

Minutes from the meeting held on 3rd September 2025

Rachel Hitchcock welcomed members to the meeting.

- Members present: Rachel Hitchcock, Matt Cable, Claire Buller, Jo Metson, Vicki Sargent, Iain Wright, Trevor Smy, David Slater, Adam Lunn, Chris Hunt
- Apologies: Heike Ellwood, Justin Dowding, Mike Hunter, Kathryn Niven, Laura Erith, Gillian Manser, Emma Wallis, Cheryl Leeks
- Minutes of meeting held on 2nd July 2025 were approved (proposed Jo Metson, seconded Trevor Smy)

Matters arising including:

- **Executive Committee:** No new members
- **Fundraising Activities/Events:** Agreed to mark the Community Council's 60th Anniversary in 2026 at our July committee meeting and discuss with Lorraine doing a possible celebration of the CC in the Community Times - rather than doing a large event given our limited capacity to organise (**Claire/Rachel**)
- **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 is 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.

Wiston defibrillator is kindly being installed by Danny Thurlow without charge (in next couple of weeks). Location will be the verge outside The Houses, Bures Road, Wiston CO6 4LZ in place of the Parish Council noticeboard which is no longer needed. What 3 Words: [///ahead.replying.repaying](http://ahead.replying.repaying). Location has been approved by Parish Council and Babergh Planning. This defibrillator will also be registered with the Circuit and Webnos systems as soon as installed with regular site checks reported to both systems. (**Rachel**)
- **Online Ticketing Facility:** NaylandEvents.org
This remains the principle outlet for selling tickets to village events. If village organisations wish to use this facility contact Justin Dowding.
- **Village Hall Gardening Morning:** Saturday 25th October 2025, from 9am
Jo Metson said she should be able to attend on behalf of the CC.
- **Community Involvement:** Ideas to help raise participation in village groups and events welcome. *An item headed **Volunteer Vacancies** is included in the Community Times, listing the various volunteers needed by different groups; please let Lorraine know of 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.

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

2. Correspondence: None that isn't mentioned elsewhere

3. Treasurer's Report for year to 31st August:

Breakdown of profits to date: Quiz £533, Community Times £388, interest income £224.

Grants paid: Village Hall roof £10,000, Maintenance of Horse Watering area £300.

Current Position: The accounts show reserves of £10,372 represented by Current a/c monies £9,059, Stripe account £366 and Cash on Hand £947. We hold £1,741 for the RBL Services Fund and grants are pending for: Horse Watering area £58 and Lizzie's Fund £153. Therefore unencumbered assets are £8,420.

Expenses year to date: £600 deposit for the firework display, £198 for 2024 defibrillator maintenance and £112 for hall hire. (Matt Cable, Treasurer)

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 with a view to this being a possible solution to the wet stretch of footpath between Court Knoll and the allotments, We will also keep an eye on how often this stretch is impassable before considering approaching others to contribute. Tendring Estate has said that they approve of the bodpave solution 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 when ready to proceed with this].

Thank you to David Slater – and also Mille Single and Jonathan Pearson – who have done interim maintenance on the Stoke Road stretch of permissive path to keep it accessible. (Rachel)

- **80th Anniversary of the end of WWII – RBL Community event – 31st August 2025:**

This event was very well attended and well received. Well done to the Royal British Legion and the team of organisers for a thoughtful, sociable and entertaining evening including a supper of appropriate wartime fare. Community Council grant of £549 supported 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 for £8. All profits go to the Royal British Legion. (Claire)

- **Request for small grant to cover hall hire for Nayland Community First Responders -**

approved: Grant application from Nayland Community First Responders for £90 to cover the cost of hall hire for 2 Basic Life Support sessions in October to teach local residents how to give CPR and use an AED. This would obviously be excellent timing to coincide with the installation of the new public access defibrillator at Wiston, Dates for sessions: Sunday 12th October 9.30am to 12.00pm) and Wednesday 15th October 6.00 pm to 8.00 pm).

5. 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.

