

Minutes from the meeting held on 1st July 2026

Rachel Hitchcock welcomed members to the meeting.

- Members present: Rachel Hitchcock, Matt Cable, Claire Buller, Iain Wright, Vicki Sargent, Heike Ellwood, Dawn Harris, Trevor Smy
- Apologies: , Mike Hunter, Robert Dossor, Julie Clark, David Slater, Martin Wright, Adam Lunn, Jo Metson
- Minutes of meeting held on 6th May 2026 were approved (proposed Claire Buller, seconded Iain Wright).

Matters arising including:

- **Executive Committee:** No new members
- **Fundraising Activities/Events:** None that isn't mentioned elsewhere
- **Community Defibrillator:**
Defibrillators are located at the Village Hall, Fire Station and on the verge outside The Houses, Bures Road, Wiston. CO6 4LZ.. The defibrillators at the Village Hall and Bures Road, Wiston are managed by the CC; they are regularly checked and are 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.
- **Online Ticketing Facility:** NaylandEvents.org
It had been agreed that new ticketing arrangements would be required with the winding up of naylandevents.org – Matt had made progress on this. See forthcoming activities section.
- **Village Hall Gardening Morning:** No update.
- **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:

2. Correspondence: None that isn't mentioned elsewhere

3. Treasurer's Report to 30th June:

Breakdown of profits to date: Quiz £711, Community Times £283, Calendar £276.

Grants paid: £800 to Woodland Corner towards new acoustic rafts and £200 for maintenance of the Horse Watering area.

Current Position: The accounts show reserves of £13,135 represented by Current a/c monies £12,590 and Cash on Hand £545. We hold £298 for the RBL Services Fund and grants are pending for: Horse Watering area £94. Therefore unencumbered assets are £12,744.

Expenses year to date: £1,546 for 2025 defibrillator maintenance and the new Wiston device, £432 for permissive path maintenance, £444 for skips to clear the village hall store room, and £122 for hosting the AGM.

Grants & Donations:

Permissive footpath maintenance:

We will continue to 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). He carried out maintenance in March that will hopefully ensure that these paths remain accessible throughout the summer. Some local residents will do basic strimming/mowing. No further action required at this stage.

4. 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. Minor amendments to the advertising structure were approved as per Lorraine's suggestions (proposed Rachel Hitchcock, seconded Matt Cable)

5. Village Calendar:

A proof of the calendar was circulated and all agreed it looked great. This will now be printed and produced in time for the Summer Flower Show on 1st August.

6. Forthcoming Activities:

- **Confirm hall bookings for future events:** Lorraine has kindly made Village Hall bookings ahead of time for key events. These will need to be kept up-to-date. Rachel to book future meeting dates from the end of the year
- **Community Council's 60th Anniversary: Commemorative spread in Community Times.**
Members were grateful to Lorraine for producing a fantastic 8 page commemorative spread for the Community Times celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Community Council.
- **Bonfire & Fireworks: Tuesday 5th November.** Rachel Hitchcock, Claire Buller, Matt Cable & Jo Metson leading. Matt has set up a provisional Ticket Tailor account which seems straightforward with similar costs. Matt to investigate need to set up an independent web domain for the purpose of this (Claire's son may be able to help with this). Catering: agreed to order 100 more sausages to be cooked in advance and look at alternatives to fish and chip van. Matt to investigate a small children's ride. Rachel to contact the local police officer regarding parking cones and possible arrangements to help with parking. Staff parking on the day should be on the field to increase disabled parking in the car park. Discussed options for ticket prices on the gate.
- **Christmas Fayre: Saturday 5th December.** It was agreed that the Christmas Fayre should go ahead on Saturday 5th December as Father Christmas is available on this date, as are Claire, Vicki and family, Rachel, Becs and Matt.

7. **AOB:** As per our previous discussion, Dawn Harris to investigate the possibility of installing In-Post lockers at the Village Hall.

8. **Date of Next Meeting:** This will be Wednesday 2nd September 2026 at 8pm (Exec 7.30pm in the Church Hall).

Society Reports:

Nayland Community First Responder Group

Nayland Community First Responder group's report to the Community Council general meeting.

Adam, Corinne and Ryan had a fantastic evening teaching the Great Horkesley Cubs pack CPR and AED use. A vital life skill to have and will also go towards a new badge for the Cubs.

Adam and Corinne were chosen to represent the East of England Ambulance Service volunteers at a 250th anniversary celebration of the Essex Freemasons in June. The Essex Freemasons had donated £100,000 to fund 3 CFR vehicles across the county. The Colchester based car is used by members of the Nayland group to keep their clinical skills current and mentor new starters.

