

Minutes from the meeting held on 3rd September 2024

Rachel Hitchcock welcomed members to the meeting.

- ♦ **There were 13 members present:** Rachel Hitchcock, Claire Buller, Lorraine Brooks, Vicki Sargent, Matt Cable, Jo Metson, Trevor Smy, James Carver, Mike Hunter, Sam Treharne, David Slater, Corrine Spooner, Adam Lunn
- ♦ **Contributions from:** Sally Dalton, Kathy Hunt, Tracy Le Gry, Kathryn Niven
- ♦ **Apologies:** Julie Clark, Iain Wright, Heike Ellwood, Sally Dalton, Chris Hunt, Kathryn Niven, Tracy Le Gry
- ♦ **Minutes of the last meeting** on 3rd July 2024 were approved (*proposed Claire Buller, seconded Jo Metson*).

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.
- ♦ **Community Defibrillator (AED):** AEDs are located at the Village Hall and at the Fire Station. The AED at the Village Hall is managed by the CC and regularly checked.
Regarding the possibility a public access AED in Wiston. It was felt clarification on the status of the AED at the Fire Station was needed prior to considering a location for one at Wiston. The PC has confirmed they will be able to assist financially via CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy); Rachel will update them on the current cost. Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) confirmed a defibrillator could operate without a power supply; they estimated the cost would be in the region £2,300; a location by the Parish Council noticeboard in Wiston had been mooted. **Rachel Hitchcock**
- ♦ **River Stour Water Level Gauge:** Rachel is pleased to report that this project has come to fruition. Danny Thurlow did an excellent job installing the single sided water gauge on an oak post in the river at Caley Green (between the bench and reed bed) on 23rd July. The gauge provides two water level readings: the river bed depth (useful for the school projects and locals) and above sea level (for official recording) in line with the EA and river trusts. Details and photo at: <http://www.naylandcommunitycouncil.org.uk/News.html>
- ♦ **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:** The next gardening session will be on Saturday 26th October from 9am. Please pop along to assist; it's a sociable morning and refreshments are provided. A low level shrub is needed for the front of the CC section. Jo Metson hoped to be able to attend. **Jo & ALL**
- ♦ **Community Involvement:** Ideas to help raise participation of village groups and events are welcome. 'Volunteer Vacancies' is an item included in the Community Times; please let Lorraine know if you have vacancies, 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. There has not been great demand currently but this is helping a few residents. **Lorraine Brooks**
- ♦ **Plaque for Ken & Olive Willingale:** Members had agreed a plaque to commemorate the contribution of Ken Willingale to the CC and for this to incorporate an existing tribute of his wife Olive in the HortSoc section of the village hall garden. The wording suggested on a slate plaque is "Ken Willingale, Community Council founder member, Treasurer, Chairman and President 1966-2024 and Olive Willingale, Horticultural Society Secretary & President 1980-2011. Commemorating their many contributions to the village." A quote has been requested. This was agreed in principle and would be progressed between meetings (*proposed Claire Buller, seconded Vicki Sargent*). **Rachel Hitchcock**

TREASURER'S REPORT: Matt Cable gave his report on finances to 31st August.

- **Breakdown of profits:** Community Times £410, Quiz £664.20.
- **Grants paid:** Nayland Village Choir £1,500, Nayland School Choir £400, Baby & Toddler Group £300.
- **Expenses:** £974 for water gauge at Caley Green, £180 for permissive path mowing (along Stoke Rd), £112 for hall hire, £94 for web hosting and £198 for annual defibrillator maintenance.
- **Current Position:** The accounts show reserves of £24,193.51 represented by Deposit a/c monies £11,601.62, Current a/c monies £11,468.57, Cash in Hand £1,123.32. We hold £143.51 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 £13,617.**

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

♦ **GRANTS & DONATIONS:**

- **Permissive footpath maintenance:** Members previously agreed to cover the cost of mowing and strimming the permissive path along the right hand side of Stoke Road including an autumn hedge cut.

