

Minutes from the meeting held on 30th October 2023

Claire Buller welcomed members to the meeting.

- ◆ **There were 14 members present:** Claire Buller, Lorraine Brooks, Matt Cable, Vicki Sargent, Iain Wright, Luke Rumbelow, Trevor Smy, Chris Hunt, Tracy Le Grys, Sam Treharne, Mike Hunter, David Slater, Kathryn Niven, Al Machin.
- ◆ **Contributions from:** Sally Dalton
- ◆ **Apologies:** Rachel Hitchcock, Julie Clark, Jo Metson, Sally Dalton.
- ◆ **Minutes of the last meeting** on 4th September 2023 were approved (*proposed Matt Cable, seconded Claire Buller*).

MATTERS ARISING:

- ◆ **Executive Committee:** As always we welcome new members to join the team. It is an enjoyable friendly village committee that provides positive events and facilities for the community. Contact Rachel on 07788 954309 or rachel_hitchcock@hotmail.com if you would like to know more. **Action by:**
- ◆ **Fundraising Activities/Events:** We have a good deal of activities being planned currently but as always future ideas and support are welcome.
- ◆ **Community Defibrillator:** Defibrillators are located at the Village Hall and at the Fire Station. The defibrillator at the Village Hall is managed by the CC.
Regarding the possibility a defibrillator in Wiston: Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) confirmed a defibrillator could operate without a power supply; the cost would be in the region £2,300; a location by the Parish Council noticeboard in Wiston has been mooted. The possibility of this being eligible for a CIL grant from Babergh was discussed at the last PC meeting; Sam Treharne said this is being looked into further by the Clerk.
The CC with the First Responders have been hoping to organise another first aid course. Tracy Le Grys, on behalf of the First Responders, said they have recently held successful CPR and defibrillator courses in Assington and asked if these courses would be welcomed in Nayland. It was felt this was an excellent idea. (*See Grants below*) **Rachel Hitchcock**
Laura Erith
Tracy Le Grys
- ◆ **River Stour Water Level Gauge:** Rachel Hitchcock has spoken to the SCC Properties Officer; there would be no problem with the water gauge being installed on the Caley Green riverbank but exact location details (between the proposed wooden revetment and the long reed bed) should be confirmed with him. **Rachel H.**
The surveyor confirmed change of location to the south bank would not affect the datum mark for the above sea level gauge. Rachel has spoken to Danny Thurlow regarding installation; he will research what's involved and if he can help he will. As a reminder the cost for installation totalled £1,380 inc VAT (*oak post £450 + VAT, Gauge Boards £450 + VAT, backing boards £250 + VAT*)
- ◆ **Online Ticketing Facility:** *NaylandEvents.org* – This has become increasingly useful for selling tickets to village events. If village organisations wish to use this facility to sell tickets for their events contact Justin Dowding at jpdowding@gmail.com.
- ◆ **Queen Elizabeth II and King Charles III commemorative feature:** This is a Parish Council project; however, they sought our suggestions for a feature to commemorate the late Queen and the coronation of the new King. The CC have awarded a grant towards the costs. Sam Treharne said work was due to commence installing the bench and planting the tree. **Parish Council**
- ◆ **Village Hall Roof Project:** *Grant funding & fundraising events 2023*
Iain Wright said the 'Nayland Family Festival' incorporating Woodland Corner's 'Inflatable Day' was held in September; it was a cut down version of what was originally planned, due to the slow take up of ticket sales, but still successful. There was £1500 profit for the roof project and £500 was raised by Woodland Corner. In total £7,000 was made from all the roof fundraiser events. They are still waiting to hear from the lottery regarding the submitted grant application. **VHMC**
- ◆ **Community Involvement:** Ideas to help raise participation of village groups and events are welcome. An item headed '*Volunteer Vacancies*' has been added to the Community Times, listing the various volunteers needed by different groups; please let Lorraine know if you have vacancies to be included along with an idea of the level of commitment needed. It is thought this helped one society gain a committee member. **Lorraine Brooks & ALL**
It would be helpful if everyone, when they see promotions for Nayland events on Facebook, could make a comment (however brief) and not just click on 'like' which is no help.

- ♦ **Nayland Post Office:** The Sorting Office closed at the end of August. The Post Office is still open. There is no further news regarding the PO premises and PO service being taken over.
- ♦ **Village Hall Gardening Morning:** The autumn garden tidy was held on 28th October. About a dozen volunteers attended.
- ♦ **St James' Flower Festival: 9th and 10th September.** Kathy Hunt was thanked for organising this event with floral arrangements from village groups and individuals as well as a display of clergy vestments and old bibles. Rachel Hitchcock was thanked for creating a lovely flower arrangement representing the CC's firework display. Visitors enjoyed the displays, refreshments and relaxed atmosphere.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Matt Cable gave his report on finances to 30th October.

