

Sudbrook and West Willoughby Village Hall (SWVH) Committee Meeting 10th July 2023

1. Attendance

Present: John Somerville (JS), John Cairns (JC), Barbara Campbell (BC), Tamara Coton (TC), Andy Newton (AN), Rae Seng (RS), Tom Williams (TW).

Apologies: Karen Barrett (KB), Louise Burn (LB).

2. Approval/ Amendments of the minutes of the last Committee meeting

Apart from one typographical error, the meeting agreed that the minutes provided a good overall record of the meeting held on 5th June 2023. **JC** was to forward the minutes for inclusion on the APC website.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes of the Previous Meeting

AN had coordinated another litter picking event which resulted in 8 bags of rubbish being collected. The worst affected area was Rookery Lane, with a notable amount of litter being associated with the consumption of alcohol. The matter had been reported to APC and recorded in the minutes of its meeting. While deterring the dropping of litter was inherently difficult, the provision of litter picking kits stored in appropriately located receptacles could assist communities in keeping the situation under control.

Despite the litter picking event's successful outcome, the only participants were two Committee members. It was acknowledged that an A4 flyer on the VH noticeboard had been insufficient to attract the attention of residents. It was agreed that large waterproof canvas signs on the VH site's main gate and posts on Facebook would be more effective in seeking the community's active engagement in future activities.

The large skip provided by **Mid-UK Recycling** for the Coronation's Big Help Out event had been very popular within the community and it was filled by the end of the day. **JS** had written to **Mid-UK Recycling** thanking them for their generous support.

It was agreed that the 'ad hoc' social gathering on the VH site on 9th June 2023 had been extremely enjoyable and attendance by residents had been promising. A further gathering would be advertised for Friday 14th July 2023 using a large sign on the main gate and Facebook. The following Friday could be used as a back-up if the weather was poor. **TW** agreed to provide **BC** with photos of the previous 'ad hoc' gathering to use on Facebook.

4. Treasurer/Bank Account

The transfer of control of the charity's bank account following Neil Gray's departure from the SWVH Committee had been completed. **JC** and **JS** were the new account holders with each

having full control online and via the cheque book. (**Sec's Note**: The balance of the account on the day of the meeting was £3912.97).

JS had undertaken to register the Charity with HMRC with a view to it benefiting from the Gift Aid Donation scheme. However, the potential implications for donors should they pay insufficient income tax to qualify for the Gift Aid Donation scheme were not known and **JS** agreed to investigate further.

5. Village Cream Tea/Barbeque Saturday 19th August 2023

It had been provisionally agreed to hold a ticketed Village summer event on 19th August 2023 in the form of either a Cream Tea or BBQ. However, Ancaster Butchers would not be available to provide a BBQ and the VH insurance policy would need amending to allow open fires on site. In addition, concerns still existed over liability issues that could arise from selling food prepared by volunteers. Furthermore, there would be insufficient time to resolve these issues and to subsequently organize the event. Hence, it was agreed to delay the timing of the next major social event until later in the year.

6. Moor Closes Talk/Walk Friday 18th August 2023

Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust had kindly offered to provide a talk and a guided tour of Moor Closes in Ancaster on 18th August 2023. **AN** agreed to coordinate the arrangements with the Trust and **TC** offered to produce a flyer advertising this event and the AGM that would follow that evening (see Item 7).

7. Next AGM

It had been previously agreed that the next AGM would be held at 7pm on Friday 18th August 2023 in the marquee on the VH site. However, the delay of the next major social event (item 5) meant that the marquee would not have been erected. **AN** offered to investigate whether Ancaster Village Hall would be available as an alternative venue.

8. Village Hall Site Development

JS and **AN** had attended an APC meeting to investigate the likelihood of it providing any funding for the development of the Village Hall site. It transpired that APC had reported an overspend in the last Financial Year (FY) and it was likely that any excess funds in the current FY would be used to offset the debt. However, APC was expected to receive £56K from the Bellway housing development company once half of its newly built houses in Ancaster had been sold. Consequently, **JS** and **AN** registered the SWVVH Committee's interest in receiving an appropriate share of this figure when available.

AN had requested a quote from the Government's Valuation Office Agency (VOA) for the Charity's likely Council Tax bill following the construction of a building based on typical

specifications discussed at recent meetings. The VOA concluded that this was a matter for SKDC but recommended raising a query as to whether planning permission for the potential site development would be required. A scale map of the site with a drawing of the structure's location and specifications would be required. **AN** had requested APC's assistance in providing a scale map through its subscription to the Land Registry's database.

There was considerable discussion about the merits of the last meeting's recommendation to adopt an incremental approach for developing the VH site rather than trying to seek significant funding for a high-specification solution that could not be justified by the current level of community interest and would require a level of regular income that was not achievable. In short, the proposed concept was to start small, add on where possible and once sufficient engagement by the community could be demonstrated, seek funding for a higher specification building. **TW** cited the case of the Eastwell Village Hall Committee in Leicestershire that had successfully adopted such an approach. Nevertheless, specific concerns were expressed about the dimensions of the proposed initial structure made by Dunster House being too narrow (3.5m x 8.5m). **AN** offered to investigate the feasibility of increasing the depth by procuring two 4m² structures from Dunster House and linking them together with a valley roof.

The Eastwell Village Hall topic also generated interest in the possibility of holding regular film nights to attract residents to the VH site and as a potential source of revenue. It was believed that the associated equipment was relatively inexpensive. In addition, it was known that film nights are held in Wilsford Village Hall and **AN** offered to ask their committee about the possibility of borrowing or hiring their equipment.

9. Any Other Business (AOB)

Mr John Leighton had generously offered to donate a large picnic table for use on the VH site. **JS** agreed to coordinate a group of volunteers to collect and move the table.

10. Date/Venue of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held at 7pm on Monday 7th August 2023. **LB** offered to host the meeting.