6. Village Calendar:

Village calendars now on sale at village outlets (Forget-Me-Not, Mill Street Stores, Studio B). Wendy sold 22 at the Flower Show which was a good start to sales. Vicki will have a stall at the Woodland Corner Inflatable Day on 13th September. Posters promoting sales have been distributed. Thank you to Lorraine, Wendy and Claire for all their efforts in bringing this to fruition. (Claire)

7. Forthcoming Activities:

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

Confirmed that naylandevents.org will be able to sell the tickets, including additional family ticket. Thanks to Justin for enabling us to do this. Thanks to Lorraine for producing publicity materials. Start time of 6pm agreed to reduce rush on food purchases and potentially help with parking.

Ticket prices on gate advertised as follows:

Tickets in advance: Adults £8 – Children £3 – Family £18

Tickets on gate (subject to availability): Adults £10 – Children £5

Rachel in process of sorting ads and publicity using Lorraine's list of publications/websites. Claire to do local facebook. Becs to print and laminate posters. Aaron (ice-cream van) confirmed. Jo to contact fish and chip van with set price for attending the event. Fred Bugg confirmed. Agreed to encourage entry to the village via Horkesley Road to try to ease traffic congestion and put cones in key places to avoid parking blocking route. Agreed to have a site meeting with Iain (date tbc) to look at provisions we will need to make for scaffolding/building work. (Rachel, Claire, Matt, Jo)

- **Christmas Fayre: Saturday 6th December.**

6 external stalls confirmed from contacting previous stallholders. Rachel to contact societies to check if they are happy to have their usual stalls. Nayland Primary School Ukuleles confirmed. Father Christmas and his Elf are confirmed. Vicki and family to lead on refreshments as usual. Confirmed volunteers to set up on Friday night (Rachel, Claire, Vicki, Jo, Becs). (Rachel, Vicki, Claire)

- **Christmas Trail: *Christmas Trail (Windows and Trees)***

Christmas Trail will go ahead minus wreath competition which was less popular. Rachel to co-ordinate but help with getting volunteers to participate would be appreciated. **(Rachel)**

- **Village Christmas tree: *Sunday 7th December***

Volunteers will be needed, Tacy LeGrys would like to help with this. **(Claire)**

- **Father Christmas' Tour of Nayland: *Wednesday 24th December at 2pm***

Our usual Father Christmas is not available. His elf, however, is happy to organise and Rachel will approach an alternative FC. **(Claire/Rachel)**

- **Fun Village Quiz: *Friday 6th February* Confirmed **(Rachel)****

8. Reports from Societies:

9. AOB: Repairs to CC Noticeboard - Rachel and Becs to organise. **(Rachel/Becs)**

10. Date of Next Meeting: This has been changed to Wednesday 22nd **October** at 8pm (Exec 7.30pm in the Village Hall meeting rooms).

Society Reports:

The Village Players:

The Village Players have started rehearsing for their autumn production of The Village Hall. It's a comedy based around, you guessed it, a village hall and the people that use it - so I'm sure people will spit a few recognisable characters! Mark Russell will be making his directorial debut.

Several of the players will be attending the N Essex Theatre Guild Awards on 12 Sept. The group received 11 nominations for Rapunzel and Moriarty. Over 100 productions are reviewed throughout the year and the standard is very high so to receive 11 nominations is most gratifying.

NETG nominations: Showcase category

Best young actor - Will Torry as Rudi in Rapunzel, Best young actress - Mia King as Rapunzel, Best Actress - Emma Wallis as Gothel in Rapunzel

Full-length Play category: Best young actor - Will Torry as Cartwright/Toby/Hans in Moriarty, Best Supporting Actor - Mark Russell as Otto/Lestrade in Moriarty, Best Supporting Actress - Fiona Haskell as Hilda in Moriarty, Best Actor - Mark West as Watson in Moriarty, Best Actress - Emma Wallis as Irene in Moriarty, Best Set Design/Construction – Rapunzel, Best Props and Set Dressing – Rapunzel, Best full-length play – Moriarty

Baby and Toddler Group:

No news from the Toddler Group as we have been closed for the holidays. Opening dates for Autumn are 19th, 26th Sept, 3rd, 10th and 17th Oct, 14th, 21st and 28th Nov and 5th Dec.

Woodland Corner:

Woodland Corner has just had its extension and it all went very well (5 weeks). We will be able to have 5 more children plus a well needed Staff Room for staff to have their breaks away from the children. We will also be able to use this as a meeting room and parents space too!

Our Inflatable fun day is on the 13th September and we hope lots of families will come together again and enjoy socialising again after the Summer Holidays. Also new families can meet and introduce themselves and make new friends.

