

Minutes from the meeting held on 2nd September 2026

Rachel Hitchcock welcomed members to the meeting.

- Members present: Rachel Hitchcock, Matt Cable, Jo Metson, Iain Wright, Vicki Sargent, Rebecca Spendiff, Chris Hunt, David Slater, Mike Hunter, Adam Lunn, Trevor Smy, Kathryn Niven
- Apologies: Claire Buller, Robert Dossor
- Minutes of meeting held on 1st July 2026 were approved (proposed Becs Spendiff, 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:**
See forthcoming activities section for update on new ticketing facility for Bonfire Night.
- **Village Hall Gardening Morning:** Saturday 17th October
- **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 31st August:

Breakdown of profits to date: Quiz £711, Community Times £1,118, Calendar £423.

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 £13,324 represented by Current a/c monies £12,633 and Cash on Hand £692. We hold £298 for the RBL Services Fund and grants are pending for: Horse Watering area £94. Therefore unencumbered assets are £12,933.

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, £113 for the village website, and £202 for hosting the AGM and other meetings.

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 to ensure that these paths remained relatively accessible throughout the summer. Some local residents continue to do basic trimming/strimming/mowing. No further action required at this stage

Woodland Corner – acoustic panels:

Message and update from Cheryl: I just wanted to say a huge thank you to the Community Council for providing us with the funding for our new acoustic panels at Woodland Corner. Over the summer holidays, we had a company come in and fit the panels, and we can already hear a significant improvement in the reverberation within the room. We're really pleased with the result and are looking forward to having all the children back this week so we can experience the difference with the setting at full capacity! Please pass on our thanks to everyone at the Community Council for their support. It is very much appreciated.

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.

5. Village Calendar:

The Village Calendar is now on sale and already Wendy Sparrow had a successful time at the Flower Show, selling a good number of copies.

6. Forthcoming Activities:

- **Bonfire & Fireworks: Thursday 5th November.** Rachel Hitchcock, Claire Buller, Matt Cable & Jo Metson leading. Matt has set up a Ticket Tailor account to manage ticket sales and secured the domain name naylandfireworks.co.uk to allow for easy access when purchasing tickets. Thanks to Claire's son Lewis for his help with this. This will be tested and updated details passed to Lorraine to allow her to produce the publicity (thanks to Lorraine for this). It was agreed that refreshments will be card only on the night. Iain confirmed that he will once again lend his kit for which we are very grateful. He will help set up earlier in the day but will not be at the event due to a prior engagement. A children's ride has been secured which we will try for this year. Additional parking marshalls have been sought – Julie confirmed her availability to help Karen and Rachel on the High Street and Claire has found another volunteer to help Wayne on Court Street. Rachel to contact the Anchor to ask if car park can be used as usual.
- **Christmas Fayre: Saturday 5th December.** It has been 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. Rachel currently seeking stallholders and confirming availability of the primary school and other groups and societies.
- **Village Christmas Tree: Sunday 6th December.** Claire Buller Matt has set up a provisional Ticket Claire confirmed that this was in hand and would be put up on Sunday 6th December and taken down on Sunday 3rd January. Volunteers welcome. Rachel to confirm Will Hitchcock's availability.
- **Father Christmas Tour of Nayland: Christmas Eve.** Claire Buller Father Christmas has confirmed his availability
- **Fun Village Quiz: Friday 5th February 2027** It was agreed that, as this event is still popular and a good fundraiser, Rachel would do again next year but that she would seek assistance. Becs to do scoring again.

7. AOB:

The possibility of CC funding a general first aid course, open to local residents, was discussed. It was agreed that this was a good idea in principle and the meeting approved that Rachel should investigate possible costs and providers. (proposed Julie Clark, seconded Iain Wright). There was no update on the possibility of InPost lockers at the Village Hall.

8. Date of Next Meeting:

This will be Wednesday 28th October 2026 at 8pm (Exec 7.30pm in the Church Hall).

Society Reports:

Nayland Community First Responder Group

The group spent four enjoyable days at the Bures Music Festival with the engagement stall. We wish to thank the organisers for being such great hosts and for having us back for our second year. The not-for-profit event has been incredibly generous to us in recent years, providing funding as well as giving us a platform to connect with our local community and teach CPR and defibrillator use.

We are pleased to welcome Kevin and Rachel to our group. Kevin is an experienced CFR who will increase our coverage towards the west of our area and has already completed some shifts with us, while Rachel joins us as a new beginner following our ongoing recruitment campaign and is based in Bures.

We are constantly recruiting, so please get in touch if you are interested in volunteering for us as a CFR.

This October we will be holding a number of FREE Basic Life Support (BLS) sessions in our community to coincide with Restart a Heart Day. These sessions, run by our volunteer responders trained by the East of England Ambulance Service Charity, will cover CPR and defibrillator (AED) use. There will be two sessions in Nayland and two in Bures, with booking available via our Eventbrite page.

July and August numbers; 591 hours booked on duty. 9 calls attended. 4 days at an event

Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society:

The Society has arranged a public meeting at the Village Hall on Saturday the 26th of September at 10.00 a.m. to hear a talk on the Hedgehog Access Scheme which is designed to increase the number of hedgehogs in the village.