- **Breakdown of profits:** Community Times £938.24, Calendar £114.89, Quiz £564.44, deposit interest £330.86.
- **Grants paid:** Nayland Bear £100, First Responders £2,165.60, PC Commemorative Bench & Tree £1,538.
- **Expenses:** Coronation Party £519.81, Bonfire night expenses £1,110.50, Hall hire charges £32, annual insurance premium £631.36.
- **Current Position:** The accounts show reserves of £22,359 represented by Deposit a/c monies £11,164.92, Current a/c monies £10,009.40, Cash in Hand £1,184.68. We hold £88.51 for the RBL Services Fund and grants are pending for: VH roof £10,000.00, VH coffee machine £280 and Lizzie's Fund £153. **Therefore, unencumbered assets are £11,837.49.**
- Rachel has submitted the required Charity Commission Annual Return in advance of the 31st October deadline.
- ♦ **Correspondence:** There had been no correspondence not included elsewhere.

♦ **GRANTS & DONATIONS:**

- **Parish Council:** would like a contribution of £1,538 towards installation of a bench, commemorative tree and railing for the late Queen and King Charles. The total cost will be £4,158. This was agreed. (*proposed Iain Wright, seconded Luke Rumbelow*)
- **Nayland Choir:** would like a contribution of £1,538 towards the costs of musicians for their 30th Anniversary concert performing 'Mozart's Requiem' in St James Church on 24th March. (*proposed Jo Metson, seconded Claire Buller*)
- **Nayland First Responders:** Following their offer to organise CPR and defibrillator courses in Nayland free of charge it was agreed to cover the cost of hall hire for the courses. (*proposed Luke Rumbelow, seconded Vicki Sargent*)
- **Bear Street Christmas Lights:** Having previously agreed to support this much loved seasonal feature, physically or financially, John Spooner has said he will not need our help with putting up the decorations. It was agreed to contribute £100 towards the electricity (*proposed Iain Wright, seconded Vicki Sargent*)

Rachel H.

Matt Cable.

- ♦ **Community Times & Websites:** Lorraine Brooks thanked all for contributing to recent issues. Heading towards the next deadline; please let Lorraine know if you have promotion or large items to include so adequate space can be reserved.

Lorraine Brooks

There have been a number of casual advertisers this year but unfortunately there have been more losses than gains in yearly subscriptions:

- 2023: Gained - ¾ page - £275, Lost: Just under full page - £337.50 - £62 losses over gains
- 2022: Gained - 1¼ page - £450, Lost: ¾ page - £275 - £175 gains over losses
- 2021: Gained - over ¼ page - £112.50, Lost: over 1 page - £380 - £268 losses over gains

Income is nowhere near its 2015 high (when income was £4.5k)... perhaps worth reminding ourselves the purpose was originally just to make the CT pay for itself, rather than have to hold a annual draw in order to fund it. The £80 per issue hike in print costs makes a larger dent in profits too.

- ♦ **Village Calendar:** Lorraine Brooks said the calendar is on sale at the Post Office, Studio B Hair Salon, Forget Me Not and online. Wendy Sparrow is as usual dealing with sales from some local shops and venues. Gladwins Farm shop, the Church Coffee Morning, Choir rehearsals, Table Tennis sessions and Wiston Church are also assisting. Sales to date are 72. We are hoping Mill Street Store & Deli may also sell them from November. Thanks to all who are helping.

Lorraine Brooks
Wendy Sparrow

Volunteers are needed to sell calendars at the 4 performances of Village Player's 'Kidnapped at Christmas' on 23rd-25th November and at Nayland Choir's 'Manchester Carols' concert on 10th December. Claire kindly agreed to cover 23rd November.

& others

Suggestions for maximising sales would be much appreciated. If you attend/ organise any events, venues where calendars could be sold please let Lorraine know.

A decision on whether to produce another calendar needs to be made at the next CC meeting (3rd January). If it is to continue it will be necessary to extend the Calendar team beyond two people and share the tasks. As the calendar generated £955 profit last year; it was felt effort to continue should be considered.

