

Minutes from the AGM held on 4th March 2024

Rachel Hitchcock welcomed members to the meeting.

- ♦ **There were 24 members and residents present:** Rachel Hitchcock, Matt Cable, Lorraine Brooks, Claire Buller, Bryan Smith, Vicki Sargent, Iain Wright, Maggie Ryan, Heike Ellwood, Tracy Le Grys, Trevor Smy, Chris Hunt, David Slater, Mike Hunter, Gerry Battye, Mary & Michael George, Christine Thompson, Nick Moriarty, Peter Mann, Penny Allen, James & Andora Carver, Emma Bishton
- ♦ **Apologies:** Jo Metson, Sally Dalton, Robert Dossor, Julie Clark, Kathryn Niven, Laura Erith, Justin Dowding.
- ♦ **Minutes of the last AGM** on 1st March 2023 were approved (*proposed Claire Buller, seconded Rachel Hitchcock*).
- ♦ **Matters Arising from the last AGM:** Matters arising had been dealt with during the year.
- ♦ **CHAIR'S REPORT:** Rachel Hitchcock had circulated her report prior to the meeting.

2023 was another positive year for the Community Council and this report is an opportunity to highlight our achievements.

Thank You: Thanks as always to all members of the Community Council (CC) for their many contributions throughout the year – we couldn't operate without the support and participation of members from many different village societies – and to the Officers and Executive Committee, many of whom have been a part of the CC for many years: Bryan Smith, Julie Clark, Lorraine Brooks, Matt Cable, Claire Buller, Iain Wright, Vicki Sargent, Jo Metson, Luke Rumbelow, Maggie Ryan and Heike Ellwood. Special thanks to Lorraine for her continued perseverance in ensuring the smooth running of the CC machine! We are sorry to lose Luke from the committee – he has been a supportive participant in our activities despite having moved out of the village – and for several years has organised the very successful Nayland 10k, a fabulous event which generously donated to local charities each year, including the CC.

I must also take this opportunity to acknowledge Ken Willingale, founder member and long-standing President of the CC, who sadly passed away in January 2024. Ken and his wife Olive contributed a huge amount to the CC (and indeed the village as a whole) over the years. He was there at the start, when he was appointed Treasurer at the inaugural meeting of what was to become the CC on 20th June 1966 (the aims of the group being to take forward the project of providing a recreation ground and village hall for the community). Ken remained a valued part of the organisation; he had stepped back somewhat by the time I joined the CC but has remained supportive of all that we do and always offered encouragement for our ongoing work. He will be missed and remembered fondly by so many including members of the CC Exec who remember a lovely, kind man who was at the heart of the organisation, donated a turkey for the Christmas Fayre raffle every year and was a stickler for protocol and 'doing things properly'. Thank you to Ken for paving the way. Our love and condolences go to Ken's family.

What does the Community Council do? Represents and brings together a membership of over 20 village societies; Fundraises to support village activities and organisations; Funds and co-ordinates projects that are of benefit to the community; Organises key events in the village calendar; Communicates village news through the Community Times.

Community Council events and activities: Thank you to everybody who helps with all the CC events, especially the committee who organise them and all the village organisations who ensure that our community has such a full diary.

Bonfire Night: 1400 people attended our community firework display which took place, as usual, on 5th November. Once again, professional display company Firework Crazy, did a fantastic job, especially in light of the fact that the display end of the field was under water! Everybody rose to the occasion and the event was a huge success with the impressive display beautifully reflected in the large 'puddle'. A big thank you to our many helpers for this event, in particular Fred Bugg for the bonfire, Woodland Corner for the very impressive guy, Iain Wright for the multitude of 'kit' and everybody who helped on the gate, stalls and refreshments – Bonfire Night is a real team effort! Thanks to naylandevents.org and village shops, Forget-Me-Not and Mill Street Store and Deli and the Post Office for their help with ticket sales. Bonfire Night remains a firm event in the Nayland Calendar and is the CC's biggest fundraiser.

