

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY HELD AT 8.00 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY  
24<sup>th</sup> April 2024 AT NAYLAND VILLAGE HALL

**Present:** Cllr Robin Thorogood (Chairman), Representatives from Village Organisations, the Parish Council, Clerk, and residents. Around 18 people were present including Councillors.

The Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced each Councillor. He welcomed new Councillors Cllr Adam Birchweaver and Cllr Tim Leach. He confirmed how the responsibilities on the Parish Council (PC) were split and that reports would be made by various Councillors during the Meeting. He was delighted to introduce two speakers for the evening. Sue Downs from Community Action Suffolk about Community Led Housing and Graham Walker from the Lady Anne Windsor Charity about the Charity aims and potential Local Needs Housing in accordance with the Charity Objectives.

1. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2023**

These were approved as a true record. This was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Laura Erith and carried with a show of hands. Apologies were reported from Cllrs Dawn Harris, Tricia Fuller and Adam Birchweaver. County Cllr James Finch had also sent his apologies.

2. **Sue Downs – Community Action Suffolk**

Sue Downs from Community Action Suffolk introduced herself as a Rural Housing Enabler and she works with Parishes to bring forward small projects of truly affordable local needs homes. She explained the difficulty getting on the housing ladder as it often takes 12 times Income which is outside the grasp of many people. She explained about Community Land Trusts, Shared houses and Rural Exception Sites. Rural Exception Sites would not normally get planning permission outside the settlement boundary for market housing developments. However, a local housing needs development can be brought forward if the need is established. To help finance the scheme, a small quantity of market housing can be included. If a suitable location was found the PC could work in partnership with a Housing Association to provide such a development. It was confirmed that a similar scheme in Wiston Road was a complete success. An up-to-date Housing Needs Survey and potential locations would be a starting point.

3. **Graham Walker – Lady Anne Windsor Charity**

Graham Walker explained the geographical area for the charity including residents of Nayland with Wisington. He confirmed the alms-houses were the ultimate form of genuine affordable local housing. They have a field in Leavenheath which could be brought forward as a Rural Exceptions Site subject to approval. He wanted to work with the local Parish Councils to explore this idea.

Following both reports, questions focused on the need for affordable housing in the Parish and surroundings. Cllr O Brown asked Sue Downs how a local person is defined for Local Needs Housing. She explained it is for the Community to set the criteria. It was noted family connections were permitted for the Wiston Road Scheme.

Following the questioning, the Chair thanked both Sue and Graham for very interesting talks which may be of interest to the Parish in the future.

4. **Reports**

County Cllr James Finch had sent his apologies, and the Chairman read from his report. District Cllr Isabelle Reece delivered her report. The full reports are available to read on our website. Parish Council Reports were then delivered which are also available on the Website including PC Finance from Cllr Samantha Treharne, Planning and Allotments from Cllr Laura Erith. Discussion followed in relation to the Paddock Grove application. Cllr Gerry Battye updated the meeting on the Fairfield Recreation Ground including the new play equipment in memory of the late Margaret Underwood. Cllr Owen Brown then updated the meeting regarding the Burial Ground including the maintenance to the fence and the allocation of one of the turning circle bays for use by visitors to the Burial Ground. District Cllr Isabelle Reece was asked about repairs to a garage on Harpers Estate which had been damaged by a vehicle. Cllr Reece explained she was aware and was chasing progress regularly. She was then asked about the forthcoming changes to waste bin collection. She explained this was driven by central government and the details were still to be finalised. She welcomed views in this regard.

5. **Local Charities Annual Report**  
Cllr Battye explained the origins and changes affecting the Walsh Trust Charity (Love, Caley, Walsh.) It was becoming increasingly difficult to adhere to the charitable aims in relation to identifying the aged poor in the Parish. The funds now go to the Community Pantry and Hardship Fund for residents of the Parish. The Charity were receiving good feedback in relation to how the funding is helping.
6. **Village Hall Representative** – Christine Thompson read the Village Hall Chairman’s Report. This outlined thanks to the PC for supporting the Village Hall Roof project and giving a progress report towards the National Lottery Application. A Solicitor was to be appointed in view of the legal work necessary to secure the grant.
7. **Questions and Observations** – Questions and comments were raised about inadequate weed control in pavement gutters by the District and County Councils, Caley Green reeds, ditch and Royal seat. Cllr Reece was thanked for her part in organising the sweeping of the cul-de-sac, Bear Street. The Chairman explained the delay in addressing the long reed bed due to relevant wildlife surveys. The PC were thanked for ongoing highly professional efforts in support of the Village.
8. **Chairmans Concluding Report** – Cllr Robin Thorogood spoke of key projects the PC had undertaken including improvements to the play park making good use of the generous donation in memory of Margaret Underwood. The Royal Memorial tree and seat on Caley Green. The Burial driveway surfacing request was on-going and we continue to raise with the County Council the reed bed and revetment. He took the opportunity to thank District Cllr I Reece, County Cllr J Finch and all the hard-working Committees in the Village. He thanked his fellow Councillors and the Clerk for all they do. He shared our frustration that things don’t get done as quickly as we would like, however, we were all here to help and do our best.

He thanked all those who attended.

**The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.**