

Minutes from the meeting held on 1st May 2024

Rachel Hitchcock welcomed members to the meeting.

- ♦ **There were 13 members present:** Rachel Hitchcock, Claire Buller, Lorraine Brooks, Matt Cable, Jo Metson, Vicki Sargent, Heike Ellwood, Iain Wright, Trevor Smy, Justin Dowding, Chris Hunt, Laura Erith, David Slater.
- ♦ **Contributions from:** Kathryn Niven, Tracy Le Grys, Sally Dalton, Kathy Hunt, Mike Hunter, Robert Dossor, Gillian Manser.
- ♦ **Apologies:** Julie Clark, Tracy Le Grys, Sally Dalton, Mike Hunter, Robert Dossor.
- ♦ **Minutes of the last meeting** on 3rd January 2024 were approved (*proposed Iain Wright, seconded Claire Buller*).

MATTERS ARISING:

- ♦ **Executive Committee:** As always we welcome new members to join the team – please spread an encouraging word to anyone who may be interested in joining us. 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:**
Members were in favour of a suggestion for a plaque to mark the contribution of Ken Willingale, founder member, Treasurer, Chairman and President of the Community Council (from 1966-2024). Rachel will liaise with Trevor Smy with a view to organising a tribute in the HortSoc section of the village hall garden alongside an existing one for his wife Olive for her contribution to HortSoc (Secretary & President 1980-2011).

Rachel Hitchcock
- ♦ **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; is regularly checked and there have been no problems.
Regarding the possibility a public access defibrillator in Wiston. There has been no recent progress; consideration will be given to the best location. The PC has confirmed they will be able to assist financially via CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding. 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.

Rachel Hitchcock
- ♦ **River Stour Water Level Gauge:** Rachel has made progress. Danny Thurlow is happy to install the gauge in the revised position. This will be out of the way of the yet to be installed revetment and craft entering the water but won't be shrouded by the reeds! Suffolk CC has confirmed that they are happy with this. The surveyor confirmed change of location to the south bank would not affect the datum mark for the above sea level gauge. A revised quote from Shelley Signs with gauge only on one side of the post is £355 (as opposed to £665). Danny Thurlow hasn't given a final quote yet but is likely to be reasonable. Approval of this project was minuted in May 2021 when the cost totalled £1,380 including VAT. This meeting agreed to purchase the gauge and that go ahead for installation will be confirmed via email between meetings (*proposed Vicki Sargent, seconded Claire Buller*)

Rachel Hitchcock
- ♦ **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.
- ♦ **Village Hall Gardening Morning:** The spring session was on 6th April achieved a reasonable turnout with lots achieved. Some CC members who were unable to attend will pop down to do some maintenance; a low level shrub is needed for the CC section.

Rachel & ALL
- ♦ **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 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. All village groups would benefit from the additional publicity.

Lorraine Brooks & ALL

- ♦ **Resident Volunteer List:** This is a list of residents prepared 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. Eight people have come forward to help; two of them have been put in touch with nearby residents who would benefit from occasional assistance.

Lorraine Brooks

- ♦ **Recent Activities:**

- **Fun Village Quiz:** *Friday 2nd February.* The quiz was a great evening and a sell-out which made over £600 for CC funds. Rachel Hitchcock thanked everyone for their help and support.

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

- **Breakdown of profits:** Quiz £664.20, Calendar £80.
- **Grants paid:** Nayland Chior £1,500.
- **Expenses:** Defibrillator annual maintenance £198, Hall hire charges £64.
- **Current Position:** The accounts show reserves of £26,235.45 represented by Deposit a/c monies £11,308.86, Current a/c monies £14,165.27, Cash in Hand £761.32. We hold £43.81 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 £15,713.94.**

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

- ♦ **GRANTS & DONATIONS:**

- **Nayland Baby & Toddler Group:** A grant for £300 to assist with the cost of hall hire was agreed (*proposed Claire Buller, seconded Heike Ellwood*).
- **School Choir/Music Group:** A grant for £400 to assist with re-establishing school choir for year 2 and above and maintaining the cost of choir provision at affordable subscriptions for the summer term was agreed. (*proposed Heike Ellwood, seconded Jo Metson*).

Matt Cable
Rachel H.

- ♦ **Community Times & Websites:** Lorraine Brooks thanked all for contributing to recent issues. Heading towards the next deadline; space is extraordinarily over subscribed this issue please let Lorraine know if you have promotion or larger than usual items to include so measures can be taken to include them. The Conservation Society will be funding the 4-page colour insert to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

Lorraine Brooks

- ♦ **Village Calendar:** Lorraine Brooks said end of year sales in 2023 for the 2024 calendar amounted to a profit of £766 but recent additional income of £178 takes the profit on the 2024 calendar up £944.

The Calendar Photo Competition was held as usual online with voting from 26th-28th April. 34 people submitted photos and 44 people participated in the voting. The most popular photo overall, voted for by almost 70% of voters, was of swans by Caley Green in frost taken by a 10-year-old resident. Not far behind was a scene of lambs at a Wiston farm, then a rainbow over Lock Cottage. To date 10 Nayland businesses have agreed to sponsor again, confirmation is awaited on the final 2. The draft calendar has been assembled, Wendy will be writing the captions.

Lorraine Brooks
Wendy Sparrow
Claire Buller
Jo Metson

The extended calendar team - Wendy and Lorraine now plus Claire and Jo - met on 24th April with a view to gaining final sponsors and optimising and organising sales. The 2024 print quote was again £695 for 300 calendars or £599 for 250; it's likely that we will reduce the number to somewhere between the two. They will be printed in June/July and on sale at the Flower Show as usual.

- ♦ **Forthcoming Activities:**

- **Bonfire & Fireworks: Tuesday 5th November.** Rachel Hitchcock, Claire Buller & Jo Metson leading. Firework Crazy is booked - this is our final year at the pre-agreed price of £2500 which is extremely good value. The usual arrangements will apply.
- **Christmas Fayre: Saturday 7th December.** Rachel Hitchcock & Vicki Sargent leading. Village hall is booked. Rachel has another commitment on the day.

Rachel H.

Rachel H.
Vicky Sargent

SOCIETY REPORTS

- ♦ **HortSoc:** Trevor Smy said the number of Spring Show entries had been hindered by the weather but the event went well and was enjoyed, including by those calling in for refreshments or to buy cakes. Attendance for the AGM & Fun Quiz in April was very poor, which was disappointing. The Morning Market with refreshments and raffle is on 11th May; plants and cakes and preserves will be on sale. There will be a coach outing to RHS Hyde Hall on 12th June. The Flower Show is on 3rd August - schedules are available.
- ♦ **Friends of Caley Green:** Sally Dalton reported there are two swans on the river but there is no sign any cygnets will be produced, no ducklings have been seen but a couple of Moorhen chicks spotted... but the herons are hanging about to prey on them. The Green and river has been busier with locals and those from further afield: adventure groups from Brantham, a Norwich school and Essex University.

- ◆ **First Responders:** Tracy Le Grys reported the responders continue to grow in numbers and the newest member of the group will start her training this month (May) and be on the road with us as soon as possible. They continue to give the area as much cover as we can. They also continue to support the ambulances by volunteering extra hours to cover a dedicated CFR car which operates in the Essex area.
- ◆ **Parish Council:** Laura Erith said the Parish Assembly clashed with another village event resulting in a turnout of just 8/9 residents. Sue Downes from Community Action Suffolk gave a very interesting talk about Low Cost Housing in the county and Graham Walker talked about the Lady Anne Windsor Trust, which provides Alms houses in the local area.

One of the parking spaces by the turning circle at Fairfield will be signposted as being for burial ground only – it's hoped this will be respected; Babergh DC have tidied up the old cemetery and will hopefully keep more on top of maintenance; the unveiling of the memorial stone for residents of Jane Walker Hospital was well attended and featured on TV, a roses was placed on each iron cross which mark the individual graves. The next PC meeting is on 8th May, they encourage residents to come and raise issues or ask questions during the Public Forum.

- ◆ **St James Church:** Kathy Hunt reported weekly services continue; at the end of Lent we held the Maundy Thursday Service, on Good Friday the Service was the Objects of the Passion which is a very quiet and reflective, on Easter Eve we held the first Communion of Easter where the Paschal Candles are lit and taken into a dark Church. There has been 1 baptism, 2 more plus 3 weddings in the next few weeks. At the Annual Parochial Church meeting Kathy Hunt was again elected as Churchwarden and members of the PCC remain, except the minute secretary who has resigned. Reports were given by those who help the Church to run. The Wednesday Coffee Mornings continue to be popular. The Community Pantry is well used but due to some abuse it is being locked at night. Nicola Thorogood is resigning as Benefice Administrator and Sam Bridgeman will be taking over the role. There are vacancies for volunteers to help with day-to-day running of the Pantry.
- ◆ **Conservation Society:** Mike Hunter reported this year's Open Gardens takes place on 9th June and have 26 gardens participating; a number featuring for the first time. The Spring Litterpick on 20th April was successful with around ten people taking part. Chris Hunt is leading our annual Footpath Walk on 12th May; meeting at St Mary's Church, Bures at 2.15pm and taking a circular walk to Mount Bures. On 25th June the Society will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary; members only are invited to a celebratory glass of fizz before hearing four members reminisce their favourite memories of the Societies activities. Wendy Sparrow is preparing a substantial display on the Societies activities over the years. The June Community Times will contain a special colour feature on the history of the Society.
- ◆ **Land Company (Nayland Meadow):** David Slater said the persistent rain necessitated keeping the improved section of the permissive path closed for longer than they had hoped. Unfortunately damage caused by those who ignored the very obvious closure signs had to be repaired. The recent weather has helped establish the grass in the path. They have received many favourable reports from walkers since reopening. They have ambition to do more next winter subject to funding being available. They are grateful to the PC for adding mowing of the paths to their contractor's schedule. The trees and hedges have benefited from the rainfall. The sheep have plenty of grass and it's hoped everyone will enjoy the cowslips and other wildflowers.
- ◆ **RBL:** Robert Dossor reported that 40 people attended the St George's Day lunch at The Anchor. Their next meeting is 13th May to listen to David Wiles, they have planned a fully-subscribed visit to Stephen Walters & Sons' silk mill in Sudbury. They may be present at the Nayland War Memorial to commemorate 80th Anniversary of D-Day, details to be posted on our Board in the village. An outing to the 100th & 95th Bomb Group Museum near Diss is on 24th July; this USAF force was featured in the Apple TV series 'Masters of the Air'. Anyone (not restricted to RBL members) is welcome, the cost will be approx £25 plus lunch.
- ◆ **Baby Toddler Group:** Gillian Manser reported they have recently welcomed some new families and the group remains well supported. As the weather has finally improved we have been able to enjoy some outdoor play in the sunshine.
- ◆ **Village Hall:** Iain Wright said that they are still pursuing Lottery grant application and meeting their demands. The noise limiter has been installed and seems to have resolved the problems with noise reported by neighbours.
- ◆ **Nayland Art Group:** Kathryn Niven reported they have been enjoying some more sessions, both self-guided and with their tutors who have recently focussed on landscape and still life. They looked at the work of Georgia O'Keeffe and used pastels to make over-scaled representations of tree bark. They're pleased to have a couple of new members and attendance has been more regular; they would be pleased to welcome new people. They have the summer term planned and looking forward to some more life drawing and maybe another trip out to visit a gallery.
- ◆ **Village Players:** Justin Dowding said their production of 'On Golden Pond' was very good although was not sold out. They will have a pantomime in December; the title is yet to be confirmed but auditions likely to be in July.
- ◆ **Nayland Choir:** Justin Dowding said their next concert 'Shakespeare in Song', with modern and not modern music, will be held on 5th July in the Village Hall. Rachel Hitchcock said the 30th Anniversary concert 'Mozart's Requiem' had been really lovely.
- ◆ **AOB:** There was no further business
- ◆ **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** will on **Wednesday 3rd July** at 7.30pm (Exec 7pm) in the Village Hall.

Meetings for 2024: Mon 2nd September, Weds 30th October.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm