

Minutes from the meeting held on 7th January 2020 in the Church Hall

Rachel Hitchcock welcomed members to the meeting.

- ◆ **There were 13 members present:** Rachel Hitchcock, Julie Clark, Maggie Ryan, Lorraine Brooks, Claire Buller, Bryan Smith, Iain Wright, Jo Metson, Laura Erith, Wendy Sparrow, Trevor Smy, Justin Dowding, Tracy Le Grys.
- ◆ **Apologies were received from:** Ken Willingale, Rob Swan, Mike Hunter, Karen Freeman, Tricia Hall, Luke Rumbelow, Sally Dalton, John Partridge.
- ◆ **Minutes of the last meeting** held on 28th October 2019 were approved (*proposed Claire Buller, seconded Julie Clark*).

MATTERS ARISING:

◆ **Executive Committee:**

Action by:

Rachel Hitchcock reminded the meeting of the urgent need for more members on the Exec. We meet just six times a year. It is an enjoyable friendly village committee and an ideal way for those new to the village to become involved and meet new friends. Contact Rachel on 263169 or rachel_hitchcock@hotmail.com if you would like to know more.

Looking ahead to the AGM members present confirmed they were willing to continue on the Exec. Rachel Hitchcock said next year would be her last year (her fourth) in the role of Chair and she felt it was time for a new person with fresh ideas to take the CC forward. Maggie Ryan would like to step down as Treasurer due to her new work and college commitments and handing over during the quieter summer months seems a suitable time. Members would put out feelers for a replacement and promotion included in the CT. Hazel Gardener wishes to retire from distributing our posters; the Exec is very grateful for her help over many years. A new volunteer is required.

Rachel raised the question of whether the aims and objectives of the CC Constitution, which was established in 1966, could be updated to better reflect our current activities. Some members felt the wording was still relevant and advised caution and legal advice should be explored. Some felt the wording could be amended to better explain our activities and encourage new members. It was felt this should be given further thought after the AGM and in the meantime Rachel would explore what advice is available at the Charity Commission.

In the meantime, it was felt that two items in the Constitution could be amended slightly: 4d. "...The total number of Individual Members shall not exceed one half of the total number of Group Representatives." and 5i "The Executive Committee shall consist of the following: (b) Seven other Council Members." This will be progressed by email for voting on at the AGM.

- ◆ **Fundraising Activities & Events:** Ideas for fund raising projects to benefit the CC are always welcome.
- ◆ **Community Defibrillator:** Defibrillators are located at the Village Hall and at the Fire Station. Members felt another training session would be beneficial. Rachel Hitchcock and Tracy Le Grys will liaise with organising a session in the spring. It was suggested that perhaps this could introduce other aspects of First Aid.

Rachel
Hitchcock &
Tracy Le Grys

- ◆ **River Stour Water Level Gauge:** The CC had agreed to support a request to the Environment Agency for a water level gauge to be installed on the River Stour at Nayland as a joint request with the Conservation Society, Nayland Land Company and Parish Council. Mike Hunter had written to Will Akast at the EA on our behalf. A response was received saying the EA did not feel a gauge feeding levels back to them was necessary. Mike Hunter emailed asking them to reconsider but the reply maintained a gauge was not necessary.

Lorraine Brooks
& Mike Hunter

Members felt that a gauge would be an advantage but if a censored gauge was not possible a simple gauge would be beneficial and would create additional interest in the river. The CC would support further efforts to this aim and updates can be communicated via email.

- ◆ **Nayland 10k Fun Run:** The 2020 Nayland 10k will take place on Sunday 5th July and will be launched soon on www.nayland10k

Luke Rumbelow
& Team

- ◆ **Village Hall Gardening Morning:** The spring session to maintain the gardens will be held on 4th April from 9am. Please support by helping if you can. The gardens are split into sections which various societies are responsible for; the CC section of the garden is in the corner by the silver birch tree and bins.

All

◆ **Forthcoming Activities:**

- **Bonfire Night on 5th November:** This was a success. Rachel expressed huge thanks to everyone who helped. Rachel has sent our thanks to the Anchor Inn and to Kerridges. The

Anchor overflow car park was very well used and having accessible parking only at the village hall worked well. Solutions to reduce queues at catering sales points worked well, but with increased demand we were stretched to cope and sold out.

Rachel
Hitchcock
& All

This event has grown in recent years; members felt that a review of its management is needed. Should less promotion be done to keep it a smaller event or should we take advantage of it as our main fundraiser? Should we use professional pyrotechnics to provide the display while we concentrate on sales and other things? It was agreed this should be given much greater consideration than we have time for at this meeting; Rachel will take the discussion forward via email.

