



Many thanks... parish council chairman Gerry Battye presents Wendy Sparrow with flowers, watched by villagers

Picture by Alex Fairfull 0701-201-1 www.photostoday.co.uk

Clerk hints at comeback after village thanks

AFTER 25 years as Nayland-with-Wissington parish clerk Wendy Sparrow wanted to retire quietly – but councillors had other ideas.

Mrs Sparrow and husband Richard thought they were having a drink with council chairman Gerry Battye and a few members, but arrived at the village hall on Sunday to find nearly 70 villagers waiting to welcome them.

Mr Battye said she made the job a vocation, putting her heart and soul into it.

“She has worked with three chairmen

and numerous parish councillors as well as district and county councillors and village organisations,” he said.

“People have knocked at her door at all hours and she has always dealt with everything with endless patience and grace. Her secretarial skills are second to none and her organisation meticulous. She’s also a mine of information and always approachable.”

Mrs Sparrow, 62, who has lived in Nayland for 35 years, was presented with a Waterford crystal decanter and glasses,

and a bouquet of flowers. Her husband received a box of assorted beers.

Mrs Sparrow had attended more than 300 council meetings and parish assemblies plus dozens of other meetings, missing only two.

She had been impressed by councillors’ dedication and enjoyed working with them, especially the current team.

“I feel lucky to have had such a rewarding and unique job,” she added. “I’m taking a break but may stand for the parish council myself in May.”