

## Minutes from the meeting held on 6th January 2025

Rachel Hitchcock welcomed members to the meeting.

- **There were 10 members present:** Rachel Hitchcock, Claire Buller, Lorraine Brooks (Exec only), Matt Cable, Vicki Sargent, Iain Wright, Adam Lunn, Chris Hunt, David Slater, Trevor Smy.
- **Contributions from:** Sally Dalton, Kathy Hunt, Robert Dossor, Kathryn Niven, Mike Hunter, Laura Erith.
- **Apologies:** Julie Clark, Jo Metson, Mike Hunter, Sally Dalton, Robert Dossor, Kathryn Niven, Laura Erith
- **Minutes of the last meeting** on 30th October 2024 were approved (*proposed Iain Wright, seconded Vicki Sargent*).

### 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](mailto:rachel_hitchcock@hotmail.com) if you would like to know more. **Action by:**
- ♦ **Fundraising Activities/Events:** The idea of a Barn Dance was suggested to celebrate the CC's 60th anniversary in 2026. It was agreed that this could be a nice family event but that we can consider further nearer the time.
- ♦ **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 proposed public access AED in Wiston. Community Heartbeat Trust (CHT) confirmed a defibrillator could operate without a power supply. The cost would be in the region £2,600; the PC have agreed to contribute 50% of the cost (approx £1,300) via CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) funding. A location by the Parish Council noticeboard in Wiston is being considered; the PC are writing to a nearby householder to advise of the proposal. **Rachel Hitchcock**  
**Adam Lunn**  
Adam Lunn has liaised with Jenny Taylor at the Fire Station about the need for the Fire Station defibrillator to be registered with the British Heart Foundation Scheme and she is going to raise this at their meeting on Thursday. Adam is going to reiterate the importance of this for us to be able to proceed with locating the Wiston defibrillator and also the importance of it being checked regularly (as we do with the Village Hall one). He will keep us updated.
- ♦ **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](mailto:jpdowding@gmail.com).
- ♦ **Village Hall Garden:** *The spring session will be in on 5th April* from 9am with refreshments. Chris Thompson felt unveiling the plaque to Ken Willingale during this would be a good idea.
- ♦ **Community Involvement:** Ideas to help raise participation of village groups and events are welcome. Please let Lorraine know if you would like to include an appeal under ‘**Volunteer Vacancies**’ for committee members or volunteers. **Lorraine Brooks & ALL**  
When on Facebook and you see promotions for Nayland events please make a comment, however brief, and don't just click on ‘like’. All village groups would benefit from this.
- ♦ **Resident Volunteer List:** This is a list of residents prepared to assist other residents with collection of prescriptions or errands. If anyone requires assistance or could give assistance if needed please contact Lorraine. **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 to his wife Olive in the HortSoc section of the village hall garden. Tony Fryer has produced an engraved slate plaque mounted on an oak backing at no cost - the Community Council are extremely grateful to Tony for doing this. He will drop it to Trevor Smy who will install it on the existing post; it will be officially unveiled during the Village Hall Garden working party on 5<sup>th</sup> April. **Rachel Hitchcock**
- ♦ **Recent Activities:**
  - **Bonfire Night:** *5th November*. It was a huge success and raised an incredible £4,816. Rachel expressed thanks to the many volunteers who help make the event such a success. She has contacted Firework Crazy to book them for 5<sup>th</sup> November next year and they will come back in January to confirm quote. They also said how much they enjoy the Nayland event.

- **Remembrance Service:** It was an honour to be invited to lay a wreath on remembrance Sunday. Claire Buller laid a wreath on behalf of the CC. The organisations laying a wreath paraded behind the flag bearer (Kathy Hunt) to the war memorial. Once assembled they then took it in turns to lay their wreaths. After the last wreath was placed on the war memorial a bugler sounded the last post followed by Andrew Gowen reading a Remembrance verse. It was a very moving experience. There was a good turn out of local people to watch the parade.
- **Christmas Fayre:** *30th November Rachel to report.* Thank you so much to everyone who was involved in this with special mention to Father Christmas, the Nayland Primary School performers and Vicki's family who helped with set up and manned the refreshments on the day. We had lots of stallholders and received lovely feedback from them all.
- **Christmas Trail:** *Advent Windows, Christmas Tree Trail & Wreath Competition.* Elaine Muskett won the wreath competition; there were no children's entries and only 3 adult entries. These activities received many positive comments. Thanks to Lorraine for putting together and to all who participated. There were other lovely festive displays around the village. Bear and Fish were visiting and provided a lovely display.  
Due to dwindling numbers for the wreath competition of the Christmas Trail it was suggested that an alternative competition might be more popular. It was also suggested that the Christmas Trail would still be popular even without the competition element and that maybe the advent windows and trees were sufficient. No alternative competition was suggested but this could be considered nearer the time
- **Village Christmas Tree:** Many thanks to Claire Buller for organising the village tree and to Claire and the team for putting it up despite the, once again, inclement weather conditions! The tree looked spectacular and received many compliments.
- **Father Christmas Visits Nayland:** *24th December* Tour of Nayland in George Pratt's vintage tractor and decorated trailer, driven by his father Jim. There were many comments of how lovely this activity was. There was a large crowd waiting for them at the Christmas tree and they were mobbed at Caley Green. Over 100 bags of chocolate coins were given out to children. Many thanks to Claire, Wayne, George and Jim.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Matt Cable gave his report on finances to 6th January.

