

MINUTES OF THE NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH DECEMBER 2023, AT 7.30 PM AT NAYLAND VILLAGE HALL AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCING.

Present: L Erith (Chair), G Battye, O Brown, P Fuller, S Treharne, J Finch (County Cllr) *from 8.15p.m.*, Isabelle Reece (District Cllr) and two members of the public – M. Hunter & G. Jones attended in person. L Brooks and S. Dalton attended by Video link.

Before Commencement of the Meeting

a. Public Forum:

1. Mr. Hunter enquired whether the Council had received a communication from a resident, offering to co-ordinate a local voluntary speedwatch team to provide evidence and statistics about traffic and speeds within the village centre. He supported this offer and urged the Parish Council to resolve its support. *Please see Highways below.*
2. Mr. Jones is owner of land adjacent to the Council cemetery.
 - a. Concerning the 8 overgrown trees on the northern boundary of the cemetery, he thanked the Council for its ordering of 2 day's work by their contractor but reported that only part of the original job had been completed by the Council contractor, owing to occurrence of Storm Babet on the second day of the work, 18th October, 2023. He asked that the Council follow this up with the contractor to ensure completion of the work.
 - b. He wondered when this season's work would commence. He felt that keeping up with the work with a three year cycle would ultimately prove more cost effective.
 - c. The condition of the fence causes concern and work should be planned for its maintenance.

Please see Cemetery below

b. District Council Report

District Cllr. Isabelle Reece had been trying to follow up the state of the Old Bus Shelter plot of ground at the junction of Heycroft Way/Harpers estates. As yet no progress but she would follow it through. She had information on speedwatch and on Neighbourhood Planning for on she would share when the items were discussed.

c. County Council Report

County Cllr. J. Finch attended and confirmed the Cabinet have approved new funding to re-surface residential roads and welcomes Government's announcement of funds ring-fenced over the next ten years. The County Council Adult Social Care Service was rated good overall by the Care Quality Commission. A 1400 year old temple was discovered at Rendlesham. The County Council remain united against the Norwich to Tilbury onshore pylons option. Virtual fostering and adoption sessions continue.

On local matters Cllr. Finch attached an update for the traffic calming programme, that we had asked him to explore for Nayland, with the Highways Safety and Speed Management team.

Cllr Finch confirmed that Horkesley Road will qualify for a Temporary Vehicle Activated sign (TVAS) which will be rotated with other sites in the locality, by Suffolk County Council Highways speed Management team.

Cllr Finch confirmed that Stoke Road will qualify for a "Speed Indicator Device" and as discussed previously, will probably benefit from a battery unit without the solar panel following experience from other parishes. *Please see Highways below.*

Parish Council Meeting

1. **Apologies:** were received and accepted from the R Thorogood, D Harris and A Birchweaver. The Clerk, Mrs. D. Hattrell was unwell and wouldn't be able to attend. The Council's best wishes were offered.

2. **Approval of Minutes of 8th November Meeting:** These were accepted as a true record. Cllr. G. Battye and the Chair, Cllr. L. Erith would Clerk this meeting. Prop: O. Brown Sec: P. Fuller. Agreed unanimously.

3. **Declarations of Interest by Councillors :** Nothing was declared

4. **Highways:** (*Held over until 8.25p.m. upon Cllr. J. Finch's arrival from other meetings.*)

a. **Wiston Road verge.** Following previous incidents after rain, Cllr. Erith reported that the crumbling road surface edge, adjacent to the ditch, opposite Little Bulmer Farm remained a danger to drivers, particularly now that bollards/cones had been removed. She asked Cllr. Finch whether he could pursue this. Cllr Finch mentioned the limited resources available within prioritising.

b. **Traffic Speed Calming.**

i. **Voluntary Speedwatch Offer**

Following an offer by resident, Mr. Jonathan Pearson, to set up a voluntary 'Nayland Community Speed Watch - (CSW)' group, under guidance of Suffolk Constabulary, Cllr. Owen Brown proposed that the Council should support such a group so that local traffic data could be collected as evidence of speeding by vehicles. Seconded by Cllr. P. Fuller and resolved unanimously. All agreed that the data would be useful and the activity, following the guidelines, might be a deterrent. Mr. M. Hunter and Cllr. Reece were aware of this offer and possible bid. Cllr. Finch mentioned the success of the Newton speedwatch team as well as the expertise of the Cavendish team which had been established for many years. Cllr. Finch agreed to speak to the co-ordinator at Newton Green and obtain useful advice.

