

Minutes from the meeting held on 5th July 2023

Rachel Hitchcock welcomed members to the meeting.

- ♦ **There were 13 members present:** Rachel Hitchcock, Lorraine Brooks, Matt Cable, Vicki Sargent, Julie Clarke, Iain Wright, Trevor Smy, Chris Hunt, Justin Dowding, Mike Hunter, Tracy Le Grys, Corinne Spooner, Adam Lunn.
- ♦ **Contributions from:** Sally Dalton, Laura Erith, David Slater, Robert Dossor.
- ♦ **Apologies:** Claire Buller, Jo Metson, Luke Rumbelow, Sally Dalton, Laura Erith, Gillian Manser, Kathryn Niven, David Slater, Robert Dossor.
- ♦ **Minutes of the last meeting** on 3rd May 2023 were approved (*proposed Julie Clarke, seconded Iain Wright*).

MATTERS ARISING:

- ♦ **Executive Committee:** 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 that provides positive events and facilities for the community 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. **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. Rachel is exploring the possibility of another defibrillator at Wiston. Unfortunately grant funding is no longer available. Iain Wright agreed to check if there was a defibrillator at the campsite; if there is whether they would mind it being publicised, if not could they help with a location for a defibrillator by the farm. UPDATE SINCE MEETING: Rachel has now confirmed that there is an option of defibrillator which does not require a power supply (this was not previously available). Depending on the outcome of the conversation with Rushbanks, this would obviously help with considering potential sites for the defibrillator. Rachel has requested a quote for this. **Rachel Hitchcock**
Iain Wright
- ♦ **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. **Tracy Le Grys**
The riverbank as well as the river at the proposed location for the gauge has become very overgrown since the initial proposal and a gauge on the Meadow side of the river is now unlikely to be seen; Rachel will look into gaining permission with Suffolk CC who are the riparian owners at Caley Green regarding the possibility of locating it there. Vicki Sargent will ask the surveyor if a new location would affect the above sea level gauge and ask for recommendations of an installer.
- ♦ **Nayland 10k Fun Run:** nayland10k.co.uk Sunday 9th July at Littlegarth School. **Rachel H.**
Vicki Sargent
Rachel Hitchcock expressed thanks to the good number of volunteers who have come forward to help with marshalling, etc. **Luke Rumbelow**
Rachel H.
Luke has reported that he has strimmed the path from the bridge near the anchor to the smaller bridge along the river. He'll trim down where needed on Friday when putting up the route signage. Help would be much appreciated on Saturday morning from 9.45-12pm in the Sports Hall at the school with registration.
Note: There is a wasp's nest near the Nayland Meadow riverside path; it is right on the waterline next to the portage by the weir so should not affect runners.
- ♦ **Online Ticketing Facility:** NaylandEvents.org – This continues to be very 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.

◆ **King Charles III's Coronation: *Sunday 7th May a Picnic on Webb's Meadow/Village Hall***

It was a lovely, informal and jolly get together with about 150 gaily dressed villagers turning out to enjoy the sunshine and the lovely community atmosphere. The CC booked Punch 'n' Judy and magic tricks and requested an ice cream van attend. A huge thank you to Kathy Hunt, the Baby & Toddlers Group and all helpers for their efforts leading up to and at the Coronation Picnic and of course to everyone that came along.

- ◆ **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. Parish Councillor, Dawn Harris, has been progressing this project and it's hoped it will come to fruition in October.

Parish Council

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

Iain Wright updated details of fundraising events. The '*Midsummer Prom in the Park*' concert with a 15-piece orchestra made approx £2,200 with 250 attending; they are grateful for the Babergh grant of £2,600 to put this on. The sound technician was very expensive and some lessons were learned but it was a successful event which received many compliments. The sound was amazing and Emma Bishton's voice was sublime.

VHMC

The next events will be: on Friday 7th July a '*Vintage Afternoon Tea with harpist Xenia Horne*', on 16th September a '*Fun Food and Festivities*' event which will incorporate Woodland Corner's '*Inflatable Day*'. The Beatles Night on 4th March was very successful raising £2,420.

Regarding grants for the roof project, they are working simultaneously on grants from Babergh and the National Lottery and providing them with the additional information required.

- ◆ **Nayland Post Office:** The PO and Sorting Office will be closing at the end of August. It appears that the proprietors of Mill Street Store & Deli will be taking over the PO and sorting office premises and are proposing to maintain the Post Office counter service. Jade will be doing her training with the post office. Dates are not known.

Contrary to some rumour Forget Me Not is not closing. Both these updates are excellent news.

- ◆ **Community Involvement:** Ideas to help raise participation of village groups and events are welcome. An item headed **Volunteer Vacancies** will be added to the Community Times, listing the various volunteers needed by different groups; please let Lorraine know if you have vacancies to be included. It was suggested including what vacancies involve and the level of commitment required.

Lorraine Brooks
& ALL

Lorraine Brooks has been helping village groups promote their events on Facebook, however, it is important that others comment on the promotion (not just 'like' them). It would be helpful if all residents, when they see promotions for Nayland events, could make a comment (however brief). This helps keep the promotion in the discussion and not disappear out of sight down the page.

