

Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society

Registered charity no.268104

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held on Monday 9th March 2019 in Nayland Village Hall @ 7.15 p.m.

1. **Present:** The Chairman, Committee members and about 60 members and visitors.
2. **Apologies,** Jill Slater, Jonathan & Ruth Pearson, Mr & Mrs N. Ryan, Sally Bramall, David & Caroline Lowe and Mike & Margret Almond.
3. **Minutes of the Previous** AGM on the 11th March 2019 were approved and signed.
Proposed; John Partridge 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 Tom Gardiner had reluctantly decided to stand down due to other pressures on his time. The Chairman said Tom's help and enthusiasm will be missed and on behalf of the Society he was thanked for all his efforts over the past years.

The Chairman was pleased to advise that the Society has taken possession of the Swift nest boxes and these are currently being distributed to the hosts. It is hoped that installation will take place towards the end of the month and with luck occupation of the new homes may start later this year.

The Society has also been involved in a new scheme dealing with the improvement of the footpath forming part of the Dedham Vale Path as it descends from the A134 just south of Caley Green and connects to the path alongside the river adjacent to the Conservation Field. Society member David Slater identified that the descent was far from safe comprising a muddy path on a steep gradient. Accordingly, the Society has made an application to the Dedham Vale AONB and Stour Valley Project for a grant to cover the cost of creating a stepped descent with handrail. If this is successful it is hoped that the works might be completed within the next few months.

During the year further expert analysis will be undertaken on the many finds obtained through the Court Knoll excavations but this may be the penultimate year for the project as Jo Caruth has expressed some confidence that the final report will probably be written in 2021. The Chairman thought that had the full extent of the task been realised when it started in 2016, it may not have been taken on. The current cost was just shy of £40,000 of which just under £16,000 has been contributed by the Society and just over £15,000 by the Dedham Vale AONB & Stour Valley Project - which has the Society's continuing thanks for their tremendous support. The Society can be proud of the fact that Jo Caruth has given a number of talks to other organisations and she has held the CK Project out as being the model of good management of a dig of this complexity by a non-professional body.

Programme for 2020:

On Saturday the 28th March the Society shall be participating in the Village Hall garden working party. On the 25th of April we shall be joining the Parish Council in the Spring Litter Pick and on the 2nd May, Chris Hunt will be leading the Spring Footpath walk on a route from Boxford to Groton.

On the 14th of June we shall be holding our annual Open Gardens and as usual we would be most grateful to hear from you if you are willing to open your garden or supply some other assistance from serving teas, donating cakes, selling ice creams to car parking duties.

Finally, our next speaker meeting is on the 22nd of June when Rick Lewis will be talking on the topic of “*how we built timber framed buildings during the 15th-17th centuries*”.

6. Hon. Treasurer’s Report: David Heigham, Hon Treasurer, presented the accounts which were approved by the members.

Accounts approved. Proposed by James Carver Seconded by Robert Dosser

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, Lucy Carpenter, Suzanne Cullen, Frank Warren

8. Any Other Business:

The Meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

Following the AGM we received an excellent talk from Professor Jules Pretty, long-time resident of Nayland and much published author on the topic of “*the future of the world in 12 objects – addressing climate change at home*”. The objects ranged from a section of bog oak retrieved from the Dogger Bank to a potted oak tree and holly tree. The necessity of reducing our carbon footprint was explained in detail and it was clear from the number of questions from the audience that Jules had got people thinking!