Please note these results are preliminary and awaiting certain income and expense items.

- **Breakdown of profits:** Community Times £1,080, Bonfire Night £4,852, Quiz £664, Village Calendar £717, Christmas Fayre £283.
- **Grants paid:** Nayland Choir £1,500, School Choir £400, Baby & Toddler Group £300.
- **Expenses:** £900 for path maintenance, £1,045 for the new water level gauge and £446 for Christmas activities. £1,116 for central costs including insurance for the year.

**Current Position:** The accounts show reserves of £28,822 represented by Deposit a/c monies £11,748, Current a/c monies £16,402, Cash on Hand £663. We hold £144 for the RBL Services Fund and grants are pending for: VH roof £10,000.00 and Lizzie's Fund £153. Other accrued expenses total £100 and there is £476 of accrued income. **Therefore unencumbered assets are £18,902.**

It was agreed to authorise Matthew Cable to operate the CC's Paypal account until further notice. (*proposed Claire Buller, seconded Vicki Sargent*)

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

#### ▪ **GRANTS & DONATIONS:**

- **Nayland Bear:** Contribution towards the cost of batteries and decorations for the various seasonal displays. It was agreed to contribute £100 (*proposed Vicki Sargent, seconded Claire Buller*)
- **Nayland Village Hall: £10,000** towards the Replacement Roof Project. The VHMC have applied for grants from the National Lottery and match funding from different sources which is a requirement of the National Lottery bid. The VHMC have requested from the CC a further £10,000 in addition to the £10,000 already committed, subject to the National Lottery grant approval - this was agreed. (*proposed Rachel Hitchcock, seconded Claire Buller*)
- **Permissive Path Improvements:** David Slater has asked Danny Thurlow to look at the soggy stretch of footpath between Court Knoll and the Allotment field to see whether a similar solution to that on Nayland Meadow footpath would be viable and if so how much it might cost. He will let us know once he has the details. Once we have costs and idea of the best solution it was suggested that we could perhaps approach the Parish Council and potentially Tendring Estate with regard to contributing. (Obviously any solution would need to be approved by Tendring too). The Conservation Society may also be interested in this as the stretch they did might also benefit.

*Matt Cable*  
*Rachel H.*

*Matt Cable*  
*Rachel H.*

*Rachel*  
*Hitchcock*

- **Community Times & Websites:** Thanks as always to all contributors. Heading towards the next deadline; please let Lorraine know if you have promotion or large items to include so adequate space can be reserved. Another half page of advertising has not been renewed (£175 pa).

Lorraine Brooks

- **Village Calendar:** Lorraine Brooks said this year's sales are currently 120 calendars with profit to date £717 (£185 of which is for 2023 late sales). To add to this there will be a few sales from the Choir [£56 for 8 calendars], Wednesday Coffee Mornings and there will no doubt be some late sales.

Claire Buller

It was agreed that it would be good to produce another calendar; it is still well received and a valuable fundraiser thanks to Lorraine and Wendy's efforts for which the CC are very grateful.

- **Forthcoming Activities:**

- **Fun Village Quiz: Friday 7th February.** Rachel is leading. The quiz is in hand. Jo Metson has kindly offered to help on the evening and Vicki Sargent will assist on the raffle. Raffle prizes are welcome.

Rachel Hitchcock

- **AGM: Monday 3rd March with VHMC AGM on the same evening.** The CC at 7.30pm (Exec 7pm) and VHMC at 8.15pm.

