

MINUTES OF THE NAYLAND WITH WISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 15th JANUARY 2025, AT 7.30 PM AT NAYLAND VILLAGE HALL AND BY VIDEO CONFERENCING.

Present: Cllrs G Battye (Chaired the Meeting), O Brown, P Fuller, D Harris, and K Sheath attended in person. District Cllr I Reece and 1 member of the public attended in person. D Hattrell (Clerk) and L Brooks attended by Video link.

Before Commencement of the Meeting

a. **Public Forum:** The Chair of the Village Hall Committee attended to give the great news that significant National Lottery Funding has been agreed towards the Roof improvements. He thanked everyone who have contributed so far with the project. A date for the Annual Parish Assembly is still to be arranged. The Clerk had suggested a date subject to the Chair's (Cllr L Erith) availability. It was agreed to ask SCC – Property – Mr M Lee – whether he would like the Parish Council (PC) to contact the Environment Agency to help support progress on Caley Green – **Action Clerk.**

b. **District Council Report**

District Cllr Isabelle Reece attended and reported that in December a government white paper on Devolution was received and the initial response from the District Council (DC) was reserved “bigger is not always better – and a ‘one size fits all’ approach is unlikely to meet the diverse, and often complex, needs of our rural communities and market towns.” On budget, a 2.99% increase for the DC proportion of Council tax is likely. The increase in housebuilding targets means the Joint Local Plans needs reviewing. Parking charges at Sudbury, Hadleigh and Lavenham have come into force with no free parking provision. On local matters, address management has the Champions Way sign under control. The replacement has been ordered, and new posts are needed. The Heycroft Way sign has been restored. An issue with the Harpers Estate garages has been resolved. She will chase the old burial ground maintenance. The DC are receiving greater numbers of complaints, most of which about housing. The matter of potential devolution was then mentioned.

c. **County Council Report**

County Cllr J Finch had sent his apologies and reported that Suffolk County Council (SCC) is considering joining the government's new devolution and reorganisation programme, which could lead to the creation of unitary councils and a new Mayoral Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk. Loss of Rural Services Grant: Suffolk's rural communities will lose £3 million in government funding from April 2025, impacting essential services like bus services, social care, and road maintenance. King's Award for Voluntary Service: Five voluntary organisations in Suffolk have been awarded the King's Award for Voluntary Service, recognizing their significant contributions to the community. Stronger Families Partnership: The Stronger Families Partnership has successfully supported children at risk of being taken into care, saving significant costs for local authorities and keeping families together. SEND Improvements: The Department for Education has acknowledged improvements in Suffolk's special educational needs and disabilities services, while also highlighting areas that still need development.

Parish Council Meeting

1. **Apologies:** were received and accepted from Cllr Laura Erith (Chair) and Cllr Sam Treharne. Resignations of two Councillors were sadly received from Cllr Adam Birchweaver and Cllr Tim Leach. Following due process, the two vacancies will be advertised. County Cllr James Finch had sent his apologies.
2. **Approval of Minutes of 11th December Meeting:** These were accepted as a true record.
3. **Declarations of Interest by Councillors:** Nothing was declared.
4. **Highways:** Cllr G Battye read details in relation to the 84 Bus Route. A representative from Stoke by Nayland PC is trying to co-ordinate a response to SCC to try to reinstate the route. It was agreed to contact Stoke by Nayland PC expressing the support of Nayland with Wissington PC to their suggestion of making the primary route through Stoke by Nayland as this may widen access and make people more likely to use the bus – **Action Clerk.**
Cllr D Harris has asked our grounds maintenance contractors to quote to clear the remaining weeds from the A134 traffic islands and thereafter incorporate some preventative work to keep the area clear. It was

agreed to delegate acceptance of the quote between meetings to the Chair and Clerk as the principle of carrying out this work was resolved. This was proposed by Cllr G Battye, seconded by Cllr P Fuller and unanimously carried. Some fly-tipping has been reported and Cllr G Battye agreed to monitor between meetings. *The Clerk has since added a link from the PC Website to report Fly-tipping.

