

Minutes from the meeting held on 3rd May 2023 in the Church Hall

Rachel Hitchcock welcomed members to the meeting.

- ♦ **There were 11 members present:** Rachel Hitchcock, Lorraine Brooks, Matt Cable, Claire Buller, Jo Metson, Iain Wright, Laura Erith, Trevor Smy, Chris Hunt, David Slater, Robert Dossor.
- ♦ **Contributions from:** Tracy Le Grys, Sally Dalton, Luke Rumbelow, Mike Hunter.
- ♦ **Apologies:** Julie Clarke, Luke Rumbelow, Bryan Smith, Sally Dalton, Tracy Le Grys, Vicki Sargent, Maggie Ryan, Heike Ellwood, Justin Dowding, Mike Hunter.
- ♦ **Minutes of the last meeting** on 4th January 2023 were approved (*proposed Claire Buller, seconded Rachel Hitchcock*).

MATTERS ARISING:

- ♦ **Executive Committee:** Rachel Hitchcock advised that although Heike Ellwood was unable to attend this evening she was willing to join the Exec. Members were delighted and unanimously agreed (*proposed Jo Metson, seconded Claire Buller*); they look forward to welcoming Heike at the next meeting.

Action by:

As always we would welcome people to consider joining 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 07788 954309 or 263169 or rachel_hitchcock@hotmail.com if you would like to know more.

- ♦ **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 which is managed by the CC is regularly checked by Jo Metson and Dawn Harris with back up from Rachel who will be the link with the Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) making sure our subscription and equipment is up to date. The pads will need replacing later on this year and the battery has just been replaced (covered by our annual subscription).

Rachel
Hitchcock

In March a weekly status check showed that the battery wasn't working; a report was submitted, alerting the ambulance service the defibrillator was inactive, it was reported to CHT. Within a few days a new battery was fitted and the defibrillator working properly again. Battery life is usually 5 years and this was the case with this battery; we will order a new battery in the months leading up to the battery reaching that age.

Rachel and Tracy Le Grys have looked into putting on another first aid course; they are not currently being run by the trainers used previously but when they resume arrangements will be made. Alternatively, we could ask CHT.

It has been suggested that a community access defibrillator for Wiston may be beneficial as minutes matter. CHT have advised that grants are now very limited. It was suggested a central location for siting a defibrillator may be by the PC notice board however electricity supply may be an issue. Rachel will look further into all aspects regarding this proposal. If this comes to fruition the next training session could take place once it is installed.

- ♦ **River Stour Water Level Gauge:** Rachel Hitchcock emailed Dale Leeks advising we would like to progress this project. She has asked for the current cost to be confirmed. The cost totalling £1,380 inc. VAT was agreed in May 2021. To date there has been no response despite trying other ways of contacting Dale. Sally Dalton will try to contact Dale to check he is still willing to take this job on, and ask him respond to Rachel.

Rachel H.
Sally Dalton

- ♦ **Nayland 10k Fun Run:** nayland10k.co.uk The date will be Sunday 9th July 2023. Entries are currently around 250. This is a slower uptake than previous years but entries are likely to pick up in June. As usual about 30 volunteers from the Nayland community would be welcome to help with marshalling from about 9.30-11.30am; there is a feel-good vibe and volunteers as well as runners enjoy the event. Please contact Luke 07598 821663 rumbelow_2000@yahoo.co.uk or Rachel Hitchcock 263169 rachel_hitchcock@hotmail.com if you can help.

Luke Rumbelow
Rachel H.

- ♦ **Online Ticketing Facility:** NaylandEvents.org – This continues to be very useful, and is going from strength to strength. If village organisations wish to use this facility to sell tickets for their events contact Justin Dowding at jpdowding@gmail.com.

♦ **Village Hall Gardening Morning:** A small group of volunteers, including Rachel, donned tools for the spring gardening session held on 1st April. ATS Skips kindly donated a skip which was very helpful for disposing of the considerable amount of pruned shrubs and weeds cleared.

♦ **King Charles III's Coronation:** *Sunday 7th May a Picnic on Webb's Meadow/Village Hall from 12-3.30pm (as part of the nationwide 'Big Lunch')*. Following an appeal for volunteers to co-ordinate an event Kathy Hunt put herself forward but further help was needed. The Baby & Toddler Group will have their play equipment out and will make flags and crowns with children (cost £22.25 - Matt to reimburse). Chris Hunt will be on the microphone. Lorraine has compiled a little Royal themed quiz, Nayland photo quiz and wordsearch – answers will be posted on *naylandandwiston.net* in the late afternoon, just after the event. Adults and children will be encouraged to dress up and a children's parade held with gifts for all children participating. There will be spot prizes for stand out items, such as, outfits, headwear, cupcakes, picnic or other things seen. Rachel has purchased chocolate medals for children and shortbread biscuits for adults. Rachel has booked Punch 'n' Judy and a Circus Workshop (magic tricks inside if weather is bad) and an Ice Cream van. Tea/coffee/biscuits will be served. Bunting will decorate the hall/field and background music will add to the atmosphere (Iain is providing the equipment, Rachel has bought CDs). The bunting will be put up from 10am on Sunday 7th. If weather is bad tables will be put out in the hall.