Following the installation of the new public access defibrillator in Little Horkesley, the group provided 2 sessions of CPR and AED use to the village, better equipping the residents to deal with any cardiac arrests.

Following the roll out of a new triaging process for some 999 calls the group has seen a significant drop in the volume of calls we are attending, which is good news for patients if a hospital admission can be avoided.

May and June numbers; 439 hours booked on duty. 3 calls attended. 20 people trained in basic life support

Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society:

The Society enjoyed an excellent speaker meeting in June when Beartrice Prosser Snelling gave a superb talk on the history of Benton End the artistic home of Cedric Morris and the Suffolk School of Art.

As mentioned at our last meeting we are currently in conversation with the Parish Council regarding the replacement of the small litter bin by the notice boards in the High Street. We have chosen a new model and the Parish Council are seeking approval from Babergh District Council.

We are also investigating a hedgehog access scheme with a view to encouraging an increase in the numbers of this delightful mammal in the village. We hope to hold a public meeting in the early autumn to raise enthusiasm and to provide guidance on steps to be taken to increase numbers.

We undertook some nettle clearance to the footpath on the south side of Anchor Marsh a few weeks ago and will continue to ensure this path remains negotiable.

Our next speaker meeting will be held in October when Professor Alison Rowlands will speak on the subject of Angels and Demons in Essex and Suffolk, a bewitching subject matter!

Royal British Legion:

This year has been interesting, David Pryor related stories from his days as a forensic scientist, Capt. Richard Channon told of life in submarines. and our Rector described the history and current strength of the French Navy. Our St George's Day lunch was a sellout and ended with an interview of Air Commodore Bob Lightfoot AFC by our very own Chris Hunt, which was interesting – Bob had been the RAF's Lightning Display Pilot and moved on to command the Sultan of Oman's private air fleet.

We attended the Colchester Memorial Service for the crew of RAF Lancaster UM-K2, lost on 25th April 1944 on final approach to Bosted airfield. This was an unfortunate crash in that the aircraft was based in Lincolnshire, returning badly damaged from a raid into Germany- so why was it so far off the most direct track to its original base? Three crewmen were from the Royal Canadian Air Force and four from the RAF. None were aged more than 29 and one was only 21 years old.

In July we have a small party visiting RAF Wattisham and its Museum then in August we have a slot booked to look round the Anglo-Saxon ship project in Woodbridge.

Also in August, Pat O'Malley will relate the amazing story of a relative's award of the VC in WW1 and then we are into the Autumn. Our October meeting will hear about the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's in maintenance and education, and we have yet to identify our speaker for our AGM on 23rd October

Nayland Meadow

21 May saw the formal opening of the Nayland Meadow boardwalk and platform. Of course prior to those works being implemented we had the pond desilted for the first time since it was constructed. All of the comments we have received to-date have been very positive.

In the last Community Times we wrote about the finances of Nayland Meadow Limited. It currently costs £5000-£6000 annually to run Nayland Meadow excluding special projects (like the desilting and platform). Currently we do have funds (due to the generosity of others) however we are going to have to raise an annual sum of that order in order to ensure the long-term future of Nayland Meadow. We need to put in place long-term plans now so as not to deplete our reserves. Views and ideas all welcome.

This week a young boy cycling around the meadow was hit by one of the branches as it blew in the wind knocking him off his bike. We have taken steps to cut these branches back. We do rely on locals to be our eyes in terms the Meadow. We also look to volunteers generally to help. The incident was unfortunate and we wish him well.

As a gentle reminder the path is a public footpath - it is not a "by-way open to all traffic" – or "boat" – and it is not open for cyclists or horses.

Nayland Baby and Toddler Group

We have been outside in the sunshine when the weather has been nice enjoying sand and water play. Unfortunately although some weeks are busier than others we aren't quite making enough money to cover the rent, so we are considering our options for September, whether to reduce the amount of sessions we hold (maybe once a month) in the hope that when we do open more families attend, or whether we should put in for another grant.

Parish Council

Judges found for allotments. New bin for High Street donated by Conservation Society. Caley Green river bank erosion repairs are in planning and awaiting decision. Practical completion granted for the Village Hall Roof – big thanks to the committee and everybody who contributed to this worthwhile project.

HortSoc

They enjoyed a members visit to Richard Cave's garden on the 14th June. Next will be our annual members garden party at Peter and Mig Drew's home in Fen street on 10th July. They are looking forward to the Flower Show on 1st August.