Everyone is welcome to attend and parents are encouraged to bring their children with them.

You may have noticed that the Society has arranged for a new notice board in the High Street which has been dedicated to the memory of John and Clare Partridge. John was a long serving committee member and had thoughtfully left a generous bequest to the Society.

We undertook another 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 Witches and Witchfinders in Essex and Suffolk.

Finally, we shall be holding our Autumn litter pick on the 10th of October. As usual we shall meet at the Village Hall car park at 1.30 pm when everyone will receive litter pickers and refuse bags and will be allocated an area.

Royal British Legion:

Since our last report Members of the Branch have visited RAF Wattisham and the Anglo-Saxon ship project in Woodbridge; these visits end our Summer programme and we now look forward to the Autumn and Remembrance events.

We were limited in numbers in our visit to Wattisham, but after we had passed through all the security we looked round the Museum and had an introduction to the site and its construction by a volunteer. Interesting that the airfield had a grass runway for most of its service. An escort took us to the far side of this enormous site (about 700 acres), through the part where photographs were not allowed, to the larger exhibits and restoration projects the Museum is undertaking. The hardened shelters, used for the Tornados of the 1960s/70s are abandoned and used for storage, even disconnected from their electricity supply. A fascinating insight to the home of the Army Helicopter fleet.

The visit to Woodbridge was supported by 11 members and guests on a hot day. Guided by Member and Volunteer David Pryor, we were shown the astonishing work in progress. The interpretation of the archaeology from Sutton Hoo into a real ship using the technology and tools of the period has produced a superb vessel, whose launch in 2027 will be eagerly awaited, along with the various voyages planned for her and her volunteers.

Also in August, Pat O'Malley related the amazing story of his Great Uncle Thomas Kenny's award of the VC in WW1. Astonishingly he survived and became an Australian folk hero at home, along with other VC recipients in Australia.

Our meeting on Monday 12th October will hear about the work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission's in maintenance and education, and we welcome back Michael Callaghan to chat about his experiences as the son of a Prime Minister at our AGM on Monday 23rd November – both in the Church Hall.

The Remembrance Day Coffee Morning will be held in the Church Hall on Saturday 31st October.

Nayland Meadow

The recently built new platform has now settled into the landscape more comfortably with the rapid reed growth around it. We have had many positive comments from local people and visitors alike, and the school is really enjoying the use of it which is great for the future, as well as the here and now.

Considerable efforts are being made to remove the unwanted reeds that have sprung up in the middle of the pond, involving the use of tall people, waders and a boat! as well as the lonely Swan, wildlife flourishes with moorhens, coots and a large family of ducks... The ducks may become a bit of an issue with their inclination to enjoy and then poo on the viewing platform. Fish stocks are rapidly increasing finding their way into the pond via the culverts from the river with Pike and Roach rapidly growing in numbers and size.

If not already done by the time of this meeting, the wildflower Meadow area will shortly be cut, baled and removed. Two small areas we will be left uncut as winter refuges for insects. The overdue topping of the main field will be left until this has been done. A hard time for the sheep, but they are now getting supplementary hay...but none of them look very fat! The deposit of the silt that came out of the pond has been cultivated and rolled and we plan to reseed in a month or so following some much needed rain.

Nayland Baby and Toddler Group

No news really for the Toddler Group as we have been closed for the Summer. We reopen on the 25th Sept and are desperate for new families as many of our regulars children have now moved on to school.

HortSoc

We are pleased to report what a great success the flower show was with more entries than last year, in a range of categories. A real achievement considering what a difficult growing season it was. We will also be having a table at the Christmas Fayre.

Art Group

We have been having a summer break and will be restarting on Wednesday 16th September. Primarily (though not exclusively) a watercolour or drawing group, we are always happy for new people to come along and try us out/ join us and we have spare materials available for anyone who would like to have a go before committing to the expense of buying them. In July, we were given a very kind donation of lots of art materials by the family of a Nayland resident who had passed away and we are very grateful.

Choir

We were very pleased that so many of our audience attended our concert at the end of June, despite it being one of the hottest/ most humid days of a heatwave, and that St. James' Church were able to accommodate us for the singing part of the evening as this was a more comfortable environment. We had some lovely feedback and enjoyed our 'Night at the Opera.' In July, we held a 'Come and Sing' in the village hall where we had a day of singing a whole range of songs on a travel theme, from English folk songs all the way to the moon! We will be restating rehearsals on Thursday 10th September, practising for our next concert on 6th December in the village hall at 3.30 pm where we are planning to sing some beautiful winter/ advent music with a string quartet to play/ accompany us. Tickets will be available via a link on our website later on in the year. Since becoming a charity and setting up our Friends of Nayland Choir, we have had some very generous donations and this is enabling us to pay for more musicians and for a wider range of musical scores.

St James' Church

Normal services continue along with the regular coffee morning on a Wednesday morning. In addition it should be noted that there will be an 'Evening Constable' celebration on Friday 4th September, 7pm for 7.30pm in the Village Hall.