

NACTON VILLAGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Registered charity no.1000065

Report to Nacton Parish Council year ending 2026

Officers of the Council for 20024/2025were:

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

Committee members 2024 - 2025:

Alison Greaves; Robert Warner; Dave Simmonds; Peter Richards; Brian Hunt; Mary Liggett; Chris Tattersall; Rubi Kaur; Jane Eaton; Lewis Rush.

Social media and the use of emails have transformed the ways in which NVCC communicates with residents. In the past, extensive leaflet drops were made to all homes in the parish. This was time-consuming and expensive. Now, with nearly 2500 people being reached by Facebook, Instagram and the Community Council mailing list, it is more straightforward to publicise our events and meetings. So for events to lack support, it is unlikely to be lack of awareness but rather a decision not to attend.

In 2024/25, two events were very poorly attended. Both these events required a great deal of work to set up and run. It might well be the case that some events have become 'stale' and that is why they are not supported. As a result, it was decided that, in future, the Council would focus on events that residents seem to prefer and to discontinue events that are no longer popular. Quiz nights, the Easter egg hunt, coffee mornings, craft and chat are all well supported and will continue to be offered. New events are being considered and will be staged to see if there is resident support.

The cricket club remained as the main tenant of the sports field in 2025 and during the year the club played most of their home matches on Saturdays with a few midweek games. The cricket club has been going through a transitional stage with new players being integrated.

The sports field, like the arable fields of Nacton, sits on light, free-draining soil and so does not readily retain moisture. With the likelihood of increasingly warmer summers, the turf browns and fades. But in Spring it always returns looking magnificent as the new growth comes through. Moles are a perennial problem, but Robert keeps their heads underground for the most part. Robert is also chief tractor driver, mower tinker man and mechanic to the elderly motor roller. We are all grateful to him.

The coffee mornings held in the village hall on the first Saturday of each month go from strength to strength and provide valuable funds for the coffers. Each one is attended by a large group of residents seeking to feast on bacon rolls, sausage baps, tea, coffee, and cakes, whilst taking advantage of the book and jigsaw exchange. For residents it is an event that presents opportunities to socialize and meet old friends and make new ones. Thanks to our coffee morning team of Emma, Mark, Chris and Mary for cooking, baking, serving and washing up. They are heroic.

As previously mentioned, the village quiz nights are very popular. A mention for our volunteer question setters who bring their own quirky angles to the quizzes. It is always entertaining to hear the groans of recognition and annoyance when the answers to questions are revealed. Thanks to Paula and Robert Warner for the organization of the entries, the raffle and the transporting of fish and chips.

The annual Easter egg hunt took place with children seeking out poorly hidden eggs on the sports field. All the eggs were found bar one, but the missing egg turned up six months later when mowing was taking place. There is no greater delight than to watch the children wait for the signal before running pell-mell across the field with screams and shouts of glee and then their smiling faces as they return with their booty. This is a free event paid for through our fund raising and donations.

The NVCC has a large committee and so not everyone has to do everything provided that everyone does something. I remain, as always, hugely grateful to all the members who give proportionately and generously of their available time.

Jos Leeder *Chairman.* April 2026