

Minutes from the meeting held on Wednesday 7th May 2025

Rachel Hitchcock welcomed members to the meeting

- Members present: Rachel Hitchcock, Becs Spendiff, Claire Buller, Jo Metson, Iain Wright, Vicki Sargent, Heike Ellwood, Mike Hunter, Chris Hunt, David Slater, Adam Lunn, Trevor Smy
- Contributions from: Robert Dossor, Kathryn Niven, Laura Erith, Gillian Manser, Justin Dowding, Laura Erith
- Apologies: Matt Cable, Maggie Ryan, Bryan Smith, Kathryn Niven, Justin Dowding, Robert Dossor, Laura Erith, Gillian Manser
- Minutes of meeting held on 6th January 2025 were approved (Proposed: Iain Wright, Seconded: Claire)

Matters Arising:

- **Executive Committee:** as always we welcome new members to join the team.

Becs Spendiff was voted onto committee as Secretary. Proposed: Vicki, Seconded: Claire.

We considered the outstanding jobs on Lorraine's task list. Rachel to print/laminate posters – Becs can also assist with this. Jo to update CC noticeboard with agenda, minutes and other promotions. Rachel to pass on Lorraine's key for this and will retain a key herself.

Remaining tasks involve publicising events and activities via email, Facebook, WhatsApp; in particular Bonfire Night including village magazines, various Facebook groups and other websites including (Gazette, Suffolk and Essex). It was agreed to allocate this responsibility when we have an event to publicise.

- **Fundraising Activities/Events:** Plan to discuss 60th anniversary plans at our next meeting.
- **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; it is regularly checked and has now been registered with The Circuit, the British Heart Foundation System linked to the Ambulance Service. Site checks are reported to both the CHT Webnos system and the Circuit. The defibrillator at the Fire Station is also linked to the Circuit which means the Ambulance Service will refer 999 callers to the closest defibrillator.

The Wiston defibrillator has now been ordered and will be delivered to Rachel. The invoice will go direct to the Parish Council so that they can claim back the VAT – we will transfer our contribution. Once it has been delivered we will arrange installation. Adam Lunn of the First Responders confirmed that he is still happy to monitor and report on the Wiston defibrillator.
- **Online Ticketing Facility:** NaylandEvents.org This remains useful for selling tickets to village events. If village organisations wish to use this facility contact Justin Dowding.
- **Village Hall Gardening Morning:** The last Village Hall Gardening session took place on Saturday 5th April. Community Council representatives were unable to attend. It was suggested that Community Council members should perhaps organise a separate occasion to work on the CC section if they are unable to make the official gardening morning. Iain suggested that it would be better to delay this until after the building works are finished.
- **Community Involvement:** Ideas to help raise participation in village groups and events 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. 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'. All village groups would benefit from this.
- **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. If anyone requires assistance or could give assistance if needed please contact Lorraine.

- **Plaque to mark the contribution of Ken Willingale:** Rachel did a short dedication of the plaque in the village hall garden at the start of the full meeting at 8.00 pm. This acknowledged Ken and Olive's contribution to the village through their involvement in many village organisations. Rachel explained that Ken was appointed Treasurer at the inaugural meeting of what was to become the Community Council on 20th June 1966 and remained a valued part of the organisation until his death in January 2024. She added that he is still remembered as a kind and community-minded man who was at the heart of the organisation and thanked Tony Fryer for producing the slate plaque in his and Olive's memory.

1. Recent Activities: No recent CC events have taken place.

2. Correspondence: None that isn't mentioned elsewhere.

3. Treasurer's Report:

Income for the year so far has come from the Community Times (£305), late sales of the 2025 calendar (£105), and the Quiz (£533). We also received £133 interest on the CCLA deposit account.

We have awarded grants to the Village Hall roof project (£10,000) and for the maintenance of the Horse watering area (£200). We have paid £198 for defibrillator maintenance and £112 for hall hire

Cash of £29,560 is held on current account (£16,745), deposit account £12,022 and petty cash £793

Accrued expenses include £20,000 in respect of the village hall roof, £200 Horse watering area maintenance and £153 for an outstanding grant to Lizzie's fund.

4. Grants & Donations:

- **Permissive footpath maintenance:** We will monitor the two stretches of permissive footpath (Stoke Road and Court Knoll to Allotment field) and call Dan Bowman back when needed (obviously being mindful of restrictions due to nesting birds). We will also monitor Bodpave solution at the Conservation Meadow and see how this beds in (recently seeded but little rain) with a view to this being a possible solution to the wet stretch of footpath between Court Knoll and the allotments.