ii. **Traffic Calming Equipment**

a.) Cllr. Finch had been looking into appropriate equipment for our village with the SCC Highways Dept., bearing in mind both law and SCC policy. *Stoke Road* would qualify for a Re-active sign which displays the speed. There would be a choice between battery or solar powered. SCC's recommendation would be at this stage to go for battery powered owing to reliability and the avoidance of installing a higher pole at this site. There are a number of suppliers, including Wesco Tech. Whilst SCC won't make any recommendations on suppliers, District Cllr. I. Reece added that Essex Highways had a list of approved suppliers. The Parish Council would be required to fund this.

b.) For *Horkesley Road*, Cllr. Finch recommended a temporary Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS). This should be sited within the 40mph zone, just outside the 30mph limit. This sign would be a shared sign (with other parishes) on a rota basis.

c.) The Council discussed these suggestions Cllr. L. Erith proposed and Cllr. O. Brown seconded that the Council should respond positively and purchase where appropriate, and work with technical advice from Highways Dept. The Council would look into purchase options. Unanimously agreed. It was also agreed that the Speedwatch group would operate independently of sign construction.

d.) Cllr. I. Reece informed the meeting that at *Stoke by Nayland*, a package of £10,000 had been awarded towards speed management in the village. She/we would check the source.

5. **Finance Report:**

i) The Chairman read from the bank balances as at 1st December 2023 as £1000 in the Current Account, £52328.22 in the linked Account and £63,472.38 in the Capital Investment Account making a total of £116,800.60.

ii) List of Pre-agreed payments for the November period: -

Funds Transfer	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	£1029.00	Litter/ Open Sp/Allotmt
Funds Transfer	Employment Costs totalled	£2148.68	Salary, NI and Pension
Funds Transfer	Nayland Village Hall	£350.00	Webbs Meadow
Funds Transfer	SALC	£72.00	Training
Funds Transfer	M George	£32.42	Trough planting

iii) Finance Sub Committee Minutes and Recommendations: -

Summary of Recommendations for adoption at December/January Parish Council Meetings

1. A Precept of £46258(7% increase) for 2024/25 year (subject to final tax base figures)
2. A further £2000 be allocated to the Capital Investment Fund from the 2024/25 year.
3. This Council continues to adhere to the National Scale for Clerks Salaries for 24/25 yr
4. Award the Grass and Litter Contracts for 2024/25 year to our existing contractors.
5. The Contribution towards Webbs Meadow grass cutting to increase to £385
6. The Allotment Rents are to increase by 10% for next financial year.
7. The Burial Fees will have an uplift of 7%.
8. The Financial Regulations and Standing Orders have been reviewed and currently meet our needs with minor amendments in relation to procurement legislation. A new Reserves Policy as recommended by the Auditors has been produced for approval. The Internal Control Policy also needs to be reviewed on an annual basis.
9. Parish CIL monies are to be used towards a new Defibrillator for Wiston supported by a grant from the Community Council. Other new capital projects to be prioritised for CIL monies as there is still no confirmed timescale for completion of the Village Hall Roof. The funds need to be spent within 5 years of allocation. The detailed CIL returns can be viewed on our Website.
10. The Finance Committee proposes that we subscribe to a scribe accounting system in accordance with their quote of £657 for the first year. Now the Clerk has established our old email address pc@naylandwithwissington.suffolk.gov.uk can be re-directed, it was agreed to purchase a new gov.uk domain name with up to 10 mail boxes to enable each Councillor to have appropriate email addresses. It is recognised converting to the new systems of work will take additional time next year and it is proposed to increase the Clerks working hours slightly to make this possible.

iv) G. Battye Proposed and P. Fuller Seconded that the pre-agreed payments and the Finance Sub-Committee recommendations be approved. Unanimously resolved.

v) Any other urgent Finance Matters: - Correspondence From The Benefice Community Hardship and Pantry Fund

The Council has received a communication from Mr. Adam Sedgwick, a member of the Community Hardship and Community Pantry Fund management. Mr. Sedgwick had explained how other local Parish Councils within the benefice, had allocated Charity monies to the work of the Fund within the benefice.

Mr. Sedgwick asked whether Nayland with Wissington Parish Council would be generously willing to do the same from its own Precept. Cllr. Battye and Cllr. Fuller reminded the meeting of the local Walsh Fund and this year's donation by that Fund to the Community Hardship and Pantry Fund. The work of the Fund was much appreciated by councillors. It was unanimously agreed to invite Mr. Sedgwick to the January meeting of the Parish Council to update the Council on the Fund's work to expand on his request and update the Council.

6. Planning

1. Decision from the Planning Authority:-

The Planning Authority did not wish to object to removal of sycamore tree at Lower Courtwood, 13A Court Street - **DC/23/04878**.

2. Advertisement Consent at Harpers Hill Farm - DC/23/05311

The Council resolved that this application be refused on the grounds that the size of the proposed signs was too large for this site, adjacent to Gladwin's Farm entrance and within the AONB. The need for two signs was questioned. Signage in itself was appropriate, as with the neighbouring business, but the number and design, as per application should be refused.

