

## Minutes of the virtual meeting (*due to Covid-19*) held on 5th January 2021

Rachel Hitchcock welcomed members to this New Year meeting and was pleased to 'see' everyone present.

- ◆ **There were 12 members present:** Rachel Hitchcock, Lesley Jameson, Lorraine Brooks, Claire Buller, Julie Clark, Bryan Smith, Jo Metson, Luke Rumbelow, Vicki Sargent, Justin Dowding, Laura Erith, David Slater.
- ◆ **Contributions from:** Wendy Sparrow, David Slater, Trevor Smy, Chris Hunt, Rob Swan, Mike Hunter.
- ◆ **Apologies were received from:** Mike Hunter, Maggie Ryan, Iain Wright, Sophie Williams, Kate Bevan.
- ◆ **Minutes of the last meeting** held on 28th October 2020 were approved (*proposed Claire Buller, seconded Bryan Smith*). Iain Wright suggested that Any Other Business had not been announced at the meeting, Rachel apologised if it had not been clearly announced; members felt there had been provision to speak up if they had any further points to raise.

### MATTERS ARISING:

#### ◆ **Executive Committee:**

Action by:

The meeting was pleased to hear that Kate Bevan has expressed an interest in joining the Exec. She was not successful in joining the Zoom meeting tonight, but it is hoped Kate can be voted on to the Exec at the AGM. Rachel reminded the meeting this was to have been her final year as Chair; it is still in her mind to step down in the not too distant future to make way for fresh blood and new ideas, however, the year had been much quieter and if there was no-one keen to take on the role Rachel would be willing to continue at the next AGM. Members of the Exec will be asked ahead of the AGM if they are also willing to continue.

- ◆ **Fundraising Activities & Events:** As always future ideas/support are welcome. 2022 will be the **Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee** year with a 4 day Bank holiday weekend on Thursday 2nd-Sunday 5th June ) <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-bank-holiday-to-mark-the-queens-platinum-jubilee-in-2022> The CC usually facilitates a large celebration for such occasions involving activities with/by other village groups - details of the last celebration at: <http://naylandcommunitycouncil.org.uk/Files/2012DiamondJubileePhotoAlbum.pdf>

The CC will begin floating the idea and welcomes ideas from other village groups who may wish to participate and individuals.

- ◆ **Community Defibrillator & Training:** As previously discussed another training event will be arranged by Rachel Hitchcock and Tracy Le Grys once the C-19 issues are over. This could introduce other aspects of First Aid.
- ◆ **Nayland 10k Fun Run:** [nayland10k.co.uk](http://nayland10k.co.uk) The 2021 run is scheduled for Sunday 4th July, subject to Covid-19 and the village hall being open. Luke will approach Littlegarth about the possibility of parking there and even starting event there if the village hall not available.

Rachel  
Hitchcock &  
Tracy Le Grys

Luke Rumbelow

- ◆ **River Stour Water Level Gauge:** Members previously agreed provision of a water level gauge located on the river would be a point of interest for residents as well as enable water levels to be monitored and reported when necessary and they would consider funding the cost. The NwW Land Company, as riparian landowners, are willing to have the gauge sited on the Meadow bank opposite Caley Green; installation does not require a permit from the EA; a gauge supplier has been found. A local installer experienced at such projects has been found and a quote has just been received with two water level marker options; that it is set to our own level @ £450 + VAT or set at the official above sea level in line with the EA and river trusts @ £750 + VAT. It was agreed that details will be circulated and the discussion continued via email.

Rachel  
Hitchcock  
Lorraine Brooks  
&  
NwW Land Co

- ◆ **Online Ticketing Facility:** A new website - [NaylandEvents.org](http://NaylandEvents.org) has been prepared by Justin Dowding which will enable any village society have a page to use to sell tickets to their events – once events can be held again it will be finalised and societies guided on its use.
- ◆ **Village Hall Garden Morning:** If you have time please pop along and undertake a little weeding/tidying to society plots. A Covid-safe gardening session will be held in spring – date to be confirmed.
- ◆ **Village Christmas Tree:** The lovely tree, supplied again by Fred Smith, look spectacular with its new lights and baubles and received many compliments. Claire Buller and all helpers were congratulated and thanked for erecting and taking down the tree. The CC is grateful to the Nayland Dental Clinic for supplying the electricity; Claire sent a thank you card.