- **Horse watering:** Claire circulated a message from June Freeman expressing thanks for the grant given to the group for the refurbishment of the horse watering and providing an update on the work done including ensuring a spring seeding within a very tight time frame to hopefully provide a colourful summer display.

5. Community Times & websites: Thanks as always to all contributors. Rachel said that the next deadline is fast approaching. Please let Lorraine know if you have promotion or large items to include so adequate space can be reserved.

6. Village Calendar: The 2026 calendar is in production. Claire has gained 11 sponsors; Wendy has gained the last one required. The calendar file is prepared and the photos inserted; Wendy will now be able to write the captions. There was, with the usual prompting and promotion, a good response to the photographic competition – 35 entrants submitted 194 photographs. That's not far short of the record 215 photos in 2023. 31 people voted for their favourite images (previous record last year was 44). There were many really wonderful photos, making choices very difficult indeed. **Thank you to everyone for participating.** The results and a selection of scenes that didn't quite make the top 12 will feature in the Community Times. Completed calendar will be sent for a print proof in early June and final print once the proofs are checked and will hopefully go on sale at the Flower Show, this year on 2nd August and Nayland shops the week after that.

7. Forthcoming Activities:

- **Bonfire & Fireworks: Tuesday 5th November.** Rachel Hitchcock, Claire Buller & Jo Metson leading. Firework Crazy is booked. They have provided a quote of £3,000 per display guaranteed for 2 years. This will need to be reviewed in 2027 as that will be a Friday. It was agreed that this was a very competitive price and that Firework Crazy provide an excellent service. Quote was approved. Proposed: Bees, Seconded: Heike. All agreed that a rise in ticket prices was appropriate this year given increase in cost of display and our competitive pricing compared to other local displays, particularly child tickets. It was agreed that Matt will model different options based on new costs and attendance in recent years. The committee were keen on a fair but not excessive rise.
- **Christmas Fayre: Saturday 6th December.**
Confirm date and check availability of volunteers at next meeting.
- **Christmas Trail: Christmas Trail (Windows, Trees & Wreath Competition)**
- **Village Christmas tree: Sunday 7th December** (confirm date at next meeting).

- **Father Christmas' Tour of Nayland:** *Wednesday 24th December* at 2pm
- **Fun Village Quiz:** Village Hall booked for 6th February 2026

8. Reports from Societies:

Royal British Legion

After our first meeting in March, we held our first joint meeting with the Conservation Society in the form of a private visit to Ingatestone Hall on 1st May. An interesting afternoon in beautiful and interesting Tudor surroundings, rounded off by tea and biscuits.

Nayland Branch's reserve Standard Bearer David Wiles attended a memorial service and presented the Union Standard on Sunday 28th April commemorating the 81st anniversary of a Lancaster bomber crash in what is now Severalls Industrial Park.

The next few weeks will see the start of planning for our VJ Day and 80th anniversary of the end of WW2 commemorations. We hope to hold an afternoon and evening event to raise funds for the Poppy Appeal comprising music, words and refreshments in the Village Hall on Sunday 31st August. Please save the date!

Our next meeting will be on Monday 16th June in the Church Hall with speaker Pat O'Malley. Thereafter we have a guided tour of Lavenham Airfield, a USAAF bomber base famous as the station on which the writer of screenplay for '12 O'Clock High' and 'The Memphis Belle' was based.

The Branch will change format slightly over forthcoming months as we transition to a County Supported Branch whereby we relinquish some financial duties to the County organisation on the retirement of our Treasurer, Richard Cave.

Village Players

No news at present, December production still to be set.

Nayland Choir

We had a very successful concert at the end of March, with lots of positive feedback about the Puccini and other pieces. We were very pleased to be performing in St. James' Church again and to be accompanied once more by an orchestra. We are hoping that an increase in choir subs and a small rise in ticket prices for concerts with an orchestra will enable us to make this a regular event. At the moment, we are busy rehearsing for our summer concert, 'A Summer Garland of Song' on 4th July, which will follow the usual popular format of a light supper and a mix of themed songs in the village hall. We always have room for new members who wish to join us.

Nayland Art Group

We continue to meet regularly in the church hall on Wednesday afternoons. We have spent some time developing our pencil skills and it has been helpful to go 'back to basics' as well as developing and refining our drawings. When painting, we usually work in watercolour to produce landscapes - sometimes using the Nayland calendar as inspiration so we are glad to see that the competition has just been run again this year!

Nayland First Responders

In April, our volunteers attended a scenario training day, arranged by the East of England Ambulance Service Community First Responders Training team. These sessions were supported by volunteers from the Casualties Union, a charity who provide volunteer actors to play patients for the emergency services. Our responders were faced with a female who had fallen from her roof while tending to her guttering, a catastrophic bleed to a leg from a hedge cutter, a stroke, and a diabetic emergency.

Three well attended Basic Life Support sessions were hosted by our volunteers for local residents. Two of these sessions were held at Nayland Village Hall, with hall hire costs being donated by the Community Council. The third was held in Little Horkesley.

A separate CPR awareness night was also held in Leavenheath. This was arranged by another member of East of England Ambulance Service staff and was supported by volunteers from our group.

We are now on the hunt for sponsorship and/donation to fund a gazebo to allow us to attend outdoor engagement events. This will provide much needed shelter while we are in attendance of the Bures Music Festival which we have been invited to this year, amongst other Summer events.

March and April numbers; 542 hours booked on

[At the meeting Iain offered storage at the Village Hall for the gazebo and potentially another piece of equipment – a lifting chair – that the First Responders hope to be able to purchase through fundraising and sponsorship. The Community Council also confirmed their continued support for the First Responders and appreciation for all that they do.]

St James' Church

Sunday Services continue as does the Wednesday morning coffee morning. Chris Hunt expressed very grateful thanks for the huge effort by those who organised another successful Church Fete on Monday 5th May. He said it is a significant undertaking and their efforts were much appreciated.

Hort Soc

The Spring Morning Market will be taking place on Saturday 10th May at the Church Hall and also the Main Flower Show will be going ahead on 2nd August. Volunteers have been secured for these events but there is still no response to the plea for committee members. Please support if you can.

Nayland Baby and Toddlers

We have welcomed new families from the village and it is lovely to have a little group of small babies and their mums visiting us regularly. Unfortunately even though we have had a nice number of families visiting we are still struggling with the rent, especially now there has been another small rent increase. We need to pay for insurance plus drinks and snacks for our families and can't quite make ends meet. We hope to apply for another grant to enable us to continue.

Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society

On Thursday the 1st of May, in conjunction with the Nayland Branch of the Royal British Legion 24 members enjoyed a private tour of Ingatestone Hall. As you may be aware the Hall has a connection with Nayland as village resident Sue Carbutts is the grand-daughter of Lady Petre who played a key part in the restoration of the building between the wars. On Sunday the 11th of May, Chris Hunt will lead members and guests on the Spring Footpath Walk. We shall meet at Boxted Church car park at 1.45 for a 2.00 pm start. Chris always chooses a fascinating route embellished with his special humour so if you have the time do come and join us.

In June, John Walker will give a talk on Wealden buildings and our October talk features Dave Steward speaking on the subject of Kentwell Hall.

Open Gardens will take place in the village on Sunday the 8th of June. We have 19 gardens opening and will be looking for volunteers on the day to help with the teas and car parking. If you haven't already volunteered please do not hesitate to contact me.

Finally, our spring litter pick took place on Saturday the 26th of April but sadly only 10 residents joined in (including the CC chair!) so we weren't able to cover as much of the village as usual.

Nayland Meadow

Most people will have enjoyed the recent record temperatures for the time of year after what, so far, has been one of the driest springs on record. It has been good to see the cowslips flourishing, and Ewes and their lambs back in residence.

This weather, however, has not been helpful to the length of Riverside path which Danny Thurlow reseeded just over a month ago. The amount of new grass emerging so far has been very disappointing but hopefully will improve when some wetter weather eventually arrives.!

We were very sorry that Dipak Warren sadly passed away recently. She was a much liked and respected member of our management team since its inception, and will be greatly missed by us all.

Nayland with Wissington Parish Council – Annual Parish Assembly

The meeting was attended by approx 15 people. We didn't have a zoom facility so obviously the numbers would have been a bit higher if we'd had one. This was a little disappointing as we had Paul Bryant who had given up his time from Babergh DC to talk about a possible local development plan. He spoke very well and was incredibly interesting. We also had Jeremy Bloomfield from Stoke by Nayland who enlightened us to the real world of making a local plan. The parish council then reported on the usual fixtures giving the audience an insight into the year.

It was followed up by several questions, namely the ongoing reed saga. We are doing our best no matter what public opinion may think but trying to contact different organisations is proving very difficult but we are persevering.

Just to thank my fellow Parish Councillors some of whom were absent with extremely good reasons - for all their hard work and to remind the village that it is a voluntary position - we do need more councillors and we really appreciate those that have given up their time!

9. AOB: None

10.Date of Next Meeting: will be Wednesday 2nd July at 8pm (Exec 7.30pm in the Church Hall.