◆ **Forthcoming Activities:**

- **Bonfire & Fireworks: *Sunday 5th November.*** Rachel Hitchcock, Claire Buller & Jo Metson leading. Promotion is out. All is in hand. Firework Crazy is doing the display and Fred Bugg doing the bonfire. However, currently there is a very large puddle on the field (the firework/bonfire end); Firework Crazy will be contacted regarding contingency plans and Fred Bugg regarding the bonfire.

Rachel H.
Claire Buller
Jo Metson

Iain Wright

Sale of tickets: Online at naylandevents.org, in Nayland shops and PO. Cut off for tickets sales needs to be 1400. Sales are steady but a little slower than last year – probably due to people watching the weather. Currently 326 ticket sales online which equates to £1472 - we need to reach £2500 to cover display costs and this obviously doesn't factor in revenue from refreshments so still a positive picture given the usual sales in the final week.

Woodland Corner are having a stall. After School Club are going to make a Guy for the bonfire which will sit by the Woodland Corner Stall; Rachel has bought some lanterns for the parade. Ice Cream Van and Fish and Chip Van are confirmed. Tracy and the First Responders have agreed to be our designated first aiders again. Claire has in hand: Sausages & rolls (Mill Stores) and Mulled wine, Hot Chocolate (Woodland Corner), Children's squash. Matt is on top of beer and SumUp and floats. Set up is from 2.30pm - Claire, Wayne, Rachel, Will, Jo and Iain. The sound system will be tested and the walkie talkies put on to charge.

Volunteers would be welcome to help with the litterpick at 9.30am on Monday; Andora Carver said she will help.

- **Christmas Fayre: *Saturday 2nd December, 10am-12.30.*** Rachel Hitchcock & Vicki Sargent are leading. All is in hand with organisation, but more volunteers are needed to set up and tidy away in particular (especially as Claire and Wayne will not be there).

Rachel H.
Vicki Sargent

Eight external stallholders have booked including: Janet Rolfe (vintage china), Amie Smith (polymer clay earrings), Sarah Bugg (home-made personal gifts), plus wood carving, general items and face painting. The CC will have £50 first prize on their raffle; other prizes would be appreciated and can be given to Claire in advance or brought along on the day. The Primary School will again provide musical entertainment. Father Christmas his elf will be present; this year Peter Drew and Rachel.

- **Christmas Trail: (windows, trees & wreaths)** Rachel Hitchcock & Lorraine Brooks leading. Trail maps will be given out at the Fayre on 2nd December. Promotion for participation was in the CT, on local social media and email to previous participants (Lorraine) and via School/Woodland Corner parent-mail and WhatsApp (Rachel). Trees and wreaths should be on display from 9th December. Please let Lorraine know if you would like to participate before 25th November so you can be included on the map. Please encourage participation in the fun activity.

Rachel H.
Lorraine B

- **Christmas Tree:** Claire Buller leads. The tree will be put up on Sunday 3rd December at 9.30am volunteers to help would be welcome – this is an enjoyable activity. It will be taken down on Sunday 7th January at 9.30am. Sean Norfolk is unable to assist; Will Hitchcock will ensure the tree fits its holder.

Claire Buller

- **Father Christmas' Tour of Nayland, Village: *24th December at 2pm*** Claire Buller leads. George Pratt has kindly offered to take Father Christmas round with his Suffolk Punch mare and carriage; backup if she is in foal would be tractor and trailer. Claire will contact George to tie up arrangements.

Claire Buller

◆ **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:**

- **Fun Village Quiz: *Friday 2nd February 2024.***
- **Community Council AGM: *Monday 3rd March 2024***

SOCIETY REPORTS

- ◆ **HortSoc:** Trevor Smy said in October Jacqueline Aviolet was a very enthusiastic and amusing speaker on the subject of '*Spices: a super spicy story*'. They will be having a stall at the Christmas Fayre. They are planning for 2024; the first event will be the Spring Flower Show on 23rd March so bear this in mind when you are planting your bulbs this autumn.
- ◆ **Friends of Caley Green:** Sally Dalton reported this year's cygnets have all departed. The number of ducks seems to have increased a little. SCC's contractors have cleared the culvert and the island of reeds at its mouth to enable proper flow into the river and prevent flooding. During recent heavy rain the flow down the culvert has been fast. The contractor said there had been no evidence of wildlife living in the culvert. He dug out a few old bottles and wooden planks; this confirms that previously wooden revetment had been in place all round the bay. He also said the silt deposit sitting on top of the gravel river bed is about 8 feet deep which considerably reduces the river's capacity for holding flood water.