◆ **Recent Activities:**

- **Bonfire Night & Christmas Fayre** had been cancelled due to Covid-19. Dates for 2021 will be 5th November & 4th December.
- **Christmas Trail: Advent Windows, Christmas Tree Trail & Wreath Competition.** There were 24 beautifully decorated windows, 18 festive Christmas trees and 19 unique wreaths included on the Trail map. Wreath competition results: adult, Karen Freeman; under 16, Pippa & Isla Metson; under 10, Charlie Duncan.
- **Father Christmas: Visit to Nayland.** Father Christmas and his Elf gave out over 70 bags of chocolate coins to children; there were about 150-200 youngsters, big kids and parents out to see them.

The Christmas activities were very well supported and received many positive comments. Rachel thanked all those involved including Foster Jones for chauffeuring Father Christmas and his Elf in his open-top vintage car, and everyone who participated in the Christmas Trail. Many grateful comments have been received with requests for these activities to be repeated. Photo albums including answers to the Christmas tree questions are on the CC website News page.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Lesley Jameson gave her report on finances to 31<sup>st</sup> December.

- **Breakdown of profits:** Quiz £402, Community Times £1,361, Village Calendar £640.
- **Grants paid 2020:** Nayland School Music Group £400, NwW Land Co, £550 & NwW Conservation Soc. £649.
- **Current Position:** The accounts show reserves of £26,689.65, represented by Deposit a/c monies £10,727.71, Current a/c monies £16,046.16, Cash in Hand £75.78. We hold £268.50 for the Services Fund and grants are pending for: VH roof £10,000, Lizzie's Fund Walk £201. **Therefore, unencumbered assets are £16,380.15.**
- **Expenses:** We paid £90 to Fred Smith & Son for the Christmas tree and spent £75 on Christmas Trail costs (maps, posters, Santa's sweeties). We had previously bought lights and decorations totalling £435 which will serve for a several years. We bought a SumUp card reader device for £22.80 and a second one for £19; it was a great asset selling calendars at the stalls in the High Street. The SumUp fee per entry is 1.63% (which equates to 8 pence per £5 calendar).

- **End of Year Accounts:** Matt Cable will be asked to check the year end accounts.

Lesley thanked Rachel and Lorraine for their help since she had taken over as Treasurer. They thanked Lesley, not least for her perseverance overcoming the challenges with NatWest and taking on the setting up PayPal and SumUp accounts.

- ◆ **GRANTS & DONATIONS:** There had been no new grant applications

- ◆ **Correspondence:** There had been no correspondence not included elsewhere.

- ◆ **Community Times & Websites:** Lorraine Brooks thanked all involved for enabling issues to continue during Covid-19: as we are back in Lockdown the distributors will be contacted to check they will be willing to deliver while on their permitted exercise.

Lorraine Brooks

The Village and CC websites have been beneficial and have helped with calendar sales.

- ◆ **Village Calendar:** Lorraine Brooks said copies of the calendar are still on sale at the Post Office, Forget Me Not and from 17 Court Street and can be ordered online. Thank you to Wendy Sparrow and the sales venues, and members who manned the pre-Christmas stalls in the High Street.

At 31<sup>st</sup> December profit stood at £640.26 with 183 calendars sold – a few more have been sold since. There are usually some sales in the new year.

Looking ahead: Spingold will hold their price for another year. Lorraine is willing to organise the competition and produce the calendar, Wendy is willing to produce the captions and history page copy and liaise with sales venues. The photographic competition can be conducted online if it is not able to be held in the church hall. The CC agreed they would like a calendar produced for 2022.

Lorraine Brooks  
Wendy Sparrow

It's probably time to put the cost of the calendar up; it's stayed at £5 since 2009 largely because it's been a figure that's an easy transaction with minimal float needed.

- ◆ **Forthcoming Activities:**

- **Fun Village Quiz:** (usually held February) Rachel suggested this is revisited and hopefully held later in the year. The possibility of a Bingo Night was also suggested but Woodland Corner hold one annually and we wouldn't want to step on their toes.
- **AGM:** Wednesday 3rd March by Zoom. Having liaised with the VHMC, we will hold our meetings separately this year.