5. Finance Report:

i) The Chair read from the bank balances as of 2nd January 2025 as £1000 in the Current Account, £25,536.95 in the linked Account and £79,000 in the Capital Investment Account, £4,400.73 in the National Savings Account making a total of £109,937.68.

ii) List of pre-agreed payments for the December period: -

Funds Transfer	Employment Costs totalled	£1604.80	Salary, NI and Pension
Funds Transfer	Mortimer Contracts Ltd	£309.60	Litter
Funds Transfer	Nayland Village Hall	£127.50	Hall hire
Funds Transfer	SALC	£76.80	Training
DD	Public Works Loan Board	£905.80	VH loan repayments

iii) Precept Charging form for signing. The Clerk advised that the predicted taxbase figures from the DC were confirmed as correct. Therefore, the financial resolutions approved at the December PC Meeting, do not require amendment. The form was duly signed giving a Precept of £50,000 for next Financial Year – **Action Clerk to submit to the Charging Authority.** Cllr K Sheath agreed to scan the signed form and email it to the Clerk following the Meeting.

iv) Third quarter budget review 24/25 – this had been circulated ahead of the meeting and was noted.

v) **Any other urgent Finance Matters:** - The Horsecwatering budget item was to be deferred until the February PC Meeting – **Action Clerk to include on the agenda.** One confidential item was agreed for Committee following the PC Meeting.

6. Planning

1. Decision from the Planning Authority: -

a) Planning and Listed Building Consent was granted for householder application for WC to first floor at 16 Court Street – **DC/24/04751/52.**

b) Conditions were approved for biodiversity enhancement layout at 72-78 Bear Street – **DC/24/05478.**

2. Householder application for rear extension at The Willows, Wiston Road – **DC/24/04272.**
This was considered between meetings to comply with the deadline.
The PC had No Objections.

3. Appeal against refusal of retention of pub sign bracket (without sign) at 11 High Street – **DC/24/04395.**
It was agreed no further representation was needed as the Inspector will consider the PC's original comments which were No Objections.

4. Listed Building application for removal of fireplace at Star House, 83 Bear Street – **DC/24/04756.**
There were No Objections from the PC.

5. Householder Application for a shed at Vine House, 1 Court Street – **DC/25/00057.**

This was delegated to consider between meetings with Councillors ensuring they consider ahead of the deadline. The Clerk was to then respond to the Planning Authority.

6. Any other urgent planning matters – The next group session to view the Planning Webinars had been arranged. Cllr P Fuller had a meeting scheduled to discuss the Lady Anne Windsor Charity potential affordable housing scheme and she will report back to future PC Meetings.

- 7. Street Lighting:** One of the SCC lights on Elm Grove (unit 24) has been damaged by impact. The Clerk agreed to report. A link is provided from our website Homepage for future reference *on checking, this damage had already been reported, inspected and the work scheduled.
- 8. Devolution:** The various sources of information on this subject had been received and circulated to all Councillors. The current situation had been noted and will continue to be monitored.
- 9. Community Led Housing:** Cllr P Fuller had noted her forthcoming meeting about the Lady Anne Windsor charity potential housing scheme. Cllr K Sheath was interested in the subject of a Neighbourhood Plan after watching the Planning webinars and it was agreed to include on the Agenda for the February PC Meeting – **Action Clerk.**
- 10. Recreation and Open Spaces:** Cllr D Harris attended a site meeting with our Grounds Maintenance Contractors at Candy Lane. There is not as much work as originally thought, so the original quote was to be revised. All agreed the principle of proceeding, so this was delegated to the Chair (Cllr L Erith) and Clerk to consider and authorise between meetings – **Action Chair and Clerk.** In relation to the potential re-location and uses of the former Scout hut, it was agreed to summarise the situation to the owners of the land – Tendring Hall Estate. This Council had asked for ideas from the Community. One idea was put forward, so it was agreed to pass this to Tendring Hall Estate – **Action Clerk.**
- 11. Village Hall:** including roof project: The excellent news of the Lottery Funding was noted and a gardening working party date had been arranged for 5th April. Further details of the Village Hall Roof Project were to be provided following the Meeting.
- 12. Community Council:** The Minutes are regularly circulated and there was nothing to report beyond the information already provided.
- 13. Allotments:** update from the sub-committee. There was nothing to report at this stage.
- 14. Burial Ground:** Cllr O Brown inspected the Burial Ground following the storm and he was pleased to confirm no damage was noted.
- 15. Footpaths:** It was agreed for the Editor of Community Times to repeat the advert for a new Footpath Warden.
- 16. Correspondence:** The correspondence report had been circulated ahead of the meeting. The items had been picked up under the various agenda items. A provisional date has been suggested for the Annual Parish Assembly of Wednesday 30th April 2025 subject to approval by Cllr L Erith (Chair). The Clerk will contact her in this respect to see if the date can be saved in the Village Calendar. Agenda items for the February PC Meeting include - Arrangements for the Tree Risk Assessment, Review the condition of Allotment Plots, Neighbourhood Planning, and Horsewatering Budget – **Action Clerk.**

The meeting closed at **8.58 pm.**