

MINUTES OF THE NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10TH JANUARY 2024, AT 7.30 PM AT NAYLAND VILLAGE HALL AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCING.

Present: R Thorogood (Chaired the Meeting), D Harris, G Battye, P Fuller, S Treharne, A Birchweaver, I Reece (District Cllr) and 2 members of the public attended in person. D Hattrell (Clerk), L Brooks (Community Times) and 1 member of the public attended by Video link.

Before Commencement of the Meeting

a. **Public Forum:** A representative from Littlegarth School attended to address concerns about their lighting. During the conversation members of the Conservation Society had clarified that the lighting is visible in Wiston. Our Chair, L Erith, had also shared concerns. He explained that the lighting was improved a few months ago due to slips and trips and therefore better lighting was needed. Since concern had been expressed, the cleaners are now parking at the front, so that lighting does not come on after say 6.30 p.m. He gave his email address and offered to discuss with anyone who has concerns - rpreston@littlegarth.org. I Reece offered to send him the Dedham Vale Lighting Design Guide - **Action I Reece**. M Hunter confirmed the spring litterpick would be scheduled for 20th April if there were no objections. No objections were raised, so the date was set.

b. **District Council Report**

District Cllr Isabelle Reece attended and confirmed a site meeting has been scheduled at the Bus Shelter at Harpers Estate/Heycroft Way junction at 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 17th January with Public Realms. A representative from the Parish Council could attend, however, please let I Reece know in advance. She will look at the garages at the same time. Some welfare issues have been taken up her time recently. She confirmed the speedwatch funding she referred to at last meeting, was through the National Lottery - A road safety package. She believes the Suffolk Constabulary supply kit currently and Essex County Council have an approved list of suppliers of Vehicle Activated Signage (VAS).

c. **County Council Report**

County Cllr J Finch had sent apologies, however, his report issued in advance confirmed the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has announced its funding package to support councils in England to deliver frontline services. At the County Council, this is considered far less than they need and by prioritising their statutory responsibilities this leaves difficult decisions about the services they deliver, how they deliver them and their Council Tax. Various Scams are happening including fake texts, emails websites, bogus charities, gift card scams and fake social media opportunities. Suffolk Trading Standards are urging residents to be wary of offers that look too good to be true and to stick with reputable websites and be suspicious of requests for bank transfers or personal details. A 1400-year-old temple was discovered at Suffolk Royal Settlement at Rendlesham. Virtual Fostering and Adoption Sessions continue. Locally, the SCC Engineers have been out again to the Bear Street Junction and have decided because of UK Power Networks failure to repair the supply to the units, to use a whole set of different signs which are new type of reflective self-cleaning signs and do not require back lighting / power. He has the Suffolk County Council Highways Lighting Manager pushing on his behalf and recognises the urgent need in these weather conditions. On the latter it was agreed for D Harris to investigate, liaise and report back - **Action D Harris**.

Parish Council Meeting

1. **Apologies:** were received and accepted from the L Erith (Chair) and O Brown. The Clerk attended via Video Conferencing. J Finch (County Cllr) had sent his apologies.
2. **Approval of Minutes of 13th December Meeting:** These were accepted as a true record.
3. **Declarations of Interest by Councillors:** Nothing was declared.
4. **Highways:** P Fuller was concerned at the standard of re-surfacing from Bear Street to the fork for Heycroft Way and Harpers Estate. This Council asked for the whole stretch to be resurfaced in view of the poor condition. We were advised that work was being scheduled, although we didn't have the specification. Unfortunately, only a patch of 1 mtr by 2 mtrs was done and the remainder is still in a poor condition. It was agreed for G Battye to take a photograph to assist the Clerk in making a complaint in this regard - **Action G Battye and Clerk**. We were pleased to report that more than the

required 6 residents have volunteered for Community Speedwatch, so the co-ordinator has applied for their training from the Suffolk Constabulary.

5. **Finance Report:**

i) The Chairman read from the bank balances at 3rd January 2024 as £1000 in the Current Account, £44,441.93 in the linked Account and £63,472.38 in the Capital Investment Account making a total of £108,914.31.

ii) List of pre-agreed payments for the December period (paid early January 2024): -

Funds Transfer	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	£300.00	Litter
Funds Transfer	Employment Costs totalled	£1432.70	Salary, NI and Pension
DD	PWLB	£939.67	V Hall loan

The Royal Memorial Seat, tree and railings were installed in early December and the following payments were made around 13th December 2023: -

Funds Transfer	B D Hurren	£1282.00	Oak Seat
Funds Transfer	Essex Forge	£1380.00	Railings
Funds Transfer	Danny Thurlow	£1538.40	Installation including tree

All agreed the Royal Memorials look great. D Harris is asking for the re-oiling of the bench.

iii) As agreed at last Meeting and noting that the predicted taxbase figures proved correct, **the form was duly signed for next Financial Year's Precept of £46,258** which represents a 7% increase to residents. A Birchweaver kindly agreed to scan the document back to the Clerk to submit *this was done and has since been acknowledged.

iv) The Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Reserves Policy had been approved at the December Meeting and will be updated on the Parish Council Website.

The proposed Internal Control Policy was circulated ahead of the Meeting. This was reviewed and accepted.

v) **Community Pantry Funding:** - G Battye explained that the Walsh Trust Income is now donated to the Community Pantry and Hardship fund for Nayland Residents. He agreed to circulate the report showing how these funds are being used. It was agreed to put Charities on the Agenda for the February Meeting to consider donating our Charity budget to charities supporting the Parish - **Action Clerk.**

vi) Any other urgent Finance Matters: - Nothing was raised.

6. **Planning**

1. Decisions from the Planning Authority: - none had been received since last Meeting.

2. The Old Post Office, 19 High Street **DC/23/05723** - Notification of works to trees in Conservation Area. Both the Parish Council and our Parish Tree Warden had No Objections. A response was issued between Meetings to comply with the deadline.

3. Future Housing - O Brown was considering and will report back to a future meeting - **Action O Brown.**

4. **Any other urgent Planning matters** - nothing was raised.

7. **Street Lighting:** There was nothing to report.

8. **Recreation and Open Spaces:** including Caley Green. The Meeting was closed briefly to allow S Dalton to report from the working group for Caley Green. She confirmed whilst there have been no developments since last meeting, they were hopeful some maintenance to the long reed bed would take place this year. G Battye confirmed the safety railings over the culvert are now restored. D Harris confirmed that someone has been driving on Caley Green again and all agreed to keep vigilant. It was agreed to delay the discussion about the banner policy until our Chair, L Erith, has returned. All agreed

they wanted to support local business and the policy must be fair to all. The Clerk explained the circumstances surrounding the increase in time allowed for non-commercial Village organisations from 1 week to 2, subject to all the usual criteria. The banner for the Deli had been erected without seeking permission. This was an oversight for which they apologised and a busy time for them. We had also been contacted by a resident asking if appropriate permission had been gained by them. The criteria are mainly for safety reasons of tripping and unsighting motorists. Our Chair had given permission for the banner to remain over the Festive period as an exception. Now they are fully versed with the criteria and the need for a risk assessment, it was agreed to ask our Chair to ensure the banner is taken down - **Action L Erith**. The banner policy will be on the Agenda for the February Meeting, so that our Chair can join the discussion - **Action Clerk**. D Harris confirmed some in the Parish would like to see more flexibility to support local businesses in this respect.

9. **Village Hall:** including roof project. D Harris had just shared the Village Hall Minutes and confirmed there will be another Garden Working Party in April. Sadly, the roof of the hall has been leaking. Two major fund-raising events will be organised this year, details to follow. It was agreed for A Birchweaver to liaise directly with Iain Wright (Village Hall Chair) regarding the opportunity for free installation of EV Charging points in the Village Hall Car Park. It was delegated to A Birchweaver that if he gained support from I Wright on behalf of the VHMC, he could formally express an interest in this scheme on behalf of the Parish - **Action A Birchweaver**.
10. **Community Council:** The Minutes are regularly circulated and there was nothing to report. S Treharne explained there is still interest in purchasing a defibrillator for Wiston.
11. **Allotments:** - update from the sub-committee. 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. A report had been given to the Allotment Sub Committee of the Allotment numbers with unpaid rent. A chase up email has recently been sent.
12. **Burial Ground:** The annual Meeting with our Contractors was being arranged. D Harris was to liaise regarding the Jane Walker crosses and was waiting on a quote for 20 new crosses.
13. **Footpaths:** G Battye explained we have a response from M Lee, Suffolk County Council, regarding Star Alley and the good news is that they will pay for the large tree near the steps to be assessed. It was agreed to include on the agenda for next meeting to see what progress has been made - **Action Clerk**. The Recreation driveway is in a terrible state, and it was agreed for the Clerk to chase the Diocesan Surveyor for progress regarding the resurfacing quote - **Action Clerk**.
14. **Correspondence:** The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting. The items had been picked up under the various agenda items.

The Annual Parish Assembly was set for Wednesday 24th April, and it was agreed to include an Agenda item for next Meeting - **Action Clerk** - to discuss a theme and to try to encourage better attendance. S Treharne will seek ideas via Village Whatsapp, and all will think of ideas ahead of next Meeting.

The meeting closed at **9.00 pm**.