It was also suggested that the online diary of events could help avoid clashes and 'busy weeks' of events if organisers would utilise it. Events held in the village and church halls are included automatically; if you are planning an event in the church or anywhere else please add details at: www.naylandandwiston.net and select the **Events** tab. This will also help promote events.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Matt Cable gave his report on finances to 5th July.

- **Breakdown of profits:** Community Times £361.62, Calendar £125, Quiz £564.44, £89.19 deposit interest.
- **Grants paid:** Nayland Bear £100, First Responders £2,165.60.
- **Expenses:** Coronation Party £519.81, Bonfire night pre-payment £500, Hall hire charges £32.
- **Current Position:** The accounts show reserves of £23,971.47 represented by Deposit a/c monies £10,923.25, Current a/c monies £12,386.54, Cash in Hand £661.68. We hold £112.50 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 £13,425.97.**

◆ **GRANTS & DONATIONS:**

- **Nayland First Responders:** They are hugely grateful for the grant of £2,165 for Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) and equipment to share among the increased number of responders on duty.

- ◆ **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.

Lorraine Brooks

- ◆ **Village Calendar:** Lorraine Brooks said the calendar has gone to print – see copy of print proof being passed round. Thanks to Wendy for her captions, the proof readers and all the sponsors – three new ones were Mill Street Store & Deli, Studio B Hair Salon and Nayland Mobility at The Studios, Harpers Hill. As previously reported the cost of printing 300 copies will be £579 +VAT (same cost as last year).

Lorraine Brooks
Wendy Sparrow
Matt Cable

& others

Once the calendars are printed pro-active help with sales will be needed. They will be on sale at the Flower Show on 5th August. Wendy Sparrow will as usual deal with sales from some local shops and venues, Claire kindly agreed to assist with some errands. Matt Cable will hold a supply of calendars to supply those helping to sell them. Volunteers are required to maximise sales at village events, venues and other opportunities. Suggestions and help with this would be much appreciated.

- ◆ **Forthcoming Activities:**

- **Bonfire & Fireworks: Sunday 5th November.** Rachel Hitchcock, Claire Buller & Jo Metson leading. All is in hand; the deposit to Firework Crazy has been paid.

Promotion: Details will remain the same. Great Horkelesley magazine now charge for promotions; it was agreed to pay £20 for half page advert.

Sale of tickets: Rachel has liaised with Woodland Corner regarding a joint Ticket/Cake Sale; this will take place on 7th October in the High Street. Last year there was also a stall alongside Nayland Bear's Halloween visit which may be repeated. Claire is happy to help.

- **Christmas Fayre: Saturday 2nd December, 10am-12.30.** Rachel Hitchcock & Vicki Sargent will lead. Some potential stallholders have been contacted.
- **Christmas Trail: (windows, trees & wreaths)** Rachel is willing to lead and provide promotion on WhatsApp, parentmail etc to gain additional participants and to organise judging/prizes, and take photos. Lorraine is willing to continue her previous tasks (general promotion, emailing previous participants, co-ordinating participants and producing the map/doc)
- **Christmas Tree:** Claire Buller leads
- **Father Christmas' Tour of Nayland, Village:** Claire Buller leads. Alternative transport is being looked into. John Spooner's contact (George Pratt) has agreed to help; depending on whether his Suffolk Punch mare is in foal he would be able to use her and a carriage to take Father Christmas round. If she is in foal he could use a tractor and trailer.
- **Fun Village Quiz: Friday 2nd February 2024 – the village hall is booked**

SOCIETY REPORTS

- ◆ **HortSoc:** Trevor Smy said the Morning Market in May was well supported with plenty of visitors and almost everything was sold. We had a wonderful day out to Bressingham Steam & Gardens and the weather was lovely. But numbers were down and we made a considerable loss. Support of HortSoc activities has been disappointing post Brexit and we cannot keep making a loss so the committee needs to do some hard thinking.
The Summer Flower Show is on 5th August with two new competitions; Tallest Parish Hollyhock and Tallest Sunflower grown from seeds/plants provided in the spring. On 24th October Jacqueline Aviolet will give a talk on 'Spices'.
- ◆ **Friends of Caley Green:** Sally Dalton reported the Green has been well used during the heatwave. It was lovely to see all the schoolchildren and their families enjoying their annual sports day picnic but the Green was left in quite a mess afterwards needing a major litterpick and disposal of rubbish. The walnut tree near the riverbank was also damaged by children playing on it. All eight cygnets hatched this year are doing well.
- ◆ **First Responders:** Tracy Le Grys thanked the CC for amazing grant; this will enable them to purchase new equipment and mean that we can have 3 full kit bags between the 5 fully trained members of the group. This in turn will give the local area more cover in an emergency. They have kindly offered to help if first aid is needed during the Fun, Food & Festivities and Bonfire Night events and would like a stall at the FFF.
- ◆ **Art Group:** Kathryn Niven reported that but they are ticking over okay! They've recently done some life drawing and drawings of insects with our tutors.
- ◆ **Parish Council:** Laura Erith reported that the memorial tree for Queen Elizabeth and Coronation bench for King Charles is progressing; Dawn Harris who is leading the project hopes it will come to fruition in October. The dog bin on Fen Street has been taken down due to neighbours being upset with its positioning; there is one at the far end of Fen Street. There is no update on the planning applications at Rushbanks campsite or the dwelling by the old Scout Hut. A campaign by ex-staff of Jane Walker Hospital to create a fitting memorial and replace the small iron crosses marking the graves of the residents; fundraising via 'Just Giving' is going well. Work by Suffolk CC to clear the culvert beside Caley Green from Bear Street to the river has had a set back; it's hoped this will now take place in August. The PC need two more councillors which would help distribute the workload.