Kathy Hunt
Rachel
Hitchcock
Claire Buller

The Coronation Peal of St James' bells will take place at 9.30am on Saturday 6th May.

♦ **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 consensus was for a specimen tree of stature with plaque for the late Queen and a bench and plaque for the new King on Caley Green. SCC, as landowners of Caley Green, have given their approval so the PC can take this forward.

Parish Council

♦ **Village Hall Roof Project:** *Grant funding & fundraising events 2023*

Iain Wright updated details of fundraising events which will be: on Saturday 24th June a 'Midsummer Prom in the Park' concert with a 15-piece orchestra, on Friday 7th July a 'Vintage Afternoon Tea with Music', on the weekend of 16th & 17th September a 'Fun Food and Music' event which will incorporate Woodland Corner's 'Inflatable Day'. The Beatles Night on 4th March was very successful raising £2,420.

VHMC

Regarding grants for the roof project Iain said they have encouraging support from the National Lottery who wish to visit the hall.

♦ **Nayland Post Office:** The PO and Sorting Office will be closing later this year. The PC are in contact with Royal Mail and Post Office Counters; they will keep Rachel informed if there is anything that the CC can usefully do to support ensuring some form of future post office provision. Once the current postmistress' retirement is confirmed the Network Design Department will examine provision in the whole area and decide what options are possible for Nayland. If sale or lease of business and premises is not an option, they could look at outreach provisions. This could involve a 'pop up' counter, perhaps at a hall, on the route of an existing postmaster who does outreach already. Royal Mail have advised that we'll now be serviced by the sorting office in Sudbury and assured the PC that Nayland residents shouldn't otherwise notice a change in the service received from Royal Mail.

Parish Council
Rachel
Hitchcock

TREASURER'S REPORT: Matt Cable gave his report on finances to 3rd May.

- **Breakdown of profits:** Community Times £367.50, Quiz £564.44, £89.19 deposit interest.
- **Grants paid:** Nayland Bear £100.
- **Expenses:** None to date.
- **Current Position:** The accounts show reserves of £27,020.25 represented by Deposit a/c monies £10,923.25, Current a/c monies £15,413.07, Cash in Hand £683.93. We hold £268.50 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 £16,318.75.**

♦ **GRANTS & DONATIONS:**

- **Nayland First Responders:** *for additional Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and equipment to share among the increased number of responders on duty. Cost £2,165. It was agreed to award this grant (proposed Claire Buller, seconded Iain Wright).*

♦ **Recent CC Activities:**

- **Calendar Photo Competition:** *as reported below*

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

- ♦ **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. After a gradual decline in advertising (since its 2015 all time high) it is gradually picking up again.

Lorraine Brooks

- ♦ **Village Calendar:** Lorraine Brooks said sales of 193 calendars was not far off the last two years but still down on previous years which were always over 200. Expenses were higher as the photo competition display in the church hall was resumed and the print cost had increased.

Lorraine Brooks
Wendy Sparrow

This year's photographic competition to generate images for the calendar was held over the weekend of 29th April - 1st May and 200 fabulous photos were submitted by 30 participants. The display was available to view online and 25 people (44 last year, 37 in 2021) voted for their favourite scenes. We are grateful to the sponsors; 10 have confirmed. Lorraine will now assemble the calendar and Wendy Sparrow will write the captions. Laura Erith and Jo Metson kindly offered to help with proofreading. As previously reported the cost of printing 300 copies will be £579 +VAT.

Once the calendars are printed sales will begin at the Flower Show. Wendy Sparrow will as usual deal with sales from some local shops and events. The closure of the PO will affect sales. Claire Buller kindly agreed to help with some errands involved. At the next meeting it hoped to have volunteers come forward to maximise sales at village events, venues and other opportunities. Suggestions and help with this would be much appreciated.

SOCIETY REPORTS

- ♦ **HortSoc:** Trevor Smy said the Morning Market (sale of plants, cakes, refreshment and raffle) will be on Saturday 13th May, 9.30am-12, Church Hall. They are introducing a 'Tallest Sunflower Competition' to the Summer Flower Show; further seedlings will be available free at the Morning Market for residents of all ages to participate. Bookings are being taken for the coach outing to Bressingham Steam & Gardens on 21st June.