Christmas Fayre: Huge thanks to the village societies including Woodland Corner, Horticultural Society, Women's Institute, Conservation Society for providing Christmas stalls as well as the abundance of external stallholders who brought a fine array of goods and wares. Thanks also to the children and staff of Nayland Primary School whose singing and ukulele playing provided some lovely festive entertainment and encouraged audience participation. Thank you too to Father Christmas for paying us a visit again and to our refreshment team who kept everyone supplied with hot chocolate and mince pies. This event continues to provide a lovely, traditional start to our Christmas activities.

Father Christmas, Christmas Eve Village Tour: We were delighted to welcome back Father Christmas for his Christmas Eve tour of the village – this year in a slightly different mode of transport, Foster Jones having retired his wonderful vintage Humber. Huge thanks to George Pratt for providing perfect transport in the form of festively decorated tractor and trailer much to the delight of Nayland and Wiston residents, young and old! Thanks too to Father Christmas and his willing helpers for this very special visit on what is a very busy day in his calendar!

Christmas Trail: We were delighted to bring back the Christmas Trail of trees, wreaths and advent windows for its fourth year. Once again it brought sparkle, colour and Christmas cheer to the village throughout December and we are incredibly grateful to everyone who participated and helped make this such a success.

Village Christmas Tree: Once again, thanks to Fred Smith for supplying an excellent tree which provides a lovely, festive centrepiece for the village throughout December. Thank you too to Nayland Dental Surgery for supplying the electricity and to Claire Buller and the team who put it up.

Village Quiz: With the emphasis on fun, and an air of good-humoured competition, the quiz has become a regular fixture in the Nayland calendar – we have already held our 2024 quiz which built on last year’s success with another sell-out event!

Coronation Picnic: On 7th May we were delighted to mark the King’s Coronation with a lovely, informal, celebratory picnic at the Village Hall with traditional entertainment and refreshments. Many villagers turned out to enjoy the celebration and the sunshine!

St James’ Flower Festival and Christmas Tree Festival: The CC was delighted to contribute to both of these lovely events which brought together village societies and organisations and allowed them to let their creative juices flow. Both resulted in fine displays that adorned our beautiful church. A big well done to all involved.

Public Access Defibrillator: The CC continues to monitor and maintain the public-access defibrillator at the Village Hall through the Community Heartbeat Trust and their Webnos service. A series of well-received community first aid training sessions were led, at the start of 2024, by our local First Responders who continue to grow in number and provide a valuable service to our community..

Nayland 10k and Fun Run: We were again pleased to support this event – organised by Luke Rumbelow and Event Nation – a big thank you to all of the volunteer marshalls who add to the friendly atmosphere and community feel. We were extremely grateful to receive a donation of over £400 in 2023.

GRANTS: One of the roles of the CC is to provide grants to village organisations whose activities support our constitution. The following grants were issued in 2023: Nayland First Responders (£2,165.60) to equip a new First Responder kit bag with AED (defibrillator) and mobile application; Parish Council (£1,538.00) towards a royal memorial on Caley Green consisting a bench to commemorate the reign of Queen Elizabeth II and a tree to honour the coronation of King Charles III; Nayland Bear (£100) to support this popular village activity and its regular appearances throughout the year. Community groups are reminded that funds are available to support village activities. Further details and our grant application form are available on the CC website at www.naylandcommunitycouncil.org.uk

GOING FORWARD: The committee are looking forward to another busy and successful year and it is a credit to the people involved in the CC that we all are keen to continue. That isn’t to say that we wouldn’t welcome some new members on the Executive Committee to bring a fresh perspective and new ideas and as you will have noticed I haven’t yet relinquished my role as Chair, but remain open to offers! So do consider joining us – we guarantee a warm welcome as well as the chance to make a real contribution to your local community.