Rachel Hitchcock

## SOCIETY REPORTS

- ◆ **Parish Council:** Laura Erith said the final decision on the location of the double yellow lines on Anchor Bridge was made by Suffolk CC Highways. The riverside wooden rails are missing at the bottom of the steps on the PROW footpath from Anchor Bridge to Nayland Meadow. The PC have reviewed refuse and dog bins in the village; additional bins will be installed in spring with stickers detailing where the next nearest bin is located. Babergh are calculating the rise in Council Tax.
- ◆ **Village Players:** Justin Dowding said they are optimistically planning to put on a production on the 2nd, 3rd & 4th December. They haven't decided yet whether that will be a play or a pantomime.
- ◆ **HortSoc:** Trevor Smy reported they had planned their usual spring events – Spring Show, Spring Speaker (March), AGM & Quiz (April) and Morning Market (May) – but it's looking doubtful they will go ahead. It's particularly difficult as plants need to be grown if they are taking place.
- ◆ **Book Club:** Wendy Sparrow reported the group continues to read and discuss the books chosen by individual members despite being unable to meet. They have recently read *The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn and are currently reading *Girl Reading* by Katie Ward.
- ◆ **Women's Institute:** Wendy Sparrow reported the programme for 2021 has been discussed but no speakers have been booked for the January or February meetings. It is hoped that the annual Lunch Party may take place in March but as this may be doubtful no arrangements have been made yet.
- ◆ **St James' Church:** Chris Hunt reported Coronavirus has affected life in church as well as everyone else, but the church still functions and up until now a regular Sunday Morning service has been held. Wedding and funerals - all done with social distancing and safety procedures - have been held. Although Christmas services were very much reduced - no Carol Service - Midnight Mass was celebrated and brought to an end a dismal year. The increase in the spread of Covid in this area means extra precautions need to be taken. It has been decided that regular Sunday services at St James will be suspended during January. The situation will be kept under review. The church will be open for 'Private Prayer' every Tuesday and Sunday 10am to 3pm. Information will be available in the church porch. The Priest, Revd. Mark Woodrow is leaving. We wish him well and thank him for his time here. A replacement will be sought but it may be many months before the vacancy is filled. This will mean fewer regular services: church details will be in the CT.
- ◆ **Nayland Choir:** Rob Swan reported nearly a year of restrictions has prevented activity. When regulations have permitted, they have popped their heads above the parapet and engaged in some singing in Langham village hall and memorably, outdoor carol singing in the village. And we now have the new lockdown. It is hard to see anything resembling the group pleasures of old taking place until a substantial portion of the population has been vaccinated and our freedoms restored.
- ◆ **Conservation Society:** Mike Hunter reported they held a Zoom speaker meeting on the 23rd November. If Covid restrictions continue to apply in the forthcoming months they will hold their AGM on the 8th March via Zoom. The narcissi planting at the junction of Horkesley Road and the A134 went ahead on the 30th November. The discoveries arising from the Court Knoll project continue to surprise the archaeological world. The latest development has been the carbon dating of carved wood recovered from the site to the 9th century. This reinforces the belief that it was an important mid to late Saxon site. Stuart Howells is still working on the Society's film of Nayland. He has recorded the narration by Peter Drew to a script initially prepared by Wendy Sparrow.
- ◆ **NwW Land Company:** David Slater said good progress has been made but due to Covid restrictions they are not where we had planned to be by the New Year; they have a lot of work still to do before March. All the old plastic tree guards have been removed from the hedge and Richard's wood; 120m of the hedge has been coppiced on the south side and expertly laid by Neil Catchpole and his wife, Kim; on the north side, brush wood produced by the coppicing has been used to build a dead hedge around the area that is to be rewilded; some brush wood will create more dead hedge against Richard's Wood. Erection of some new fencing, and much needed repairs and maintenance to old fencing, will be carried out when ground conditions permit. Due to Covid restrictions, the timing of our tree planting plan is under review and participation by schoolchildren is no longer an option. The permissive footpath route has been modified and the Community Council seat installed with its commemorative brass plaque fitted.
- ◆ **AOB:** There was no further business
- ◆ **Date of next meeting:** The AGM will be on **Wednesday 3rd March 2021** at 8pm (Exec 7.30pm) by Zoom.  
**Meetings for 2021:** General meetings will be Wednesday 5th May, Monday 5th July, Wednesday 1st September, Wednesday 27th October at 8pm (Exec 7.30pm) either by Zoom or in the Church Hall.

*The meeting closed at 8.40pm*