

Minutes

Meeting on Wednesday 2nd July 2025 at 8pm (Exec 7.30) in the Church Hall

- Members present: Rachel Hitchcock, Bees Spendiff, Claire Buller, Jo Metson, Vicki Sargent, Heike Ellwood, Adam Lunn, Corinne Spooner, Justin Dowding, Matt Cable, Mary George
- Contributions from: Robert Dossor, Mike Hunter, Trevor Smy, David Slater, Kathryn Niven
- Apologies: Chris Hunt, Mike Hunter, Kathryn Niven, Julie Wooding, Trevor Smy
- Minutes of meeting held on 7th May 2025 were approved (Proposed: Heike Ellwood, Seconded: Vicki Sargent)

Matters arising including:

- **Executive Committee:** No new members
- **Fundraising Activities/Events:** Discussed ideas for next year's 60th anniversary celebrations and potential dates. Ideas include barn dance in the village hall with dancing or picnic at the village hall with local musicians. Rachel to identify appropriate dates and circulate for committee's consideration. To be revisited Claire/Rachel
- **Community Defibrillator:**

The Wiston defibrillator has been delivered to Rachel. Installation has been agreed with Danny Thurlow. Of note: the adjacent parish council noticeboard looks in need of some repair – Rachel will contact parish council as may also need to arrange repairs of CC noticeboard in High Street. Rachel to arrange installation of Wiston defibrillator with Danny and meet with Adam and Corinne to identify exact location.

Online Ticketing Facility: NaylandEvents.org This remains the principal outlet for selling tickets to village events. If village organisations wish to use this facility contact Justin Dowding - any groups using his facility will need a Stripe account for ticket purchase money to go into.

Village Hall Gardening Morning: CC to arrange session to tidy up the CC section of the Village Hall garden once the roofing works are complete. Village Hall working party is scheduled for Saturday 26th October so may be opportunity to do some tidying up then.

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 of you have vacancies to be included.

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. No recent change or new activity

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

2. Correspondence: None that isn't mentioned elsewhere

Treasurer's Report: for CC Meeting on 2nd July 2025 - Matt Cable,
Treasurer

Year to 30th June

Breakdown of profits to date: Quiz £533, Community Times £585, Calendar £380.

Grants paid: Village Hall roof £10,000, Maintenance of Horse Watering area £200.

Current Position: The accounts show reserves of £10,043 represented by Current a/c monies £9,250 and Cash on Hand £793. We hold £177 for the RBL Services Fund and grants are pending for: Horse Watering area £8 and Lizzie's Fund £153. Therefore unencumbered assets are £9,706.

Expenses year to date: £198 for 2024 defibrillator maintenance and £112 for hall hire.

3. Grants & Donations:

- Permissive footpath maintenance:

We continue to monitor the two stretches of permissive footpath (Stoke Road and Court Knoll to the Allotment Field) and will call Dan Bowman back when needed to cut back the hedges (obviously being mindful of restrictions due to nesting birds). It was noted that the nettles on the Court Knoll stretch are very overgrown. We also continue to monitor bodpave solution at the Conservation Meadow. Tendring Estate has said that they approve of the bodpave solution for the wet stretch of footpath between Court Knoll and the allotments and would be prepared to contribute £1000 towards the project. Rachel has replied to say that this is a really positive offer but that the remaining funds will need to be sourced and the success of the bodpave on the Nayland meadow monitored – we will go back to them if/ when ready to proceed with this.

- 80th Anniversary of the end of WWII – Royal British Legion Community event in the village hall – 31st August 2025: Claire updated the meeting on plans for the day which includes Military wives choir, brass band, war themed meal and readings by the village players. There is a short service that morning at the war memorial and church to remember those who lost their lives. Mary George and Wendy Sparrow have applied for a grant towards the printing costs of a commemorative book providing permanent record of life during WW2 particularly in Nayland and Wiston including photos, documents and personal family memories. This book will be on sale at Forget Me Not shop for £8. All profits go to RBL. Grant agreed by the executive committee. Proposed by Rachel Hitchcock and seconded by Vicky Sargent.

4. Community Times & websites:

Thanks as always to all contributors. The next deadline is approaching; please let Lorraine know if you have promotion or large items to include so adequate space can be reserved.

5. Village Calendar:

The 2026 calendar print proofs are being checked ahead of going to print (225 copies). Posters promoting sales have been produced. Sales will begin at the Flower Show on 2nd August and will also be sold at village shops. Claire reported on all 12 sponsors confirmed. Claire to attend the Woodland Corner inflatables day on 13th September as they will not be doing their October cake sale and will notify committee of other events and seek volunteers. We will not do the Halloween sale of tickets and calendars as we will not be doing paper tickets for Bonfire Night and although enjoyable this generates very limited sales.

6. Forthcoming Activities:

- **Bonfire & Fireworks: Tuesday 5th November.** *Rachel Hitchcock, Claire Buller & Jo Metson leading.*

Firework Crazy is booked. Executive committee reviewed and approved new prices proposed by Matt Cable as circulated prior to meeting including comparison table with other local firework displays. New prices proposed are Family £18, Adult (over 16) £8 and Child £3. For a family of 4, the increase is only £2 (12.5%). For a family of 5 there would be no increase. For individual adults the increase is bigger at £2 (33%). For an individual child the increase is £1 (50%). From the comparison table with other local displays this pricing would leave us about average on the adult price but still good value for families and kids. Proposed by Claire Buller, Seconded by Jo Metson.