Breakfast and Afterschool is very busy and we are nearly full!

Nancy is coming back to us and is going to train and do her Level 3 in childcare! She is going to be our new after school staff member as we need more qualified staff now due to increasing numbers and ratio's of under 5s.

Art group:

Art Group will be restarting on Wednesday 10th September in the church hall, 2-4 pm as usual. All welcome. We are arranging new sessions for our two tutors for the weeks ahead but it will all be very informal and covering a mixture of drawing and painting skills.

Choir:

Choir will be restarting on Thursday 11th September in Nayland school hall, 8-10 pm as before. New singers are always welcome. We had another successful summer concert, made up of many and varied pieces on the theme of flowers and plants. Some of the choir then visited Blackbrook House Care Home where we enjoyed singing a selection of songs from the summer concert to residents and staff. We are now putting together/ finalising our programme for our December concert which will be in the village hall on Sunday 7th December.

Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society:

After a quiet summer period we have a busy October with the Autumn litter pick taking place on the 11th of October and a few days later on the 14th October, Dave Steward will give a talk on Kentwell Hall at the Village Hall.

On the 11th of November, Jackie Marshall will speak on the topic of domestic service in Victorian times and she has entitled the talk "Upstairs Downstairs".

You may remember that at the turn of the year we lost long standing committee member John Partridge. We have recently been advised by one of his daughters that John has left a generous legacy to the Society and the committee are currently considering how this can best be applied. As and when a decision is reached we shall report further to you.

Finally, at our September meeting the committee will be considering whether Open Gardens should continue to be held annually or whether we should move to a biennial event. Again, we shall report the outcome of these discussions at your next meeting.

St James' Church

Our regular pattern of services continues at St James. In addition on 31st August a short Act of Remembrance was held at the memorial in the church to mark the end of the Second World War. On the evening of 1st September a memorial event took place at the bench in High street to remember Lt. Charles Gumm Jnr. This was attended by some family members of Lt. Gumm and representatives of the United States Airforce. As we move into autumn we think about the Harvest Festival service which will be at our Family Service on September 21st at 10am. Our coffee morning had a short break in August, (sorry to those who turned up - we had put notices out !), but normal service has now been resumed. The Parochial Church Council is still in need of a secretary and another churchwarden, so, if anyone fancies helping do please get in touch. Finally, the churchyard is well used as a shortcut, resting place and dog walk, but please clear up after your dog.

Nayland Community First Responder Group

Adam and Corinne were lunch guests of the Men's Senior Golf Team from Stoke-by-Nayland. The lunch followed a morning of golf which, along with a raffle, raised over £3,000 for our charity. This figure will be added to the funds raised at other events the team have held this year, before being presented to the group at the end of the Summer. We are truly grateful to the Captain, Kevin Price, for nominating us as his chosen charity for 2025.

Our last planned Summer event of the year was attended by Arlene. The Assington Church Fête gave another opportunity to raise awareness of our charity and practice CPR and defib use.

October the 16th is the British Heart Foundation's Restart a Heart Day where a national focus is placed on early CPR and defibrillator use. We would like to put on two training sessions during October and hope the Community Council would be able to fund the hall hire again. Their continued backing in supporting us to put these sessions on is gratefully received and helps train local residents in using the public access defibs our community has access to.

July and August numbers; 363 hours booked on duty by our volunteers and 12 calls were attended.

Horticultural Society:

We had a very successful flower show and members party at Mig's nothing else planned till Xmas do.

Nayland Meadow

We are still pursuing our ambition regarding the viewing platform proposal and management of the pond. We are still trying to decide on the best way forward ... with a lot of investigative work being carried out. There are many hoops that have to be jumped through and so far there is no meaningful progress to report but we hope to have something more definite to say about this project at the next CC meeting.

We thank Graham Wyles for making a good job of cutting the wildflower meadow. A lizard was seen running into the small area near the Riverbend corner which is why it has been left uncut. Otters and Water Voles are apparently flourishing.

The improved footpath is gratefully and regularly used by many local people and visitors alike but it is sad to see so many dog poos left behind!

Village Hall

The Village Hall roof project is progressing well and should be completed by Christmas. We are grateful for the current hall users and their patience whilst the works are taking place.