♦ **TREASURER’S REPORT:** Matt Cable presented the year end accounts for the meeting – see page 5 – and they were adopted (*proposed Iain Wright, seconded Gerry Battye*).

♦ **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** The following officers and committee were elected en bloc: **President** Bryan Smith, **Vice President -**, **Chairman** Rachel Hitchcock, **Treasurer** Matt Cable, **Vice Chairman** Claire Buller, **Secretary** Lorraine Brooks, **Executive Committee** Jo Metson, Vicki Sargent, Julie Clark, Heike Ellwood, Maggie Ryan, Iain Wright. (*proposed Trevor Smy, seconded Mike Hunter*). Parish Council representation continues to be shared between Laura Erith and Sam Treharne.

♦ CURRENT MATTERS ARISING:	Action by:
♦ Recent Events: The <i>Fun Village Quiz on 2nd February</i> had been a sell-out and a great evening. It made over £600 for CC funds. Rachel Hitchcock thanked everyone for their help and support.	
♦ 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 and there have been no problems. There has been no progress on provision of a Defibrillator in Wiston; consideration will be given to the best location. The First Responders were thanked for holding 3 AED training sessions in January which help build confidence.	<u><i>Rachel Hitchcock</i></u>
♦ River Stour Water Level Gauge: Rachel Hitchcock met Danny Thurlow on site; he is willing to install the gauge. Matthew Lee (Suffolk CC) has agreed in principle; Rachel will send him the proposed positioning and email confirmation from the EA that a permit is not required. Rachel will check the current costs with Shelley Signs; with the change of location to the south bank it may not be necessary to have a gauge on both sides of the post which would reduce the cost.	<u><i>Rachel Hitchcock</i></u>
♦ Nayland 10k Fun Run: Luke Rumbelow will be taking a break from organising this event. It has been a popular event since its introduction to Nayland in 2017 and quite an undertaking to organise. Thanks were expressed to Luke for the sizable donations each year to the CC and other local charities, and to all the volunteers who helped with marshalling and other valued tasks.	
♦ Village Hall Gardening Morning: The next gardening session will be on Saturday 6th April from 9am - please support this if you can; it is a pleasant social activity and refreshments are provided.	
♦ Community Involvement: This is aimed at encouraging residents to participate and/or volunteer with village groups and organisations. An article is included in the Community Times; if any groups need specific volunteers let Lorraine know details to include or if anyone feels they would like to help look at the article for details (usually on page 6 or 7).	

<p>The Fete Committee are currently appealing for volunteers to take shifts manning the gates, to help with stalls and in particular to help with teas in the hall.</p>	
<p>♦ Resident Volunteer List: This is a request for residents to put their names forward to assist other residents who at times are unable to get out for themselves and would benefit from having a prescription collected, an errand run or some shopping dropped off. To date four people have come forward to help; one of them was put in touch with a nearby resident who would benefit from occasional assistance. No names will be published; Lorraine will co-ordinate volunteers and requests for help. If you can help please let her know.</p>	
<p>♦ Correspondence: There had been no correspondence not included elsewhere.</p>	
<p>♦ Grants & Donations: There were no grant applications</p>	
<p>♦ Community Times & Websites: The report had been circulated. For over 34 years, and 207 issues the CT has been keeping residents informed of what is going on in the parish. New technologies have enabled some changes and content differs slightly but it's hoped it continues to fulfil its role and be useful. New ideas and content are always welcome. There is quite a team behind producing the magazine every other month, without whom village news would not reach your doormats. We are very grateful to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ all those who take the time to contribute articles, copy and reports on their societies, village happenings, letters and photographs. ▪ to members of the local Facebook group who raise awareness of issues and permit use of their photographs for inclusion. ▪ the dedicated team of distributors led by Trevor Smy. ▪ Pat Bray for her contributions of village news and for proof reading. ▪ Our long standing editor, Lorraine Brooks who tirelessly puts together every issue ▪ the advertisers who cover printing costs and provide much valued income for the CC. <p>Many thanks to all. Thanks also to Justin Dowding for managing the website www.naylandandwiston.net and for establishing the online ticket sales facility at www.naylandevents.org which has become increasingly beneficial to village organisations.</p>	<p><u><i>Lorraine Brooks</i></u></p> <p><u><i>Justin Dowding</i></u></p>
<p>♦ Village Calendar: The report had been circulated. The Nayland with Wissington Calendar, has proved very popular with residents, since it was first published 15 years ago. We are enormously grateful to the small team for their commitment and hard work in producing the calendar. The calendar team are very grateful to: local businesses that sponsor the calendar, all those who enter their photographs and those who help with sales at local shops or village activities. And last but certainly not least, those who buy the calendars. We are delighted that Wendy Sparrow and Lorraine Brooks have agreed to continue with this project for another year, with support from Claire Buller and Jo Metson. Plans are now in hand for the next photographic competition to generate images for the calendar. It has proved successful to conduct the competition online and we will do so again this year and, as previously, we will ask residents to be the judges and select their favourite images for inclusion in the calendar. Further details will be available in the Community Times and at www.naylandandwiston.net. Deadline for entries will be 21st April and voting will take place over the following weekend.</p>	<p><u><i>Calendar Team</i></u></p>
<p>♦ Forthcoming Activities: other than the Calendar Competition there are no planned CC events until Bonfire Night.</p>	

