

Nayland with Wissington Conservation Society

www.naylandconservation.org.uk

Registered charity no.268104

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held at Nayland Village Hall

Tuesday 11th March 2025 @ 7.30pm

1. **Present:** The Chairman, four Committee members and about 30 members and visitors.
2. **Apologies,** Suzanne Cullen, Richard Evans, David Heigham, Mark & Annette Hitchcock, David & Caroline Lowe, Sir Bob Russell, Jill Slater & Patricia Wilkie.
3. **Minutes of the Previous** AGM on the 12th March 2024 were approved and signed.
Proposed; Chris Hunt, Seconded: Margaret Baker.
4. **Matters Arising:** There were none.
5. **Chairman's Report:** Circulated in advance. Taken as read.

Chairman's Update & Programme for 2025:

The Chairman reported the Society has already had a busy start to the year with speaker meetings in January and February. The topic of the first meeting related to the reduction in numbers of house martins and the steps which can be taken to encourage nesting and the second meeting which enjoyed a very large attendance, received a talk from Jo Caruth of Cotswold Archaeology on the final report of the Court Knoll Project. This event gave the Society an opportunity to thank the many volunteers who participated in the excavations and the subsequent analysis of the finds and also the individuals and organisations who made a financial contribution. In due course the report will appear on the Society's web site but it has to be approved by Historic England before it can be made public.

On Thursday the 1st of May, in conjunction with the Nayland Branch of the Royal British Legion we have arranged a private tour of Ingatestone Hall. Final visitor numbers must be agreed by the end of the March so if you are interested in attending please contact me before the 24th of March or indeed see me after the meeting.

In June, John Walker will give a talk on Wealden buildings and our October talk features Dave Steward speaking on the subject of Kentwell Hall. Our last talk in November is an unusual one, titled "Upstairs Downstairs" Jackie Marshall will give a talk on the way life used to be in households fortunate enough to have the luxury of employees in service.

Open Gardens will take place in the village on Sunday the 8th of June. We are also looking for some more gardens and volunteers to help on the day. Again, if you think you can help in any way please either speak to me after tonight's meeting or give me a call or email me.

Other significant dates include the Village Hall gardening morning on the 5th April and our Spring Footpath walk which will take place on Sunday the 11th May starting at 2.30 pm from Boxted Churchyard car park when Chris Hunt will lead us on a fascinating two hour circular walk. As spaces in the car park are limited please try to car share. Our spring litter pick in conjunction with the Parish Council will take place on Saturday the 26th of April.

Finally, the committee have decided that from the next speaker meeting onwards, non-members who attend, will pay an entry fee of £3.

6. Hon. Treasurer's Report: In the absence of Richard Evans, Hon Treasurer, the Society's Chairman presented the accounts which were approved by the members.

Proposed by James Carver Seconded by Mary George. Passed unanimously.

The Chairman thanked Richard for his work and also thanked Bryan Smith who audited the accounts each year.

7. Election of Chairman, Officers and the Committee for 2025/26.

Vice Chairman Martin Wright took the chair and the chairman was re-appointed. All other candidates had been proposed and seconded and the meeting unanimously approved their appointments as follows.

Chairman: Mike Hunter Proposed by Suzanne Cullen, Seconded by Lucy Carpenter

Vice-Chairman Martin Wright

Hon. Treasurer: Richard Evans

Hon. Secretary: Mandy Cook

Committee Members: Lucy Carpenter, Suzanne Cullen, Margaret Baker and Patricia Wilkie.

Those present gave a round of applause to thank the committee for their efforts during the year.

8. Any Other Business:

None

The AGM closed at 7.45pm.

Following the AGM we received a superb talk by Professor Jules Pretty on the topic of how "Story" helps us to work together to solve the climate and conservation crisis. Vice Chairman Martin Wright gave the vote of thanks and the meeting finished at 9.05 p.m.