As was also agreed a quote has been obtained for maintaining the stretch of path from Court Knoll to the allotments as that is another popular path that becomes overgrown. The initial cost would be £600 as the path is really quite overgrown. This was agreed (*proposed Claire Buller, seconded Rachel Hitchcock*). Daniel Bowman will carry this out soon as bird nesting season is coming to an end. Arrangements have been discussed with the Tendring Estate Manager, Matthew Hague, and he is hoping to provide a volunteer to help with the clearing up (which would otherwise cost an extra £200). Going forward, with regular maintenance, this would be less; Rachel will ask the Parish Council if they would be able to contribute to the future cost of vegetation management.

Rachel H.

There is a section of this path that is prone to flooding so possible solutions to make this more passable may be worth considering as well as whether any grants may be available.

- **Nayland First Responders:** Anthony Roberts (Director of Colchester Arts Centre) has agreed to donate a fundraising event for NFR; they need to supply the venue. This will be reading of 'Dickens' Christmas Carol', to music by Anthony Roberts. Nayland village hall has been booked for this on 19th December; the CC agreed to consider between meetings a grant application to cover the cost of hiring the hall (*proposed Matt Cable, seconded Vicki Sargent*). Promotion space in the CT has been reserved; Lorraine offered to help with poster.

♦ **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 2025 calendar is now on sale at Forget Me Not, Studio B Hair Salon, 17 Court Street and online. Sales began at the Flower Show and the Post Office until it closed; Wendy Sparrow is managing the sales outlets.

Lorraine Brooks

Wendy Sparrow

Claire Buller

Jo Metson

Claire Buller will be holding calendar supplies and liaising with those helping with sales at events and other venues. Assistance with sales would be very much appreciated as would ideas to maximise sales, so if you are holding an event or run a group please let Claire know if you could have a few on sale; 07971 065856 or clairejbuller@gmail.com

♦ **Forthcoming Activities:**

- **Bonfire & Fireworks: Tuesday 5th November.** Rachel Hitchcock, Jo Metson & Claire Buller leading. Firework Crazy is booked. Permission for banner on Caley Green will be made.

Sale of tickets: on Saturday 5th October 9am-11.30 with WC Cake Sale and Thursday 31st October 6-8pm with Nayland Bear (Elaine has confirmed). They will be available as usual online at www.naylandevents.org and locally at Forget Me Not We have sufficient printed tickets. Lorraine, Rachel and Justin with liaison regarding online sales.

Rachel H.

Jo Metson

Claire Buller

Volunteers would as usual be much appreciated for setting up in the afternoon from 4pm, on the gate from 6pm-7pm, and selling drinks, etc. Also for a litterpick the following morning.

- **Christmas Fayre: Saturday 30th November at 10am-12.30pm.** The date change has enabled key organisers to be available. Rachel and Vicki will lead. There is sufficient interest from outside stallholders. Father Christmas drop by, the School will provide some entertainment and the Christmas Trail will be launched. 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. Some setting up by the CC will take place on the Friday evening, on Saturday access for setting up will be 9am.

Rachel H.

Vicki Sargent

Claire Buller

- **Other Christmas activities:**

- **Christmas Trail (Windows, Trees & Wreath Competition):** Lorraine & Rachel will lead. Please encourage residents to put their names forward for Advent Window to open 1st-24th December and Christmas trees and the wreath completion to be displayed from 9th December. Maps will be ready for the Christmas Fayre.
- **Village Christmas tree: up on 8th December.** Claire has in this hand. Volunteers to help decorate it would be appreciated – it's always fun.
- **Father Christmas' Tour of Nayland: 2pm on 24th December.** Claire has in this hand

Rachel H.
Lorraine Brooks

Claire Buller

Claire Buller

Rachel H.