Executive committee also agreed that no paper tickets will be printed as now all online. Anyone who is unable to get online will be able to contact committee member for assistance in ticket purchase. All tickets should be bought in advance with very limited availability on the gate (which would be of higher cost at £10/£5 and no family discount).

If naylandevents.org unable to do family tickets in addition to adult/child Matt to explore other options before considering best solution. Matt also contacting Iain to ensure that building works will not cause excessive disruption to Bonfire Night arrangements. We will also consider ways of managing queues, maximizing sales etc... at our next meeting.

- **Christmas Fayre:** Saturday 6th December.
- **Christmas Trail:** Christmas Trail (Windows, Trees & Wreath Competition)
- **Village Christmas tree** Sunday 7th December
- **Father Christmas' Tour of Nayland:** Wednesday 24th December at 2pm. Need new volunteer

7. Reports from Societies:

Nayland Community First Responder group's report. With Summer in full swing, we have had volunteers out with our stall at the Nayland Village Fête in May, and the Great Horkesley Village Fayre and Stoke-by-Nayland Resort Fun Day in June. These events raise awareness of our charity and allow visitors to practice their CPR skills. We always have great engagement from children at these events. Suffolk has 28 separate Community First Responder groups. In May 2025 the Nayland CFR group combined time that our volunteers were booked on for was 229.2 hours, making us the 7th most booked on group. May and June numbers; 391 hours booked on duty by our volunteers and 10 calls were attended.

Adam Lunn and Corinne Spooner demonstrated the lifting chair and explained how in certain circumstances it can prevent the patient waiting for an ambulance and hospital admission. The first responder group are currently raising funds for the chair.

Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society - Mike Hunter

This year's Open Gardens was one of the most successful we have ever held with 525 paying visitors and a gross income of £4,450. May I express my thanks to the 25 Open Gardeners and the many volunteers who helped on the day.

Last week, John Walker gave a fascinating talk on Wealden buildings and much to our surprise revealed there were three such buildings in Nayland. Bearing in mind there are only 42 in the whole of Suffolk it makes us realise we live in such a remarkable place.

Our next meetings will take place in October and November and we have also a full list of speakers for 2026.

Art group and choir - Kathryn Niven

The art group is still busy with various activities including some life drawing today. We will be having a break over the summer.

Choir – Kathryn Niven

The choir have their final rehearsal and concert this week. Titled 'A garland of song', the programme is a mix of music from different eras and genres on the theme of flowers and we've been challenged by, and very much enjoyed, such a variety of pieces during rehearsals. After the concert, we will be singing at an old people's home and then having a summer break before we start back in September.

Nayland Meadow Ltd – David Slater.

Although the Riverside path is still imminently usable, the reseeded has not been successful due to the prolonged spell of warm and dry weather. Far more successful has been the wildflower mix we planted alongside the path with a wonderful display of wild flowers and very energetic cow parsley over 6 foot tall! We are grateful to Chris Mortimer, the parish council grass cutting contractor for maintaining the path width for walkers and their dogs.

We have been offered possible funding for the erection of a viewing platform in the pond alongside the existing path. This would allow, and indeed encourage, much improved observation of pond and bird life for young and old alike. This must be a huge school and community plus moving forward and is very much welcomed by

Nayland school. We are only in the early stages of design and gaining the necessary approvals , An agreed proportion of the Reeds would obviously need to be removed to allow a worthwhile viewing experience.

Any comments or suggestions from local residents always welcome. Please contact Martin Wright.

Any DEFRA Funding would be conditional on the project being completed and paid for by the end of March 2026.

Royal British legion report – Robert Dossor

The Nayland RBL has started 2025 with meetings in March and June plus a tour of Lavenham Airfield on Sunday 29th June. The meeting heard further details of the activities of Pat O'Malley's father flying Liberators in Burma, where he was shot down, but suffered only minor wounds, fortunately. Pat had thoroughly researched the story and had the most detailed account of all the flights and aircraft. The Lavenham visit attracted about 10 Members plus people including a 10-year old student, interested in the poignant remains of an active USAAF Bomber base, in operations from which 233 American aircrew were lost from the 487th Bomb Group. This base served as a background to the film '12 O'Clock High' starring Gregory Peck. It was a hot day for a long walk, but there is a surprising amount of surviving infrastructure, including the CO's bungalow. Lavenham was both 'RAF Lavenham' and USAAF 'Station 137 LV'.

Our next big event is the VJ Day Commemoration in Nayland Village Hall on Sunday 31st August, for which tickets are now on sale, followed by Andrew Gowen's talk about his career in the Royal Marines on Monday 1st September.

Horticultural Society – Trevor Smy

The members party is on the 11th July at Candy Lane house , Fen street 730pm.

The Flower show is on the 2nd August 2025 in the village hall

Date of Next Meeting: will be **Wednesday 3rd September** at 8pm (Exec 7.30pm in the Church Hall).