

Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society

Registered charity no.268104

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held on **Monday 11th March 2019** in Nayland Village Hall @ 7.15 p.m.

Committee Member John Partridge explained that Mike Hunter the Chairman was unable to attend the meeting as a result of illness and accordingly he had been asked to chair the meeting in his absence.

1. **Present:** The Chairman, Committee members and about 50 members and friends.
2. **Apologies,** Mike Hunter, Pat Bray, John & Lucy Carpenter, Andrew Gowen, Clare Partridge, Jill Slater, Frank & Dipak Warren and Martin Wright
3. **Minutes of the Previous** AGM on the 12th March 2018 were approved and signed.
Proposed; Suzanne Cullen Seconded: Wendy Sparrow
4. **Matters Arising:** There were none.
5. **Chairman's Report:** Circulated in advance. Taken as read.

Chairman's Update: The Chairman reported the retirement of long-standing former chairman and committee member John Alexander and Ed Fehler from the committee of the Society and thanked them for their service. Frank Warren had joined the committee as membership secretary. Following the cessation of the threat of the Bunting's Horkesley Park Project, the Stour Valley Action Group had been wound up and the committee had kindly divided the remaining balance of funds between the Dedham Vale Society, the Colne Stour Countryside Association and our Society. The Society expresses its grateful thanks to the SVAG committee for this gesture. The Chairman reported that sadly Babergh District Council ("BDC") had granted permission for the Konings expansion despite huge opposition. On a more positive note BDC have recently refused an application to permit agricultural access through the site on the eastern side of Harpers Hill where permission has been granted for limited residential development thus allaying fears that at a future date access might have been sought for extensive development at the rear of the Harpers Hill Estate.

The Court Knoll Project continues and its secrets are slowly being revealed. At the moment, consideration is being given to the possibility that it might have been the location of an Anglo-Saxon Minster. Looking ahead during the current year a schedule of further analysis of the finds has been agreed with our professional team at Suffolk Archaeology and the Chairman mentioned the continuing financial support offered by the Dedham Vale Sustainable Development Fund which has made a grant to the Society every year since the Project's inception. Our annual accounts read individually cannot give the true financial cost to the Society but up to March of this year the total expenditure amounts to £33,146.47 of which £12,664 has been grant aided by the Dedham Vale Sustainable Development Fund and £13,185.97 borne by your Society (the balance being covered by other grants and donations).

Programme for 2018:

The Chairman reported

that the village litter pick will take place on the 6th of April; the annual Spring Bank Holiday footpath walk on the 6th of May; the outing to Euston Hall on the 8th of May and our next Open Meeting when Sarah Cook will speak on the subject of Cedric Morris on the 24th June. Volunteers for all purposes are required for Open Gardens which takes place on the 9th of June.

6. **Hon. Treasurer's Report:** David Heigham, Hon Treasurer, presented the accounts which were approved by the members.
Accounts approved. Proposed by Peter Mann, Seconded by Rosemary Knox
A question was asked regarding the relationship between the Society and the Land Company and John Alexander explained the reason for the creation of the Land Company.

7. **Election of Chairman, Officers and the Committee for 2019/20.** All candidates had been proposed and seconded and the meeting unanimously approved their appointments as follows.
Chairman: Mike Hunter Proposed by John Partridge, Seconded by Jill Slater
Vice-Chairman Martin Wright
Hon. Treasurer: David Heigham
Hon. Secretary: Jill Slater
Committee Members: John Partridge, Tom Gardiner, Lucy Carpenter, Suzanne Cullen, Frank Warren

8. Any Other Business:

Mary George reported that the Annual Parish Assembly will take place on Monday 29th April at 7.30 for 7.45 pm. The two main themes will be Neighbourhood Plans and local Highways issues. The Highways issues will include heavy lorries guided through Nayland from A134 to the A12 by satnav and causing damage to medieval houses along the route, damage being caused to verges and banks on Wiston roads, the reconstruction work on Mill Street Bridge and speed limits.

The Meeting closed at 8.00pm.

Following the AGM **John Morris**, Chairman of the River Stour Trust, gave an excellent talk on the history of the River Stour Navigation supported throughout by an excellent range of slides.
John Alexander gave the vote of thanks