- ◆ **First Responders:** Tracy Le Grys said they are wondering if it would be possible to run a couple of CPR and defibrillator courses in the village. They held 4 in Assington during the last few weeks and which were very well received; 37 people leaving a lot happier to be able to deal with an emergency of this kind. The course lasts approximately 2 hours and as well as a slide show presentation, there are demonstrations and role playing. The possibility of holding courses in Nayland was discussed; the CC felt this was a good idea. (*See Grants above*)
- ◆ **Parish Council:** Sam Treharne said that installation of the Coronation tree for King Charles and memorial bench for Queen Elizabeth is about to commence; the Clerk is looking into potential CIL funding in connection with a proposal for a community defibrillator in Wiston. There remains one vacancy on the PC.
- ◆ **St James Church:** Chris Hunt said the Wednesday Coffee Mornings continue to be very popular and the Flower Festival had been enjoyed by visitors. There was to be a St James' Light Stop for Halloween with candlelight and refreshments for trick or treaters. Keep your eyes open for details of Christmas services.
- ◆ **Royal British Legion:** Chris Hunt said the annual Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning will be on 4th November at 10am – 12 noon in the Church Hall. On 11th November the Armistice Day gathering for 2 minutes silence takes place at 11am at the War Memorial in the High Street. On 12th November Remembrance Sunday services take place at the War Memorial Wiston (at 10am), Nayland (10.45am) followed by service in St James'.
- ◆ **Conservation Society:** Mike Hunter reported they will they will have a table at the Christmas Fayre selling tea towels, books, etc. On 6th November Dr Sian Dawson will present a talk entitled 'Petals & Paint Sir Cedric Morris Florilegium'.
The speaker for our October meeting had to be changed at the last minute; Terry Bannister kindly stepped in and did an excellent job talking about the war time experiences of her polish born father. The autumn litter pick was reasonably well supported which enabled a good clean up. On 12th October volunteers planted a further few hundred naturalised narcissi at the junction of Horkesley Road and the A134. Roll on spring! A wonderful display case made by Mike Roffe housing two volumes by the Reverend William Jones, perpetual curate of our church in the 18th century has been installed in St James' Church. A QR code is displayed so the whole documents can be viewed online via devices.
- ◆ **Land Company (Nayland Meadow):** David Slater said it's been pleasing to see how well the length of improved footpath stood up to the recent torrential rain. They are hoping to improve more of the permissive path this winter. They have been trying to come up with a suitable name for the piece of land we manage – currently known as 'Nayland Meadow'; they would welcome any suggestions from local people for a popular and suitable name.
- ◆ **Art Group:** Kathryn Niven said they have been doing some preparatory drawing with a view to printing cards and are going to Blue Owl to paint some baubles. We continue with our watercolour painting, recently thinking about composition and how the foreground can 'frame' the picture, but we also have an acrylic painting session planned so that we can explore a different media. Taster sessions for new members are free.
- ◆ **Choir:** Kathryn Niven said they are currently practising for the '*Manchester Carols*' concert - a series of songs and readings that interpret the Christmas story. This will be held on 10th December in the Village Hall. They are learning some additional pieces which will also feature in the church carol service. The Choir is planning a special 30th anniversary concert in St James Church on 24th March.
- ◆ **Book Group:** Kathryn Niven said they recently read '*Minor Disturbances at Grand Life Apartments*' by Hema Sukumar. They are now reading '*The Ice Queen*' by Alice Hoffman. Although mostly fiction, we cover quite a few genres as we take turns to choose the books; some divide opinion more than others but it always makes for an interesting discussion.
- ◆ **Christmas Tree Festival:** Kathryn Niven said over village organizations businesses and individuals are taking part or contributing to this event being held on 9th, 10th and 16th December. Donations will benefit fund a special project at Nayland Primary School to and St James' Church.
- ◆ **Village Hall:** Iain Wright said the hall has seen increased use. A noise restrictor is being installed following complaints from neighbours; this has suffered delays due to supply issues. Routine maintenance continues.
- ◆ **Village Players:** The meeting was reminded that the '*Kidnapped at Christmas*' production dates are 23rd-25th November with a matinee on 25th.
- ◆ **AOB:** Chris Hunt thanked the Community Council for what they do and wished them a Merry Christmas.
- ◆ **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** will on **Wednesday 3rd January** at 7.30pm (Exec 7pm) in the Church Hall.
- ◆ **Meetings for 2024:** Mon 4th March AGM (*also VHMC AGM*), Weds 1st May, Weds 3rd July, Mon 2nd September, Weds 30th October.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm