

Minutes from the meeting held on 4th September 2023

Rachel Hitchcock welcomed members to the meeting.

- ♦ **There were 13 members present:** Rachel Hitchcock, Lorraine Brooks, Matt Cable, Claire Buller, Heike Ellwood, Trevor Smy, Chris Hunt, Justin Dowding, Tracy Le Grys, Laura Erith, Sam Treharne, David Slater, Iain Wright
- ♦ **Contributions from:** Sally Dalton, Mike Hunter, Robert Dossor, Gillian Manser
- ♦ **Apologies:** Vicki Sargent, Julie Clark, Jo Metson, Mike Hunter, Sally Dalton, Robert Dossor, Luke Rumbelow.
- ♦ **Minutes of the last meeting** on 5th July 2023 were approved (*proposed Matt Cable, seconded Rachel Hitchcock*).

MATTERS ARISING:

- ♦ **Executive Committee:** We were pleased to welcome Heike Ellwood to the Exec. 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.
Rushbanks have confirmed that they have a defibrillator but it is not linked to the local ambulance service and is a little inaccessible for public access. Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) have confirmed there is now a defibrillator which can operate without a power supply which would open up more options; the cost would be in the region £2,300. Laura Erith will explore if this would be eligible for a CIL grant from Babergh. A location by the Parish Council noticeboard was once again mooted. **Rachel Hitchcock**
Laura Erith
Tracy Le Grys pointed out that the two Nayland defibrillators are not included on defibfinder.uk; CHT have advised Rachel to delay registering the CC's defibrillator at the Village Hall as the system has some glitches to overcome. As always the key is to call 999 immediately and they will direct you to your nearest defibrillator if needed.
Rachel and Tracy Le Grys will progress organising another first aid course in due course, which two of the first responders are now qualified to deliver. **Tracy Le Grys**
- ♦ **River Stour Water Level Gauge:** Rachel Hitchcock has spoken to the SCC Properties Officer (he is all things Caley Green) who confirmed that there would be no problem with the water level gauge being installed that side of the river - we will obviously need to confirm exact positioning. A spot near the end of the long reed bed would make sense. The cost totalling £1,380 inc. VAT was agreed in May 2021. **Rachel H.**
The surveyor has confirmed moving it to the Caley Green riverbank would not require another datum mark for the above sea level gauge. An appropriate installer will be sought.
- ♦ **Nayland 10k Fun Run:** nayland10k.co.uk Sunday 9th July. **Luke Rumbelow**
This was the sixth 10k, 5k, 1k Nayland Fun Run. There were over 400 runners taking part. Thanks to all the volunteers who gave up their Sunday morning to help. It was necessary at the eleventh hour to change venue from Littlegarth to the village hall; well done to Luke for managing to get round this problem. The event donated over £1000 for the Community Council, SESAW and the Tom Bowdidge Youth Cancer Foundation. £425 for the CC.
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **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, who has been progressing this hopes the tree will be a Copper Beech and has confirmed that positioning will not prevent the Green being used if the Air Ambulance needs to land there.. **Parish Council**
- ♦ **Village Hall Roof Project:** *Grant funding & fundraising events 2023*
Iain Wright said they are very grateful to have had received a donation of £1,000 from HortSoc. They will be visited this week by a representative from the National Lottery

regarding their grant application. The Vintage Afternoon Tea event made £950 profit.

VHMC

On 16th September a 'Nayland Family Festival' incorporating Woodland Corner's 'Inflatable Day' will be held. The programme of music is organised. Tickets are available at naylandevents.org. Volunteers would be welcome to help on the day with setting up in the morning and for front gate, rear gate parking and raffle during the event between 1pm and 10pm. Please let Claire Buller - 07971 065856 or clairejbuller@gmail.com - know if you are able to do a stint and when you might be available

Claire Buller

- ♦ **Nayland Post Office:** The Sorting Office closed at the end of August. The Post Office is still open. We have no details on when the current postmistress will be retiring and when the proprietors of Mill Street Store & Deli may be taking over the premises in which they were proposing to maintain a Post Office counter service.

- ♦ **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 along with an idea of the level of commitment needed.

Lorraine Brooks
& ALL

Please note, 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'

- ♦ **Village Hall Gardening Morning:** The next Gardening session will be on Saturday 28th October from 9am - please support this if you can; it is a pleasant social activity and refreshments are provided
- ♦ **St James' Flower Festival: 9th and 10th September.** Organised by Kathy Hunt. Rachel Hitchcock and Claire Buller have agreed to include a CC floral display. Village Societies have been asked as well as businesses and individuals. There will be a display of clergy vestments and refreshments.

Rachel H.
Claire Buller

TREASURER'S REPORT: Matt Cable gave his report on finances to 4th September.

- **Breakdown of profits:** Community Times £515.74, Quiz £564.44, deposit interest £199.95.
- **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 £23,811.04 represented by Deposit a/c monies £11,034.01, Current a/c monies £12,115.35, 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 £13,265.54.**

♦ **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. As several members of the Exec were absent it was agreed to make a decision on this between meetings.
- **Primary School:** A grant application is pending to support their participation in Young Voices this year and towards formation of a new 'Young Voices' Choir and Music group which will be aimed at the youngest children in the school. This will be looked at between meetings.

Rachel H.

Rachel H.

- ♦ **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 is on sale at the Post Office, Studio B Hair Salon, Forget Me Not and online and hopefully at Mill Street Store and Deli. We were hoping to catch the interest of tourists, so sales have got off to a disappointing start. Sales at the Flower Show were just 13 (normally it would be about 30). Wendy Sparrow is as usual dealing with sales from some local shops and venues. Gladwins Farm shop has a few. They will be available at the Church Coffee Mornings, Choir rehearsals, Table Tennis sessions and Wiston Church. Thanks to all who are helping.

Lorraine Brooks
Wendy Sparrow

& others

A volunteer sales distributor/leader did not come forward. The calendar really needs pro-active help with sales. Suggestions for maximising sales would be much appreciated. If you attend/organise any events, venues where calendars could be sold please let Lorraine know.

◆ **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.

Sale of tickets: at a WC Cake Sale to be held on 7th October in the High Street (Rachel, Claire & Julie) and with Nayland Bear on Halloween; Tuesday 31st (Rachel & Claire). They will be available via naylandevents.org, village shops. Cut off for tickets sales needs to be 1400. Matt says there are sufficient printed tickets; additional print run is not needed.

Promotion: Details will remain the same but “*Guy & Bonfire after Fireworks*” will be added and ‘CHILDREN'S TREATS’ after ICE CREAM as Woodland Corner are having a stall. We have discontinued selling sparklers or glow-necklaces. The introduction of selling beer was popular and will be organised again.

Great Horkesley magazine will send an invoice for £20 to Matt for half page advert.

Rachel will contact the school about making a Guy for the bonfire.

If anyone is able to help on the gate from 6pm-7pm and selling drinks, etc please contact:

Claire Buller 07971 065856 clairejbuller@gmail.com for sales items or Rachel Hitchcock 07788 954309 rachel_hitchcock@hotmail.com for setting up, marshalling, entrance gate, etc

- **Christmas Fayre: *Saturday 2nd December, 10am-12.30.*** Rachel Hitchcock & Vicki Sargent are leading. Six potential stallholders have come forward including: *Janet Rolfe (vintage china)*, *Amie Smith (polymer clay earrings)*, *Sarah Bugg (home-made personal gifts)*, plus wood carving, general items and face painting. A few more stallholders would be welcome.

Rachel will confirm that the school can provide entertainment. A reserve Father Christmas may be required. The CC will have £50 first prize on their raffle, other prizes can be given to Claire in advance or brought along on the day. Tables for stalls will cost £5 for village societies £10 for others; booking form in CT and website or contact rachel_hitchcock@hotmail.com.

- **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 will be in the CT, 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.
- **Christmas Tree:** Claire Buller leads. The tree has been ordered.
- **Father Christmas’ Tour of Nayland, Village:** 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.
- **Fun Village Quiz: *Friday 2nd February 2024***
- **Community Council AGM: *Monday 4th March 2024.*** The Village hall is booked following consultation with the VHMC who will also hold their AGM that evening.

SOCIETY REPORTS

- ◆ **HortSoc:** Trevor Smy said the Flower Show on 5th August went very well, despite the torrential rain all afternoon. The new Tallest Sunflower Competition aimed to encourage school children to participate did not work – there were no entries from children who are not already regular participants.
On 24th October Jaqueline Aviolet will give a talk on ‘*Spices: a super spicy story*’. HortSoc will as usual have a stall at the Christmas Fayre.
- ◆ **Friends of Caley Green:** Sally Dalton reported the Green has been well used during the summer. The Friends continue to keep an eye on things and are still pushing towards getting the wall of reeds reduced.
- ◆ **First Responders:** Tracy Le Grys said there are still 5 responders in the area and 3 of them are now trained to give CPR and Basic First Aid demonstrations. Two of the group are now falls trained and we are looking into purchasing the equipment that they need in order to attend these types of calls in the area. They have kindly offered to help if first aid is needed during the Family Festival and Bonfire Night event.
- ◆ **Parish Council:** Laura Erith reported that the memorial tree for Queen Elizabeth and Coronation bench for King Charles is progressing; Babergh have refused a planning application for a dwelling to be built 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; practicalities are now being explored. There has been some interest in filling one vacancy on the PC; one vacancy would still remain.
- ◆ **St James Church:** Chris Hunt said weekly and morning services continue. The Wednesday Coffee Mornings continue to be very popular. Do pop along to St James over the weekend of 8th/9th September to view the Flower Festival; there will be a display of clergy vestments and refreshments. The churchyard working party is on 21st October from 9am; helpers would be welcome, refreshments are supplied.

- ◆ **Baby & Toddler Group:** Gillian Manser reported they restart after the Summer holidays on the 15th Sept. On that date we are hosting a boogie beats session; we're sure the children will love it! (one of our mums won it in a raffle and has donated the session to us). We have agreed to help at the Village Festival with a play zone. We hope our finances will be ok after rent increase, depending on numbers attending in the autumn we will consider applying for a grant from the CC if needed.
- ◆ **Royal British Legion:** Robert Dossor reported on 17th July Andrew Gowen gave a talk on '*The Muslim Religion*', a fascinating insight into the similarities between the Muslim faith and Christianity and the background to the split into Sunni and Shia branches.
On 11th September we shall hear from David Pryor, a retired forensic scientist, who will recount more stories from his fascinating career. And our last meeting for 2023 will be on Monday 11th December when we welcome Mr Andrew Morgan who is a senior Royal British Legion estate manager. We are approaching Remembrance Sunday, when our Poppy Appeal will go into full swing. We have a Poppy Appeal Coffee Morning scheduled for Friday 4th November in the Church Hall – all welcome.
- ◆ **Conservation Society:** Mike Hunter reported they will be supporting the Nayland Family Festival on the 16th September by running the film '*A History of Nayland*' commissioned by the Society in 2021 in the bar of the Village Hall between 1pm and 5pm. The Autumn Village Litter Pick, held in conjunction with the Parish Council will take place on Saturday 14th October starting at 1.30 pm. We will meet in the Village Hall Car Park and litter pickers and refuse bags will be supplied. Our speaker on 2nd October will be Nick Amor on '*Keeping the Peace in Medieval Suffolk*' and our last speaker on 6th November is Dr Sian Dawson who will present a talk entitled '*Petals & Paint Sir Cedric Morris Florilegium*'. Sian is a talented painter of flowers and she has painted many of the species of Iris and other plants bred by Cedric Morris.
The Society has received permission from SCC Highways to plant a further few hundred naturalised narcissi at the junction of Horkesley Road and the A134. The planting date will be announced in due course and volunteers will be welcome to join us.
- ◆ **Land Company (Nayland Meadow):** David Slater said they were unable to treat two wasp nests because they were near the waterline and any treatment would have threatened poisoning the river water. A tree that had fallen into the river from the bank on our side was quickly cut up and removed. Under our environmental scheme for which we receive grant money we are only allowed to top about 50% of the field each year; this was done on 1st August, the first permitted date. The wildflower meadow will be cut shortly, and it is a requirement that cut material is removed. We would ask all walkers, please, to help protect the wildflower meadow by keeping to the riverside path. The Parish Council have agreed for their contractors to cut the paths twice a year, to maintain a well mown two meter wide path.
- ◆ **Choir:** Justin Dowding said a '*Manchester Carols*' concert will take place on 10th December in the Village Hall.
- ◆ **Village Players:** Justin Dowding said the 'Kidnapped at Christmas' production dates are 23rd-25th November with a matinee on 25th.
- ◆ **AOB:** There was no further business
- ◆ **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** will on **Monday 30th October** at 7.30pm (Exec 7pm) in the Church Hall.
Meetings for 2024: Weds 3rd January, Mon 4th March AGM (*also VHMC AGM*), Weds 1st May, Weds 3rd July, Mon 2nd September, Weds 30th October.
The meeting closed at 9pm