SOCIETY REPORTS

- ♦ **HortSoc:** Trevor Smy said their first event for 2024 will be the Spring Flower Show on 23rd March; their AGM and Fun Quiz with horticulture in mind is on 16th April; and the Morning Market and Coffee Morning on 11th May. The coach outing to Hyde Hall will be on 12th June and they are taking bookings; the cost for travel and entry is £18. It's hoped they get more support this year; the last outing lost money and it's not viable to continue that way. Schedules for the Spring and Summer Flowers Shows, AGM documents and the booking form for the outing can be found on naylandhortsoc.co.uk
- ♦ **Art Group:** Kathryn Niven said they had another enjoyable year. Watercolour painting was applied to landscapes and still life and they have explored some different art styles, they revisited life drawing and tried some other art forms such as acrylic painting. They turned some of their observational drawing into lino prints which was very popular. They visited a watercolour exhibition and went to Blue Owl Pottery to paint some Christmas decorations which was enjoyed. They participated at the flower festival and the Christmas tree festival in St James. There has been interest from a couple of new members.
- ♦ **First Responders:** Tracy Le Grys said they are continuing to grow in numbers and a sixth person who is based in Assington will be attending the next training sessions with the Trust and hopes to join us on call outs as soon

as possible. They are continuing to provide CPR training to the local area and have another one planned for this month in Sudbury. The third kit which the Community Council funded is waiting for a couple of items from the Trust and then it will be live and on duty. Thanks to a generous donation from a member of the village we have been able to purchase Trust Issue trousers and jackets; we are truly grateful to them.

- ◆ **Friends of Caley Green:** Sally Dalton reported that unfortunately the long reed bed won't after all be cut this spring, hopefully it will be able to take place in the autumn. The female swan has continued to visit our resident male but we still wait in anticipation as to whether they form a proper pair; there has been no sign of nest building. The daffodils on the Green are providing some welcome colour.
- ◆ **Royal British Legion:** Rober Dossor reported Mr Andrew Morton, a Senior Surveyor with the RBL gave a talk at their AGM and Officers were appointed for 2024. The Branch lost its President oldest and last surviving WW2 veteran Ken Willingale. On 1st March there was a short service at the War Memorial to commemorate the anniversary of the death of Lt Charles Gumm, when he remained with his failing aircraft to avoid the Village. At the next meeting on 11th March, the speaker will be Richard Turner from the Boxted Airfield Historical Association. They are organising a St George's Day lunch at The Anchor on 23rd March and a visit to Stephen Walters & Sons' Silk Mill in Sudbury – all are welcome to book. If sufficient support can be found a barge trip on the river Orwell will be organised.
- ◆ **St James' Church:** Chris Hunt said they have been able to maintain a rota of services every Sunday and this includes a family service once a month. Coffee mornings are held on Wednesday mornings and these are well attended with a glorious selection of homemade cakes on offer. The Annual Fete is on 6th May; if you can spare an hour or so to help you will be most welcome. The church also provides the local Community Pantry and this is well used. The Annual PCC meeting will be held on 11th April.
- ◆ **Parish Council:** Laura Erith reported that the Annual Parish Assembly is on Wednesday 24th April with a speaker coming to talk to us about low cost housing; the development of a Local Neighbourhood Plan will also be on the agenda. They are trying hard to get the drive up to the burial ground and Nayland house repaired; as the responsibility is shared it is taking time. A polite notice has been posted asking people to please keep their dog on a lead when in the burial ground. Requests have been made to allotment holders to maintain their plots up to standard. There have been sufficient volunteers to form a Community Speedwatch, so the co-ordinator has applied for their training with the Suffolk Constabulary. Councillors are aware that the land next to Paddock Grove is up for sale and have requested that Babergh planning officers ensure there is not a repeat of the situation at Paddock Grove.
- ◆ **Nayland Land Company:** David Slater said a further 435m of improvement to the permissive path has been added to the 200m completed last year. It was necessary to temporarily close this length because heavy rain has washed out a lot of the soil from the plastic grids, exposing a potentially harmful surface if someone fell over and a particularly unsuitable surface for dogs to try and walk on. As soon as the weather allows the grids will be filled with a mixture of topsoil and grass seed. When the grass seed is established this problem should not occur again.
- ◆ **Conservation Society:** Mike Hunter said this is their 50th anniversary year. There will be a six-page feature in the June CT: they thank Wendy Sparrow for her excellent writing and Lorraine Brooks for the wonderful layout and presentation of the article. After the formal business at the AGM on Tuesday 12th March at 7.30pm they are lucky to have local resident Mick Inkpen talking about his career as a writer and illustrator of children's books. The formal celebration of the Society's 50th anniversary will be on 25th June; members will be invited to a champagne reception followed by memories delivered by four speakers and there will be an exhibition of the Society's activities over the years. In October Nigel Amies will be speaking on the topic of the Home Guard and in November David Pryor will talk about the reconstruction of a Viking Longship by the organisation known as the Sutton Hoo Ship's Company. Open Gardens will take place in the village on Sunday 9th June and it is hoped some of the excellent gardeners on the Heights may consider opening their gardens; it would be a pleasure to spread the event more widely. The spring community litter pick will take place on Saturday 20th of April and the Spring Footpath walk on Sunday 12th May.
- ◆ **Baby & Toddlers:** Gillian Manser reported sessions have been well supported during the Autumn and Spring term, averaging about 16 children each week. They have enjoyed some lovely activities, making decorations for the Christmas tree festival, going on a gruffalo hunt, enjoying the local policeman's visit. Each session is finished with rhymes, musical instruments and singing and refreshments are provided. Despite increasing our entrance fee to £4 per family there is a shortfall; they are considering fund raising ideas and applying to the CC for financial assistance as numbers tend to drop in the summer term.
- ◆ **Nayland Choir:** Emma Bishton said they are rehearsing for 'Requiem' by Mozart in readiness for their 30th Anniversary concert on 24th March in St James' Church. There will be an orchestra accompanying the Choir. She thanked the Community Council for their contribution towards this event. The choir are also planning a summer event.
- ◆ **Village Players:** Nick Moriarty said there are preparing for the spring play 'On Golden Pond' with performances on 18th-20th April. The plot of this 1979 play by Ernest Thompson focuses on ageing couple Ethel and Norman Thayer, and their daughter Chelsea and explores the often turbulent relationship the young woman shared with her father growing up, and the difficulties faced by a couple in the twilight years of a long marriage. This follows on from their success in 2023 in the North Essex Theatre Guild Awards. Their December production which is yet to be decided.

