

Minutes from the meeting held on 3rd July 2024

Rachel Hitchcock welcomed members to the meeting.

- ♦ **There were 10 members present:** Rachel Hitchcock, Claire Buller, Lorraine Brooks, Vicki Sargent, Trevor Smy, Justin Dowding, Chris Hunt, Tracy Le Grys, Laura Erith, David Slater.
- ♦ **Contributions from:** Sally Dalton, Kathy Hunt, Mike Hunter, Robert Dossor,
- ♦ **Apologies:** Julie Clark, Matt Cable, Jo Metson, Iain Wright, Sally Dalton, Mike Hunter, Robert Dossor.
- ♦ **Minutes of the last meeting** on 1st May 2024 were approved (*proposed Vicki Sargent, 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:**
- ♦ **Fundraising Activities/Events:** We have a good deal of activities being planned currently but as always future ideas and support are welcome. A Bingo evening was suggested. The CC will celebrate its 60th Anniversary in 2026.
- ♦ **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 and regularly checked.
Regarding the possibility a public access defibrillator in Wiston. There has been no recent progress; the PC has confirmed they will be able to assist financially via CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding but require more detail. 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 confirmed the sign is ordered (with suggested amendments made) and Danny Thurlow has ordered the oak post. It will be installed on the Caley Green riverbank (agreed by SCC) out of the way of the yet to be installed revetement and craft entering the river. It was previously agreed to purchase from Shelley Signs a single gauge for only on one side of the post at a cost of £355. Danny Thurlow's quote for installation is £540 plus VAT at 20%. (*proposed Claire Buller, seconded Lorraine Brooks*). Installation is scheduled for next week (w.c. 8th July) **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 Garden:** Having been unable to participate at the spring gardening session some members 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; please let Lorraine know if you have vacancies to be included along with an idea of the level of commitment needed. **Lorraine Brooks & ALL**
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.
- ♦ **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; three residents who would benefit from occasional assistance have been put in contact with nearby volunteers. **Lorraine Brooks**
- ♦ **Plaque to mark the contribution of Ken Willingale:** Members had been in favour of a suggestion for a plaque to mark the contribution of "*Ken Willingale, Community Council founder member, Treasurer, Chairman and President 1966-2024*". Rachel has liaised with Trevor Smy with a view to organising a tribute in the HortSoc section of the village hall garden where there is a plaque for his wife, Olive, for her contribution to the "*Horticultural Society Secretary & President 1980-2011*". A new plaque for the existing post, made of slate, will be engraved to honour both of them. Rachel will circulate draft wording for approval. **Rachel Hitchcock**

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

- **Breakdown of profits:** Community Times £345, Quiz £664.20, Village Calendar £328.
- **Grants paid:** Nayland Village Choir £1,500, Nayland School Choir £400.
- **Expenses:** Defibrillator annual maintenance £198, Hall hire charges £64.
- **Current Position:** The accounts show reserves of £26,613.86 represented by Deposit a/c monies £11,454.27, Current a/c monies £14,250.27, Cash in Hand £909.32. We hold £88.51 for the RBL Services Fund and grants are pending for: VH roof £10,000, Lizzie's Fund £153, VH coffee machine £280. **Therefore, unencumbered assets are £16,092.35.**
- **Outstanding items to pay:** Permissive path clearing and VH hire for both First Responders and Baby & Toddler Group. They will be paid when invoices are received.

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

♦ **GRANTS & DONATIONS:**

- **Permissive footpath maintenance:** David Slater raised the issue of two stretches of permissive path which had become very overgrown and asked whether the CC would consider contributing to their maintenance. This involves a stretch is along the right hand side of Stoke Road and a second stretch is the path from Court Knoll to the Allotments. The Stoke Road path has now been mown and strimmed (£150) - and Dan Bowman has agreed to do an autumn hedge trim at a cost of £100 - 2 local residents have now agreed to maintain the mowing and strimming. David will ask Dan Bowman for a quote for the stretch of path from Court Knoll to the allotments. It was agreed to reimburse David for £150 and pay £100 for the autumn cut (*proposed Claire Buller, seconded Vicki Sargent*).
- **Nayland School and Baby and Toddler Group Grants:** The School expressed thanks for their grant of £400; they are excited to get some music projects up and running. The Baby and Toddler Group were grateful for their grant of £300 to assist with the cost of hall hire for their sessions.
- **Village Hall, New Curtains:** The Village Hall Chairman, during a recent telephone conversation, raised the possibility of a grant towards the cost of new curtains for the hall, bar and committee room. The meeting could not discuss this fully as details and costs are not known. A grant application form had been emailed to the VH Secretary.

Matt Cable
Rachel H.

♦ **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. We have lost adverting totalling £262 in 2024 against gains of £450. In 2023 £425 was lost against gains of only £187. Over the two years losses were £687 with gains of £637. Overall advertising is way down on a decade ago.

Lorraine Brooks

♦ **Village Calendar:** Lorraine Brooks said 2025 calendar has been produced and has gone to print. They will be on sale at the Flower Show as usual and from the usual village venues. We are grateful to the twelve Nayland businesses who agreed to sponsor the calendar.

Lorraine Brooks
Wendy Sparrow
Claire Buller
Jo Metson

The extended calendar team - Wendy and Lorraine, Claire and Jo - will reduce the number of calendars printed to 260. The cost will be £618 (250 was £599 & 300 was £695) Assistance with sales would be very much appreciated as would ideas to optimize sales, so if you are holding an event or run a group please let us know if you could have a few on sale.

♦ **Forthcoming Activities:**

- **Bonfire & Fireworks: Tuesday 5th November.** Rachel Hitchcock, Jo Metson & Claire Buller leading. Firework Crazy is booked - this is our final year at the pre-agreed price of £2,500 which is extremely good value. The usual arrangements will apply. Rachel has confirmed that the Woodland Corner Cake Sale where we sell Bonfire Night tickets and calendars will be held on 5th October. We will hopefully be selling tickets and calendars alongside Nayland Bear at Halloween.
- **Christmas Fayre: Saturday 30th November.** *Note change of date* as several key people were unable to help on 7th December. Rachel Hitchcock leading. Rachel will advise stallholder Trish Hale. Confirmation required for school performance and Father Christmas.
- **Other Christmas activities:**
Christmas Trail (Windows, Trees & Wreath Competition): Lorraine & Rachel will lead
Village Christmas tree: up on 8th December. Claire has in hand
Father Christmas' Tour of Nayland: 2pm on 24th December. Claire has in hand

Rachel H.
Jo Metson
Claire Buller

Rachel H.
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Lorraine Brooks
Claire Buller
Claire Buller

SOCIETY REPORTS

- ◆ **HortSoc:** Trevor Smy said the Morning Market in May was a great success. They did not manage to fill the coach for the June outing to RHS Hyde Hall but the loss was fairly small. They now look forward to the annual Flower Show on Saturday 3rd August. There is also a fun tallest village Hollyhock competition - just photograph any tall Hollyhock you spot within the parish and enter by 27th July. They have planned an outing to Polhill Garden Centre near Sevenoaks on 13th November but whether this goes ahead will depend on support; if interested please let Trevor know.
- ◆ **Friends of Caley Green:** Sally Dalton reported the Green has been busier with the summer weather, including the school annual picnic, and groups of river users coming some distance. The swans did not produce any cygnets, neither have the Wiston swans. Weed growth is considerable, making paddling more difficult, but the EA have a planned schedule of weed clearance which includes Nayland so the Truxors will be back soon to carry out the work. This doesn't include the ever increasing reeds.
- ◆ **First Responders:** Tracy Le Grys said they now have six fully trained responders covering the area. Arlene Howard is the newest member of the group and she lives in Assington which gives us even more coverage for the local area. On July 9th and 16th the Nayland First Responders will be in the Anchor to give CPR training and to answer any questions that people may have.
- ◆ **Parish Council:** Laura Erith said a dog waste bin map has been produced with Lorraine's help; this will be circulated on Facebook, Community Times and various locations around the village. The 'parking for the burial ground' sign at Fairfield has been removed - it will be replaced. There are no planning issues. They persevere with the Caley Green/river issues. The signs on the A134 have been put back no weed killer applied to the islands. The next PC meeting will be on the third Wednesday of July (17th) due to a clash with another VH booking.
- ◆ **St James Church:** Kathy Hunt reported regular services continue. We have held 4 weddings, 2 baptisms and 3 funerals. The coffee mornings continue and with the warmer weather tables are set up in the Churchyard. Thanks to those who cut the grass but more help is needed; perhaps there are some younger villagers who like to see the Churchyard looking neat and tidy and could help with the grass cutting. Thanks also to the cleaners and flower arrangers all these jobs take time and more volunteers would be welcome. There is a vacancy for a minute secretary for the PCC meetings.
- ◆ **Conservation Society:** Mike Hunter reported this year's Open Gardens was very successful, producing our second highest gross income of around £4,400 and 563 visitors. Our thanks to all the open gardeners and the many volunteers without whom the event could not take place. Two weeks later the Society held its 50th Anniversary celebration at the Village Hall when almost 80 members attended for a free glass of fizz and to hear the reminiscences of four members of the Society, namely, Wendy Sparrow, Mary George, Andora Carver and Chris Hunt. In addition, Wendy had prepared a substantial number of display boards charting the history of the Society which was available for inspection by our visitors before the speeches. Our next speaker meetings will be taking place in October and November.
- ◆ **Land Company (Nayland Meadow):** David Slater said there are now small Green plaques, on or near the four gates to the meadow, showing the telephone no to ring if any sheep are thought to be in distress. The paths are now kept tidy with regular mowing by the Parish Council's contractor which is appreciated.

A 'Nayland Meadow' Facebook group has been created – please visit it and complete the very short survey about the paths before 15th July. The Land Co trustees wish to check that Nayland residents were happy with the path improvement carried out so far and to ascertain whether they would approve of the 'loop' being completed in a like manner. Members present at the meeting unanimously supported the proposal for continuing the path improvements; they felt it would be of great benefit to all.
- ◆ **RBL:** Robert Dossor reported the branch held a short service at 11am on 6th June to mark the D-Day anniversary. The service was conducted by Rev Javelle and a number of members attended. Standards were lowered by the Branch Standard Bearer Cathy Hunt and by David Wiles. On 24th July they have an outing to the 100th & 95th Bomb Groups' museums. The outing is open to all. Cost will be £25 per person plus lunch.
- ◆ **Village Players:** Justin Dowding said auditions for their pantomime 'Rapunsel' will be held this week – 7th & 11th July. Performances will be on 4th, 6th & 7th December.
- ◆ **Nayland Choir:** Justin Dowding reminded the meeting the concert 'Shakespeare in Song', was this Friday - 5th July. Tickets should be bought in advance as the evening includes a light supper.
- ◆ **AOB:** There was no further business
- ◆ **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** will on **Tuesday 3rd September** at 7.30pm (Exec 7pm) in the Village Hall.
Meetings for 2024: Wednesday 30th October.
The meeting closed at 8.45pm