Proposed by G. Battye, Seconded by L. Erith and unanimously resolved. It was also noted that a Skip vehicle seemed to be permanently parked at the entrance splay

3. Listed Building application to vary conditions at 72-78 Bear Street – DC/23/05458

Cllr. O. Brown proposed and Cllr. S. Treharne seconded that the Council approve this application in principle but that the Planning Authority should ensure that the integrity of the heritage asset should not be compromised by the choice of materials. All agreed that decision by heritage team should ultimately determine the success of the application.

4. Listed Building application for lime render and alterations at 52-54 Bear Street - DC/23/05592

The Council has no objections to this application as long as Heritage Team at Babergh approved materials. Proposed by Cllr. G. Battye and Seconded by Cllr. P. Fuller and unanimously resolved.

5. Future Housing

Cllr. Owen Brown reported that investigation was still on-going. He would recontact Community Action Suffolk on processes and requirements. A number of local Councils had piloted and undertaken Neighbourhood Priority Statements and Plans. District Councillor I. Reece commented that the Babergh District Planning Team placed great emphasis and weight on the existence of local Neighbourhood Plans such as one application proposing 24 homes at a particular site in the District.

6. Any other urgent Planning matters -

a.) Cllr. P. Fuller felt that we should pursue Whole Council Planning Training here in Nayland with Wisington as a group. All present were agreed and enquiries should be made at SALC and with the District Planning team.

b.) It was agreed by all present that Councillors would appreciate the inclusion of both the Plan Number ID and the Address, to be contained in the *email title* for all Parish Council emails concerning specific applications. This would be particularly useful for researching the history of Council application responses etc. and spotting applications within our email lists. The Clerk would be asked whether this was feasible, upon her return to work.

7. Street Lighting:

Nothing to report

8. Recreation and Open Spaces:

i.) Caley Green.

a. Update on the Royal Lasting Memorial.

The tree has been planted, the railings around the tree have been erected and the bench has been installed. A plaque is to follow. The whole Council offered its congratulations to Cllr.

Dawn Harris for all her lengthy and meticulous work on this important achievement. The contractors had worked through the worst of weather to achieve it. Thanks were expressed to The Community Council which had made a financial contribution.

b. The culvert

SCC work on this appears completed. The rotten wooden safety rail over the culvert, adjacent to the bus shelter has been replaced. Any work on the long reed bed isn't yet in the pipeline. S. Dalton was asked for any updates.

ii.) **Fairfield Playpark**

a. Equipment and Signage

The equipment had been repainted. Mr. Battye reported that the work was excellent. The sub committee would need to resolve signage, both in the Playpark and the field and parking areas.

b. Fairfield/Cemetery Drive

The delay to the repair to the Fairfield/Cemetery driveway by the Benefice, was very disappointing. Despite the Diocese explaining the delay, the Council have real safety concerns for cars carrying children, visitors to the care home, funeral vehicles and ambulances using the drive with one particularly deep pothole. We will chase again.

9. **Village Hall:**

a. Car Park Electric Charging Points

The Council has received correspondence expressing an interest in the possibility of free EV Charging points at the Village Hall. D Harris had reported that this has been discussed by the Management Committee and the electricity supply would need to be updated to make this possible. Such updating is already part of the Roof Project. The Council agreed that in principle this was a good idea but that the Management Committee would be integral. Separate costings for the points themselves would have to be sought.

b. The Council believed that the Management Committee await the results of the 2nd stage of the latest Lottery Funding application.

10. **Community Council:** The Minutes are regularly circulated and on the website. The Council congratulated, through Cllr. S. Treharne, the Community Council on the Christmas Fair and competitions which had been a great community success.

11. **Allotments:-**

The Allotment Rents have been requested and we now have two people on the waiting list. One from the Parish and one from an adjoining Parish.

12. **Burial Ground:**

Cllr. D. Harris had reported that some individual metal crosses, marking the graves of former Jane Walker residents, were being repaired and new ones being made to replace damaged ones and also for other known graves of former Jane Walker Patients. Cllr. S Treharne identified the need for liaison with our grass contractor concerning the crosses in the future.

13. **Footpaths:**

On the Permissive Path to Stoke By Nayland, created by the Conservation Society, signage has been damaged at both ends. Mr. Hunter (Chair of ConSoc) offered to liaise further with the Tendring Hall land agent and keep the Parish Council/Tree Warden informed.

14. **Correspondence:**

a. Policing

Suffolk Constabulary have re-organised local policing. A Community Policing Team has been created. PC 1293 Niall Johnson and PCSO 3092 Jo Adams are our new allocated officers.

b. Other correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

The meeting closed in good order at 8. 43 pm.