- **Fun Village Quiz:** The Village Hall is booked for 7th February

SOCIETY REPORTS

- ♦ **HortSoc:** Trevor Smy said the Flower Show on 3rd August went well, however a booking for a marathon pit stop on the playing field resulted in there not being enough parking for the Show entrants and visitors. A coach outing to Polhill Garden Centre in Kent on 13th November is planned - it will go ahead if we have enough people interested in joining us; if interested please let Trevor know. We will have a stall at the Christmas Fayre.
- ♦ **Friends of Caley Green:** Sally Dalton reported it's been pleasing to see the Green used by local families during the summer; they leave the Green litter free. Although still popular with visitors during the summer there are generally lower numbers than in recent years since Covid. The Friends continue to empty the litter bins when necessary between Babergh collections. Due to a complaint by a resident SCC will be installing signage to prohibit fires/barbecues although there has been no damage caused.
- ♦ **First Responders:** Tracy Le Grys reported they are continuing to grow in numbers as another new member had been to the group, this means that after his training there will be seven trained responders covering the area from Horkesley to Assington.
- ♦ **Parish Council:** Sam Treharne said there had been no PC meeting in August; Robin Thorogood had resigned from the PC so there is a vacancy; councillors have been tackling some issues of roadside weeds.
- ♦ **St James Church:** Kathy Hunt reported church services continue. Sadly we have held three funerals; including Joyce Fullbrook who had lived her whole life in the village and Peter Mann a lovely gentleman who was Treasurer of the VHMC. Rev'd Stéphane's thank you party was well attended and everyone enjoyed themselves. Our coffee mornings continue to be a success. The churchyard has been kept neat and tidy by James and Andora but volunteers have come forward to help especially with the grass cutting and we are most grateful to them. An autumn tidy will be held on 19th October, help would be much appreciated, there will be refreshments and it's a friendly morning.
James Carver said they were delighted on returning from holiday to see that some kind volunteers had mowed the grass in the churchyard.
- ♦ **Conservation Society:** Mike Hunter said following the Society's 50th Anniversary, Lorraine Brooks has prepared photos, taken by Maggie Baker, of the display boards prepared by Wendy Sparrow to present them on the Society's website; there is now an excellent display of the history of the Society's activities available to view.
On 8th October Nigel Amies will give a talk on the 'Home Guard', on 12th November David Pryor's talk will be about the reconstruction of a Viking Longship by the organisation known as the Sutton Hoo Ship's Company. The Autumn Litter Pick will take place on the 12th October.
The Dedham Vale Project agreed to make a grant to the Society to cover one half of the cost of the preparation of the final report on the Court Knoll Project. We believe that this may be available in the autumn. Once it is available a special public meeting will be organised with a talk by Jo Caruth, the archaeologist leading the project.
- ♦ **Land Company (Nayland Meadow):** David Slater having carried out a survey to establish whether residents were happy with the Meadow footpath improvements and see if they would be happy for us to 'complete the loop' by doing the remaining sections around the riverbank – the result was overwhelming in favour. With the required EA permit and SCC temporary closure permission for the section (for up to 3 months) along the river in place. An adjacent alternative route for walkers will always be available and the portage points will always remain usable. Work by Danny Thurlow has begun. Some patience by walkers in the short term will result in a much improved path for years to come.
- ♦ **Art Group:** Kathryn Niven reported we've been having a summer break in line with school holidays but we went to Sudbury on 21st August to see the Cedric Morris and Arthur Lett-Haines exhibition at Gainsborough's House which we enjoyed. We've had one summer meet-up in Stoke-by-Nayland, and another planned for the end of August in Little Horkesley, and then we will be re-starting our weekly meetings in the church hall on 11th September. We're lining up our usual tutors for some of our sessions and will plan in some seasonal activities for the second half of the term.
- ♦ **AOB: Nayland Post Office:** The PO closed for the last time on 27th August; Claire Buller presented postmistress Patsie Ford with a card and flowers on behalf of the CC. A community thank you presentation and toast to Patsie Ford's retirement will be held on **Friday 27th September** at 4pm in the Post Office. There is a card which residents can sign in Forget Me Not. The post box outside the PO will still be in use.
- ♦ **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** will on **Wednesday 30th October** at 7.30pm (Exec 7pm) in the Village Hall.
Meetings for 2025: Monday 6th January.
The meeting closed at 8.45pm