- **Christmas Fayre on 7th December:** Rachel Hitchcock expressed thanks to everyone who helped and all the village groups for their participation. Some lovely appreciative comments have been received about the lovely atmosphere. Father Christmas looked very smart in his new costume, which is available for other village groups to borrow. The consensus was that the School Choir performing at midday is the preferred timing as fewer sales are made on stalls after their performance. Father Christmas is able to visit before and after their performance.
- **Village Christmas Tree:** The tree once again looked delightful and a lovely feature for the Carol Singing. Claire Buller and all helpers were congratulated and thanked for erecting and taking down the tree. The CC is grateful to the Nayland Dental Clinic for supplying the electricity; Rachel will write a letter of thanks. Claire said the setting up had been complicated; firstly the tree delivered was rather small but Fred Smith kindly replaced it with a larger one, but by the time it arrived the wind had got up and the replacement tree had a thick trunk which was difficult to carve to fit in the holder, then once up the top set of lights went out and required resoldering. It was noted a 17 foot tree should be ordered next year; new lights and baubles will also be bought.

Rachel
Hitchcock
Claire Buller

TREASURER'S REPORT: Maggie Ryan gave her report on the draft year end accounts.

- **Breakdown of profits:** Quiz £210, Community Times £1,127.55, Village Calendar £521.76, Nayland 10k £1,414.40, Bonfire £3,317.40, Christmas Fayre £331.96
- **Grants paid:** Lizzie's Fund Endurance Walk £170, Nayland & Wiston website £94, Village Hall Cooker £779.99
- **Current Position:** The accounts show reserves of £27,567.22, represented by Deposit a/c monies £10,684.42, Current a/c monies £16,807.02, Cash in hand £72.78. We hold £318.50 for the Services Fund and £10,000 VH roof grant is pending. **Therefore, unencumbered assets are £17,245.72.**

♦ **GRANTS & DONATIONS:**

No grant applications had been received. It was pointed out that most of our established village societies are now self funding but grants are available to them, for new groups/societies and for other projects that would benefit the community. It was felt that the CC should promote itself more prominently, including the grants given and that grants are available. The possibility of including a plaque by projects given grants, for example the defibrillator will be investigated by Rachel.

Rachel
Hitchcock

- ♦ **Correspondence:** There had been no correspondence not included elsewhere.
- ♦ **Community Times & Websites:** Lorraine Brooks gave the usual plea for contributions for the coming issue.

The year end accounts confirm that adverting has gradually declined. This is largely due to businesses using online promotions and Facebook. The meeting was reminded that originally the CT was produced for the benefit of communication within the community and not for profit - the income has been a very nice bonus. However, please encourage potential advertisers.

Lorraine Brooks

The CC website includes the CC history, grant application forms, events and currently the quiz booking forms. Justin Dowding said the Nayland & Wiston website continues to be well used.

- ♦ **Village Calendar:** Lorraine Brooks said the 2020 calendar is still on sale at the Post Office and Forget Me Not. She expressed a huge thank you to Wendy Sparrow for doing much of the selling and to the Post Office, Forget Me Not, Melissa's and others who helped with selling calendars. This year profit stands at £546.76 for 207 calendars. (with another 9 just sold). There are usually some late sales. Costs were greater this year, mainly due to a reprint after the May Bank Holiday was moved to commemorate the VE Day anniversary. It seems most other calendar producers haven't included the revised date!

Lorraine Brooks
& Wendy
Sparrow

The CC agreed they would like to produce a 2021 calendar. Wendy and Lorraine said they are willing to contribute again but additional help would be needed on competition day (setting up/packing away and with refreshments) and to be pro-active in selling calendars. Competition day has provisionally been booked for Bank Holiday Friday 8th May but this is dependent on not clashing with VE Day celebrations.

◆ **Forthcoming Activities:**

- **Village Quiz on Friday 7th February:** Table booking forms are available in the CT, Forget Me Not and at naylandcommunitycouncil.org.uk/Events. Rachel Hitchcock will continue generating the questions. Claire Buller will co-ordinate the raffle - donations of prizes would be appreciated and can be dropped off at 107 Bear Street or brought along on the evening.
- **CC Annual General Meeting on Monday 2nd March in the Village Hall:** Timings will be 7pm CC Exec meeting, 7.30pm the Community Council AGM and at 8pm the Village Hall AGM. Lorraine will prepare the posters and CC documents for the AGM. As agreed previously, to assist the minute-taker at the AGM, and at future CC meetings, it was agreed to ask Society representatives to supply a summary of their reports (handwritten, typed or emailed through).

