This will be promoted on posters, signage will be needed and marshalls will be situated at the High Street/Church Lane junction.

Solutions to reduce queues at sales points were successful last year and will be repeated.

As well as volunteers on the gate and sales points from 6pm, help is needed for setting out tables etc from 3pm and litterpick the following morning. If you can help or have encouraged others to help please contact Claire Buller 263344 for sales, Rachel Hitchcock 263169 or Iain Wright 263646 for gate, setting up, etc.

Claire Buller
Rachel
Hitchcock

- **Christmas Fayre on Saturday 7th December, 10.30am-1pm:** Rachel Hitchcock confirmed the School will provide entertainment, Father Christmas will be in attendance, and she has begun contacting potential stallholders. Some children's activities will be organised.
- **Nayland Village Quiz:** will be on *Friday 7th February 2020*

Rachel
Hitchcock

SOCIETY REPORTS

- ◆ **HortSoc:** Trevor Smy said the Annual Flower Show went well. They still have some spaces for the coach outing to Audley End House and Gardens on 8th September. On 15th October Pip Wright will be talking on '*Lucky is the Name*' the intriguing story and scandals of a Suffolk farming family between 1858-1969.
- ◆ **Women's Institute:** They enjoyed their annual afternoon Tea Party during August in the President's garden. A boat trip on the River Orwell is being planned for 12th September and on 16th Chris Hunt will enlighten the WI on '*War Memorials*'. On 21st October the subject of a talk will be '*Knickers: the history of Underwear*'.
- ◆ **Book Club:** They are currently reading '*The Sun Rise*' by Victoria Hislop. They meet tomorrow to discuss this book and choose their next book title.
- ◆ **HSA:** Jo Metson said the Summer Concert revealing the children's singing, dancing and musical talents had been lovely. The Summer Ball was a great success. HSA were congratulated on their fundraising which had totalled £14,400 this year. The AGM will be held on 23rd September to welcome new members and plan forthcoming activities.
- ◆ **Village Players:** Justin Dowding said they have received ten nominations for the North Essex Theatre Guild awards on 13th September. Rehearsals have begun for their next production, '*Lion in Winter*' by James Goldman. Betrayal, treachery and family feuding: it's just another normal Christmas celebration for the royal Plantagenet family of King Henry II. It promises to be a hilarious family drama. Jim Bond will be directing with performances on 5th-7th December.
- ◆ **Royal British Legion:** John Partridge said their meeting on 9th September would include a talk about a father's experiences of flying spitfires in the last War. They are looking at planning an event for 6th May to mark VE Day. The CC Exec would be pleased to assist but felt they lacked sufficient members to take the lead. It was noted that the Calendar Photo Competition is scheduled for that date and it is the traditional date for the Conservation Society's May Day Walk.