Trevor expressed concern at the level of support at recent events; they had very poor support for their spring speaker and attendance for the Spring Show and AGM & Fun Quiz was not encouraging. Membership (which is just £3, or £5 for joint) is considerably depleted. The current number of bookings for the coach outing is a concern as HortSoc cannot continue to run at a loss.

- ♦ **Friends of Caley Green:** Sally Dalton reported that they continue to keep an eye on the Green. There have been some incidents of people not picking up after their dogs which they are monitoring and erection of banners without permission which they have taken down following consultation with the PC. The cygnets of the river swans have hatched.
- ♦ **First Responders:** Tracy Le Grys reported that they have a new person doing their training this month and will soon have 5 fully trained first responders in the group. This will enable us to give even more cover to the local area. Tracy has kindly offered to be on call, via her mobile number, if any help with first aid is needed during the Coronation Picnic on 7th May.
- ♦ **Parish Council:** Laura Erith said attendance at their Annual Parish Assembly had been disappointing; they will make greater effort to encourage attendance next year. The meeting covered councillor's reports on the previous year and took questions from residents. There was a complaint regarding the siting of a new dog bin; this will be removed and an alternative site considered. The election was uncontested and two councillors, Mary George and Ned Cartwright, are stepping down. They are two councillors short so once again on the recruitment program but with Owen Brown and Sam Treharne joining the average age is now considerably lower than previously. Following concerns raised by the PC and Conservation Society regarding planning decisions a meeting with Babergh Planning Officers will take place in Nayland on 5th May.
- ♦ **St James Church:** Chris Hunt said the concerts held in the church continue to be successful and help raise money towards church projects. There are a number of repairs needed in the church; its upkeep is costly. The Fete was once again successful. The new Chairman of the Friends of St James is Cameron Craig. The Wednesday Coffee Mornings continue to be popular. He was pleased to say that the developing bellringing team will be able to ring a Peal for the Coronation.
- ♦ **Land Company (Nayland Meadow):** David Slater said they hoped people enjoyed the encouraging display of cowslips on the wildflower belt of the Meadow. The shepherd, Trevor Street, wished to keep his ewes closer to home during lambing this year; with lambing nearing completion it's anticipated he will soon be bringing some ewes and lambs down to graze the Meadow. Having been blessed with a long period of dry weather it enabled Danny Thurlow and his sons to complete the footpath improvements. Grass seed has been sown along the path. The present surface is a great improvement on mud and has been well received. The path will be given six months to settle, and if no problems occur by autumn they would like to consider doing further stretches of the path next year if finance is available.
- ♦ **Royal British Legion:** Robert Dossor said that the Nayland branch are keen to encourage new membership and interest in their activities. We are not 'old men with medals' and take an interest in many non-political local matters, although with a slant towards things military and, of course Remembrance. They are pleased that Kathy Hunt has agreed to be their new Secretary.

Their last meeting heard about a young Naval officer's experiences in the Falklands and the next one on 22nd May in the Village Hall will hear from the navigator of a nuclear submarine and his actions on deployment at the time of the Falklands war. This meeting is open to anyone and will not contain RBL business. The 2023 visit is to Suffolk County Council's "Energy from Waste" plant on 12th July and the September speaker will be David Pryor, a retired forensic pathologist.

- ◆ **Conservation Society:** Mike Hunter said for a myriad of reasons only about 10 gardens are available to open for visitors (usually over 20) so they have reluctantly decided to cancel Open Gardens this year, but next year's event will take place on the 9th June.

The Spring Footpath walk takes place on 14th May; it will focus on the topic of bombing in the Dedham Vale! On 19th June former Nayland resident Sir Bob Russell will give a talk on his childhood '*Memories of Nayland*'. The October talk features Nick Amor on the subject of '*Keeping the Peace in Medieval Suffolk*' and in November Dr Sian Dawson will present a talk on '*Petals & Paint Sir Cedric Morris Florilegium*'.

Following concerns raised regarding various planning matters by the Society and the Parish Council, they will be meeting senior officers from Babergh Planning Dept to discuss the matters further.

- ◆ **AOB: Support and Participation of Parish Organisations and Events:** Concern has been raised recently by a number of village organisations regarding reduced participation in their activities and the reduced number of volunteers coming forward. It was suggested that this is sadly a Nationwide trend; life is busier generally, people need to work longer hours and for a greater number of years; grandparents frequently become child minders. It seems also to be the case that since Covid people are out of the habit of participating and socialising. Any thoughts or ideas would be welcome.

- ◆ **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** will on **Wednesday 5th July 2023** at 7.30pm (Exec 7pm) in the Church Hall. General meeting dates for 2023: will be Monday 4th September & Monday 30th October.

The meeting closed at 9pm