- ◆ **St James Church:** Chris Hunt said weekly and morning services continue as normal and a monthly Family Service, which is very children friendly. The Wednesday Coffee Mornings continue to be popular. In June we were treated to a concert by a visiting Gospel Choir, organised by the 'Friends of St James'. Before the June Family Service the church bells were rung by a local band, the first time since before lockdown. Thanks to our new ringers; they continue to practice including at other churches. Over the weekend of 8th/9th September it is proposed to hold a Flower Festival in the church; all creative flower arrangers among the various village groups please start thinking about taking part.
- ◆ **Baby & Toddler Group:** Gillian Manser reported they enjoyed providing children's activities for the Nayland Coronation picnic; the children made flags and crowns and enjoyed using some of our toys and equipment. They have been busy in our toddler sessions with sand and water play outside and enjoying special activities this term. There has been a drop in numbers attending leading up to the end of summer term but believe this is not unusual due to the fine weather. Autumn term begins on 15th September; we hope to host a special 'boogie beats session' during that month. We plan to increase our advertising to hopefully increase numbers once again.
- ◆ **Royal British Legion:** Robert Dossor said over 60 people attended their May meeting in the Village Hall when Cdr Jonty Powis described his experiences on HMS Conqueror – the only nuclear submarine ever to engage and sink and enemy warship. The event raised over £235 for Cdr Powis' chosen Charity, the Derby Sea Cadets. They have a busy July: on Wednesday 12th a party of 18 will be having a guided tour of Suffolk County Council's 'Energy from Waste' plant at Great Blakenham, run by the SUEZ organisation. On Monday 17th Andrew Gowen will be talking on the subject of 'The Muslim Religion' and in September our speaker will be David Pryor, who is a retired forensic pathologist.
- ◆ **Conservation Society:** Mike Hunter said in June around 80 people enjoyed listening to former Nayland resident Sir Bob Russell recount his childhood 'Memories of Nayland'. At the meeting arranged jointly with the PC to discuss with senior planning officers the perceived failure of Babergh DC to deal with various planning and enforcement matters they accepted that on a number of occasions they had made mistakes in their decisions. They advised they were working towards facilitating access by Parish Councils on matters of concern. A small but significant victory! The speaker on 2nd October will be Nick Amor on the subject 'Keeping the Peace in Medieval Suffolk' and on 6th November Dr Sian Dawson's talk is entitled 'Petals & Paint Sir Cedric Morris Florilegium'. The Society is disappointed with the decision by our County Councillor not to support the introduction of a 20 mph speed limit or zone within the centre of the village on financial grounds and the PC not to pursue the application themselves.
- ◆ **Land Company (Nayland Meadow):** David Slater reported the hedgerows and nearly all the trees planted in the last few years benefitted from the very wet spring and the display of wild flowers has been exceptionally good. Despite the wet weather the improved parts of the path have no longer been muddy. But the field looks rather untidy; under the rules of the Countryside stewardship scheme we are not allowed to do any topping or cutting before 1st July, and then only for hay or silage that has to be removed from the field. Topping is only allowed after August 1st. The PC have kindly agreed to let the grass cutting contractor include our footpath in his work schedule. There are two new Information Boards; thanks to Craig Norfolk and Spingold for help with these. There is a wasps'
- ◆ nest by the waterline next to the portage near the Horseshoe weir; chemicals cannot be used so warning signage is in place for walker and river craft users.
- ◆ **Choir:** Justin Dowding said the '*Songs Of Liberty*' concert with a mix of folk songs, opera choruses and medleys from Les Miserables and Hamilton takes place in 14th July. There will be a light supper.
- ◆ **Village Players:** Justin Dowding said the dates of auditions for their 'Kidnapped at Christmas' production may be subject to change; check www.villageplayers.co.uk for updates.
- ◆ **AOB:** There was no further business
- ◆ **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** will on **Monday 4th September** at 7.30pm (Exec 7pm) in the Church Hall.
Meetings for 2023: Monday 30th October. **2024:** Weds 3rd January, March AGM tbc, Weds 1st May, Weds 3rd July, Mon 2nd September, Weds 30th October.
The meeting closed at 8.55pm