- ◆ **Conservation Society:** John Partridge said the Bear Street telephone kiosk has been repainted and the books and magazines inside, which are available to take/deposit, have been tidied. With the help of an ornithologist, they have been identifying potential sites to locate Swift nest boxes in the village. The CS would purchase and install the boxes and are investigating whether planning permissions may be required. John revealed that fledging Swifts need to make a sweeping drop when leaving the nest and may not land again until they reach breeding age, at around 3 years old. Only breeding swifts need to land to build nests and lay eggs - they eat, drink, sleep, bath and even mate on the wing. The subject of the talk at their meeting on 7th October will be *Suffolk Medieval Cloth Industry* and at the joint meeting with HortSoc on 11th November will be about *Barn Owls*.
- ◆ **First Responders:** Tracy Le Grys said they have had a lower number of calls recently. The number of responders has dropped to two but will be increasing again to three and there has been more interest in joining the team.
- ◆ **Nayland Cinema:** Karen Freeman said there is no trend to attendance for the film screenings which were on the whole going well. She hoped people would complete and return the questionnaire in the next Community Times; it is important to receive feedback and ideas on what residents want. The next films are: 13th September 'Fisherman's Friends', 11th October 'Rocketman', 25th October 'Red Joan', 8th November 'Yesterday'. On 26th January they are organising a fundraiser and screening of 'The Affair' which was filmed partly in Nayland during the 90s and starred some of those at this meeting!
- ◆ **St James' Church:** Chris Hunt gave a reminder of: 8th September a Pet Service, 15th a concert by the Boxted Silver Band, 20th September Harvest Supper, 11th October 'Music for the Organ', 27th October 'Pictures in Music'. There has been some evidence of pilfering and damage in the church so the toilets will be locked.
- ◆ **Parish Council:** They still need people to join them as co-opted members; without a full council it is difficult to manage council business efficiently. They recommend residents look at the Local Plan Consultation on Babergh's website to see the proposed changes to guidelines. There is planning application for a development of another 6 houses at The Bungalow, Harpers Hill. The PC has made regular complaints to SCC Highways about the lack of verge cutting, weed-killing and road/gutter sweeping. Insufficient volunteers came forward to form a lorry watch team but residents can report directly to SCC Highways online; the vehicle registration, haulier's name and address are required.
- ◆ **AOB:**
 - **Water Level in the River Stour:** Members expressed their dismay that parts of the river have had low water levels this summer and on 13th August the horseshoe weir ran completely dry. The Environment Agency (EA) rescued and relocated about 4,000 fish and placed a siphon over the weir which has achieved little. The EA say this has happened due to lack of rainfall over a couple of years but some members raised concerns that Met Office records do not confirm significant lack of rainfall and felt that abstraction for the newly enlarged Abberton Reservoir had an impact. It was pointed out that the last, and only other time in recent history, the horseshoe weir ran dry was in February 2015, which was the time the newly enlarged Abberton Reservoir reached full capacity. The EA have confirmed that abstraction took place right through to summer this year. Reservoirs are usually topped up during the winter months and during the summer levels are expected to go down until topping up again in winter. It was pointed out that Abberton has a Visitor Centre that is more attractive when water levels are kept high.
Abberton Reservoir is a pumped storage reservoir, owned and operated by Northumbrian Water Limited (NWL). Essex and Suffolk Water, which is part of NWL, is a water supply company. Abberton Reservoir was expanded between 2011-15, new pipelines were laid, including one from the Stour at Wormingford to Abberton. This project included expansion of the Ely-Ouse to Essex transfer scheme (EOETS) to enable increased transfer of water from Norfolk to Abberton Reservoir. The EOETS prevents spare water from entering the Wash by taking it to the Essex reservoirs via rivers and pipelines. By varying the EA's abstraction licenses the additional water needed to fill the enlarged Abberton Reservoir was provided.
The general neglect of the river was also discussed as in parts it has become overgrown and barely navigable, not accessible for local anglers, difficult to see and enjoy for walkers. The River is considered an amenity for the benefit of our community; therefore the Community Council would support endeavours to protect it.
 - **School Bus Transport:** Rachel Hitchcock and Justin Dowding updated members on the concerning changes by Suffolk County Council to school transport; these are ongoing and will affect future generations of children. Appeals are underway for many of those affected but there is still great concern for many families with children who have just started secondary school and who are still unsure of travel arrangements. There is also concern that more parents will need to drive children to Nayland Primary resulting in more congestion on Bear Street during school drop off/collection times. The new school transport policy is no longer based on school catchments, instead eligibility for bus passes is based on walking routes to the nearest school (this may involve across fields, footpaths and tracks). For secondary school age children communities are being split. For example, children from one half of Nayland continue to be eligible for free transport to Thomas Gainsborough School (TGS) (for which Nayland Primary is a feeder school), the other half would be required to travel to Hadleigh (for which there is no bus service) or parents must pay the cost (£800 per child) for a 'spare seat' (if one is available) in order their children can attend TGS with their friends/siblings. For more information: www.suffolkschoolbus.org
- ◆ **Date of next meeting:** will be on **Monday 28th October 2019** at 8pm (*Exec 7.30pm*) in the Church Hall.
- ◆ **Meetings for 2020:** General meetings will be Tuesday 7th January, Wednesday 6th May, Monday 6th July, Wednesday 2nd September. The AGM will be on Monday 2nd March 2020.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm