

Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society

Registered charity no.268104

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 14th March 2016 in Nayland Village Hall

1. **Present:** The Chairman, Committee members and about 60 members and friends.
2. **Apologies,** Prof. & Mrs. P. Grootenhuis, Jeremy Cohen, Rosemary & Gerald Knox,
Pat Bray, James Finch, Mary George, Mary Fairhead, Wendy Anderson & Malcom Lukey
3. **Minutes of the Previous** AGM on 9th March 2015 were approved and signed.
Proposed; John Partridge Seconded: Colin Moule
4. **Matters Arising:** There were none.
5. **Chairman's Report:** Circulated in advance. Taken as read.

Chairman's Update and Programme for 2016:

The Annual May Bank holiday Footpath Walk on 2th May will be to Little Horkesley Manor with tea courtesy of Mrs. Polly Eddies. On May 17th a visit has been arranged to Crows Hall, nr. Stowmarket. The Society's 2016 programme includes **Open Gardens on 12th June**, new gardens welcome.

27th June Open Meeting features more Reminiscences of Nayland residents compered by Chris Hunt.

17 July is The Nayland Street Fair to celebrate 60 years of the CC; the Society will provide a photographic quiz, with 1960s themed photos.

In **October**, Dr. Tim Dennis will talk about Court Knoll. **14 November** is our Joint Meeting with Hortsoc.

6. **Hon. Treasurer's Report:** The accounts were presented by David Heigham, Hon Treasurer.
The Conservation Society's accounts were proposed by Richard Cave, seconded: Peter Mann & approved
The Land Company Accounts were proposed by Suki Cohen: seconded : John Partridge & approved
7. **Election of Chairman, Officers and the Committee for 2016/17.** All candidates had been proposed and seconded and the meeting unanimously approved their appointments as follows.
Chairman: Mike Hunter Proposed by Tom Gardiner; Seconded Andora Carver
Vice-Chairman Martin Wright
Hon. Treasurer: David Heigham Hon. Secretary: Andora Carver
Committee Members: John Alexander Tom Gardiner Ed Fehler John Partridge
Barry Wakefield, Life President, paid tribute to John's 13 years' leadership of the Society and presented him with two tickets to Snape Maltings. John also received a bouquet on behalf of Olga, who was unable to be present.
In his address Barry emphasised the importance of keeping a balance between the past and the future. He highlighted John's leadership in the purchase of the Nayland Meadow and in coping with a major threat from outside the village, which we overcame.
8. **Any Other Business:** There was none
The Meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Anna Moore of Colchester Archaeological Group then gave a really fascinating talk about Bures Cropmarks which the group have been studying since 2011. Their book, *The Stour Valley: A Prehistoric Landscape* is available from Nayland PO price £5. Anna began by stating that **Cropmarks** indicate what was going on under the soil in pre-historic times whereas **Crop circles** are made by tractors in fields of growing crops. In about 8,500BC the ice started to melt from the last glaciation and hunter-gatherers started visiting The Stour Valley, which is wide and shallow with the river running through. In ancient times the river was more of a highway than a barrier as it is now and there have been several changes in its course. Evidence of an older course running further south at Wormingford shows in aerial photos. The oldest man-made feature is a longbarrow, which shows as a pair of parallel ditches dating to 4,000 BC with lines of post holes on 1 side. Although the acid soil has destroyed most organic matter, it is thought it was used to lay out bodies, which were left to decay. The Bures cursus, or ceremonial way, is 190 metres long; another cursus at Wormingford is aligned with the sunrise and sunset at the solstices. From about 2,000 BC, smaller circular mounds were used for burying the dead in cremation urns which were usually inverted i.e. to return the bodies to the ground. Anna also commented on Wormingford Mere, a significant piece of water called a kettle hole, left from the last ice age. Pre-historic people considered water to be the entrance into the underworld and this could be the reason that this part of the Stour valley was much used for rituals. Anna finished by showing some aerial photographs of the valley.

Martin Wright gave the **Vote of Thanks**, referring to the change in the landscape by nature and man – with mystical elements of the Solstice