AOB: Thank You: Bryan Smith thanked the committee for their work throughout the year for the benefit of the village. Claire Buller expressed thanks to Rachel Hitchcock for her enthusiastic commitment in leading the CC on for another year.

- ◆ **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** will be **Wednesday 1st May** in the Church Hall at 8pm with Exec at 7.30pm
- ◆ **Meetings for 2024:** Wednesday 3rd July, Monday 2nd September, Wednesday 30th October .

The meeting closed at 8.05pm

Treasurer's Report : 2023

Statement of income and expense

	Income	Expense	Surplus
Community Times	2,805.00	(2,082.91)	722.09
Calendar	1,372.00	(766.55)	605.45
Bonfire	8,852.09	(4,483.09)	4,369.00
Christmas	-	(447.78)	(447.78)
Quiz	666.00	(103.06)	562.94
Fayre	490.10	(270.13)	219.97
Coronation Party	-	(566.21)	(566.21)
Nayland 10K	425.00	-	425.00
Grants (note 1)	-	(3,803.60)	(3,803.60)
Centre (note 2)	474.80	(1,187.54)	(712.74)
TOTAL	15,084.99	(13,710.87)	1,374.12

Statement of financial position

	Open	Close	Change
Cash (note 3)	26,282.80	28,138.34	1,855.54
Accrued income	214.50	-	(214.50)
Deferred income (note 4)	-	(43.81)	(43.81)
Accrued expenses (note 5)	(10,831.18)	(11,234.28)	(403.10)
TOTAL	15,666.12	16,860.25	1,194.13

Of which

RBL Services Fund	(268.50)	(88.51)	179.99
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Unencumbered assets	15,397.62	16,771.74	1,374.12
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Notes:

1. Grants made during the year

First Responders	2,165.60
PC tree and bench	1,538.00
Nayland Bear	100.00
TOTAL	3,803.60

2. Central costs incurred during the year

Annual insurance	631.36
Web hosting and website	182.18
Family fun day	300.00
Other: <i>Hall hire & gen. expenses</i>	74.00
TOTAL	1,187.54

3. Cash balances at year end

Cash in hand	1,253.28
Current Account	15,532.39
Deposit Account	11,308.86
Stripe Account	43.81
TOTAL	28,138.34

4. Deferred income

Quiz tickets sold in December	43.81
TOTAL	43.81

5. Accrued expenses

Grants made but not yet paid	10,433.00	<i>inc. Village Hall roof, coffee machine and Lizzie's Fund</i>
General expenses	801.28	<i>Expense claims received post year-end</i>
TOTAL	11,234.28	

Treasurer's Report

Over the course of 2023, the Community Council's principle sources of income were Bonfire Night (net income of £4,369), the Community Times (£722) and the Village Calendar (£605). The Village Quiz (£563) and Christmas Fayre (£220) also made helpful contributions and the Council was grateful to receive a generous donation from the Nayland 10K run (£425).

Grants were made to support Nayland First Responders (£2,165) and the Parish Council tree and bench commemorating the late Queen and coronation of the King (£1,538). We also paid £100 to support the 'Nayland Bear'.

The Community Council spent £566 on the Coronation party and £448 on activities around Christmas. £631 was spent on purchasing the annual insurance that covers events run by the Council.

At the end of the year the Community Council held £28.1k in cash, mainly in its current and deposit accounts. After net accruals of £11.3k this left unencumbered assets of £16.8k as shown in the accompanying financial statements and footnotes.

Treasurer: **Matt Cable CFA**

Chair: **Rachel Hitchcock**

I have examined the books of The Nayland with Wissington Community Council (without carrying out an audit), and in my opinion, the accounts for 2023 represent a true and fair record of the Society's financial affairs.

Maggie Ryan FCA