NACTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Registered charity no.1000065

*Report to Nacton Parish Council year ending 2023*

Officers of the Council for 20022/2023 were:

*Chairman:* Jos Leeder *Secretary*: Emma Wilson *Treasurer*: Paula Warner

Committee members 2022 - 2023:

Alison Greaves; Robert Warner; Dave Simmonds; Peter Richards; Brian Hunt; Hannah Modder; Mary Liggett; Chris Tattersall; Rubi Kaur; Sue Ryder; Jane Eaton

Croquet and cricket formed the mainstays of the activities on the sports field during 2023. The Ipswich Croquet Club extended their stay as their new court at Trinity Park was still being constructed. We were happy to host the club who were exemplary tenants. The Nacton Cricket Club were the main tenants of the field and during the year the club played the majority of their matches on Saturdays and Sundays with a few midweek games. The sound of leather on willow is that most evocative of English sounds. However, a succession of very dry summers resulted in the field becoming weed infested and together with the cricket club, funds were spent on having the field being professionally sprayed during the Autumn to ensure that the new growth in the Spring has a good start.

One of the most successful initiatives has been the monthly coffee mornings held in the village hall on the first Saturday of each month throughout the year. Unsurprisingly, bacon rolls, sausage baps, tea, coffee, cakes, a chance for a convivial chat and an opportunity to exchange books have resulted in these mornings being hugely popular, attracting a wide range of people with residents from all over the parish and from further afield in attendance. We have welcomed some new residents to the village during 2022 and they have found the coffee mornings to be an excellent introduction to their new neighbours. The coffee mornings have also added to the Community Council funds as each one makes a modest profit. Credit to Emma for coming up with the idea and bringing it to fruition and Mark Wilson, Chris Tattersall and Mary Liggett for cooking, serving and washing up.

The village quiz nights have fast become an institution with teams of up to six, feasting on fish and chips and trying to remember obscure facts. So attractive have they become that we have to limit the number of teams to fifteen otherwise we cannot squeeze everyone in. Thanks to Paula and Robert Warner for their organization of the entries, the raffle and the transporting of fish and chips.

The annual Easter egg hunt took place with children seeking out hopelessly hidden eggs on the sports field. By some strange alchemy, all the eggs were discovered and much chocolate was consumed, as well as hot cross buns and tea by the grown-ups. More children seem to appear each year so we must be doing something right.

To help celebrate Christmas, a festive social evening was held during December in the village hall. Mulled wine, mince pies, games for children and card games and dominoes for adults made for an entertaining and very sociable event – even Father Christmas put in an appearance.

The requirements of the sports field are ever present with mowing, weed-spraying, play equipment maintenance, tennis court tidying, pavilion cleaning, mole clearing, and myriad of other jobs that are undertaken by members of the committee.

I remain, as always, hugely grateful to the members of the committee who give proportionately and generously of their available time.

Jos Leeder

*Chairman.*

April 2024