Rachel H. Lorraine Brooks

## SOCIETY REPORTS

- **HortSoc:** Trevor Smy said the Spring Show will be on Saturday 22nd March; the AGM and Fun Quiz with horticulture in mind on 15th April and the Morning Market on 10th May. They are pleased to be able to have a Summer Garden Party again this year which will be on 11th July and the Flower Show will be on 2nd August.
- **Friends of Caley Green:** Sally Dalton reported the willow tree which came down during Storm Darragh in early December has been dealt with but some of the wood remains stacked on the Green. Winter activity on the Green has been much the same as usual; there was a fisherman who camped overnight in early January and a lady who braved the cold to take a dip on New Year's Day. The swans have been toing and froing.
- **First Responders:** Adam Lunn said they provided training for the Great Horkelesley Guides in basic life support; they welcome requests from all community groups for the basic life support sessions. There is no cost, but donations are always welcome. Over 40 people attended Dr Anthony Roberts' recital of A Christmas Carol, supported by Jamie Cunliffe on the piano; the event raised £424.32. They have secured the status of 'Chosen Charity' during the upcoming year, for two local community groups: Men's Senior Team at Stoke-by-Nayland Golf Club, and Springwood Sun Club, West Bergholt; their generosity will help us continue to provide lifesaving care to Nayland and the surrounding areas. They are grateful to St James' Church Council for the generous donation of half of their Christmas collection. Responders are only deployable by the NHS Emergency Operations Centre to 999 calls. This is for the safety of the volunteers and patients, and to ensure that our volunteers are utilised to best meet the demands of the ambulance service. During the last 3 months as a group they volunteered 622 hours, attended 11 calls and trained 10 people in basic life support.
- **St James Church:** Kathy Hunt reported Christmas was busy as usual and services well attended including the Christmas morning communion singing to accompany 'on-line' music. The traditional nine lessons and carols service was full to capacity. Many thanks are due to all those who helped with these events. Littlegarth and Nayland Primary schools each held their own lovely carol services; a rendition of a verse of 'Silent Night' in sign language was particularly moving. The normal service pattern has returned and the Wednesday coffee mornings resume in mid January.
- **Parish Council:** Laura Erith reported a new councillor has brought them to full compliment; the remaining wood from the fallen tree on Caley Green will be dealt with in due course; they have agreed to increase our support for the village hall roof so hope that the target can be met subject to the lottery money and grants; they further supported the food bank over the Christmas period; there is no progress regarding the possibility of a community led housing project; ground works have begun on the site adjacent Nags Corner for 5 dwellings so CIL money will be payable. No solutions have been found regarding parking issues and access on Fairfield Drive relating to Woodland Corner; planning permission for a dwelling adjacent to the cemetery may add to the issues.
- **Royal British Legion:** Robert Dossor reported they had a very successful 2024 with visits to WW2 airfields and Stephen Walters & Sons silk mill in Sudbury. Their Poppy Appeal raised over £3,500 and they heartily thank all contributors to this most important annual fund raiser. For 2025 dates or meetings will be Mondays: 10th March, 16th June, 1st September and the AGM on 24th November. They hope to have at least one external visit and there will be talks from local speakers and hopefully a couple of guests. 2025 is the 80th Anniversary of both VE-Day and VJ-Day and they hope to have some joint events with the Community Council and Nayland Choir in September.
- **Conservation Society:** Mike Hunter reported their full programme of speakers this year begins with an additional talk on 'House Martins' on Wednesday 22nd January at 7.30 pm. The speaker is Martin Tickler who is a member of the Suffolk Bird Group. As usual everyone is welcome to attend. At the AGM in March, Professor Jules Pretty will speak about how we can work together to solve the climate and conservation crisis. In conjunction with the Royal British Legion we hope to arrange a visit to Ingatestone Hall later in the year. Open Gardens will take place on 8th June this year and as usual we are looking for as many garden openers as possible. If anyone is tempted please do not hesitate to contact Mike Hunter.

- **Nayland Meadow:** David Slater said the riverside section of the now completed circuit was reopened on time at the end of November and has since then provided a level, clean and dry surface to walk on. We regret that there is much more plastic grid exposed than intended because the grass seed mixture used was not fit for purpose and frustratingly failed to take advantage of the excellent growing conditions this autumn. We hope to remedy this by reseeded in the spring, as our intention has always been to create the 'least urbanised' all weather path possible.
- **Art Group:** Kathryn Niven reported that before the Christmas break they went to the Blue Owl pottery to paint Christmas decorations. They continued to explore colour mixing with different shades of the primary colours and used a scene from the Nayland calendar as inspiration for landscape painting. They have used Nayland calendar pictures before and enjoy recreating local scenes. After a meal at The Crown, they had a Christmas break but are looking forward to re-starting on 8th January.
- **Village Hall:** Iain Wright said he is hopeful that the National Lottery bid for half the funds required will be successful. If that is the case then the next step will be to secure funding from Babergh. Assuming funding is secured, once work commences it will be done externally so that the hall can remain open throughout.

♦ **AOB:**

- **Battery Recycling:** The suggestion of another location for battery recycling in the village was discussed. It was highlighted that when this was attempted before it became unmanageable due to need for volunteers to regularly take quantities of batteries to e.g. tip which wasn't always able to receive them. People said that all supermarkets now had battery recycling points which reduced need for point in the village and it was also mentioned that some supermarkets (Tesco and Sainsburys) also take batteries with home deliveries. It was suggested we could perhaps put a brief note in Community Times about where batteries can be recycled locally.
- **Noticboards:** Rachel Hitchcock will contact Bryn Hurren for a quote to replace the CC noticeboard. When we hopefully have the go ahead to install the defibrillator by the PC noticeboard at Wiston she will pass on details should they wish to take the opportunity to refurbish their noticeboard.
- ♦ **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** The AGM will be on **Monday 3rd March 2025** at 7.30pm (Exec 7pm) in the Village Hall. The Village Hall AGM will follow at 8.15pm.  
**Meetings for 2025:** Mon 3rd March (AGM), Weds 7th May, Weds 2nd July, Weds 3rd Sept, Weds 29th October.  
*The meeting closed at 9pm*