Rachel
Hitchcock
Claire Buller

Rachel
Hitchcock
Lorraine Brooks

SOCIETY REPORTS

- ◆ **HortSoc:** Trevor Smy said on 17th March Rob Sherriff will talk on 'Growing Cut Flowers', the Spring Show will be on 21st March, their AGM and Fun Quiz will be on 14th April. They will soon be taking bookings for a outing to *Kew Gardens* on 17th June.
 - ◆ **Women's Institute:** Wendy Sparrow said they enjoyed a fascinating talk on 'Jumbo, Colchester's Water Tower', a *Music & Festive Poetry* evening and had a successful stall at the Christmas Fayre. On 26th January Revd Canon Atkin will talk on 'What Retirement Makes Possible', and in February there will be a talk on 'Homelessness and Hope'.
 - ◆ **Book Club:** Wendy Sparrow said their last book was 'The Poppy Factory' by Liz Trenow and they are currently reading 'Country Girl' by Edna O'Brien.
 - ◆ **Village Players:** Justin Dowding said their last production 'The Lion in Winter' was very well received. They are currently auditioning for their spring production which will be the comedy 'Absurd Person Singular' by Alan Ayckbourn. Emma Wallis will be directing with performances on 26th-28th March.
 - ◆ **Royal British Legion:** Their next meeting is on 14th January when Chris Hunt will be giving an interesting talk on 'War Memorials'. There will be a meeting of the VE Day anniversary celebrations committee tomorrow.
 - ◆ **St James' Church:** The next churchyard working party will be 4th April from 9am.
 - ◆ **Conservation Society:** Their AGM will be on 11th March when Jules Pretty will talk on 'Addressing Climate Change A Home'.
 - ◆ **Nayland First Responders:** Tracy Le Grys said they are no longer only called out for cardiac incidents; they are increasingly being called out if there is a delay by an ambulance and to car accidents. Recruitment has changed and now involves 150 hours of training which has to be paid for. Tracy will be climbing 17028 feet to Everest Base Camp for Help the Heroes - she has a Just Giving page.
 - ◆ **Village Hall:** Iain Wright said general maintenance continues including the 5 year electrical test. They are lucky to have the expertise of Nick Moriarty on the committee. They are planning on installing barriers at the end of the car park and removable bollards to enable access when necessary. They are still looking at fundraising for the roof project.
 - ◆ **Nayland Cinema:** They have a village hall roof fundraiser on the afternoon of Sunday 26th January; a 1940s Tea & Prosecco Party and screening of 'The Affair' which was part-filmed in Nayland during 1995 using residents as extras. Film screenings include 10th January 'Doctor Zhivago', 21st February 'Downton Abbey', 6th March 'The Biggest Little Farm', 22nd March 'Mrs Lowry & Son'.
 - ◆ **Parish Council:** Laura Erith was welcomed to the meeting. She said they have had some interest from residents about joining the Council but still have vacancies. They have been concerned by water levels of the River Stour and support installation of a water level gauge. They are concerned that building developers have avoided the requirement to include affordable housing on Harpers Hill by submitting two separate planning applications.
 - ◆ **Home School Association:** Jo Metson said the Christmas Fair had been very successful and had a lovely festive atmosphere.
 - ◆ **Messy Church:** Rachel Hitchcock said their last event before the Christmas break had an Advent theme, when they return on 26th January at Stoke Village Hall the theme will be Christingle/Candlemas.
- ◆ **AOB:**
- **Littlegarth Carol Service Coach Access:** Peter Jones, the headmaster at Littlegarth School wrote to the CC regarding problems the school experienced during their Christmas Carol Service in St James' Church. Coaches hired to bring pupils and parents to the Service had problems navigating the route to the High Street due to parked cars. Parents had been asked not to drive and park in the streets. The weather was bad on the day and voting for the General Election took place in the village hall, but the latter was unlikely to have had any impact. Mr Jones would appreciate any ideas we can offer towards a solution to this problem for future years.
Traffic and parking issues is not the CC's remit but we are keen to maintain good links with the school. Rachel Hitchcock will reply giving some contact details, information on our previous experiences and solutions that other societies have found necessary for access in the village by coaches.
- ◆ **Date of next meeting:** will be the AGM on Monday 2nd March 2020 at 7.30pm (Exec 7pm) in the Village Hall. This will be followed by the VHC AGM. **Meetings for 2020:** General meetings will be Wednesday 6th May, Monday 6th July, Wednesday 2nd September & Wednesday 28th October.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm