

Sudbrook and West Willoughby Village Hall (SWVH) Extraordinary Meeting 21st August 2023

1. Attendance

Present: John Somerville (JS), Louise Burn (LB), John Cairns (JC), Barbara Campbell (BC), Tamara Coton (TC), Tom Williams (TW).

Apologies: Karen Barrett (KB), Andy Newton (AN), Rae Seng (RS),

.

2. Prioritised Incremental Site Plan.

Building.

A questionnaire seeking residents' views on the future of the VH site had been sent to each household within the Area of Benefit in 2021. While only 27% of households replied, most responses indicated preferences for the creation of a garden area, closely followed by the re-instatement of a Village Hall building. The Committee's subsequent extensive deliberations resulted in the conclusion that seeking funding for an expensive building that would meet modern day standards and expectations could not be justified given the current lack of interest within the community. Moreover, attracting the level of income required to sustain such a building would be extremely unlikely given its proximity to two established VHs with ample car parking and relatively major approach roads.

Nevertheless, it was thought that the creation of a garden area with a modest wooden structure initially should be both achievable and sustainable within the means of the community. Furthermore, it could be developed further on an incremental basis should there be sufficient interest and engagement within the community. An initial wooden structure could be Dunster House's Vanguard Log Cabin (6m wide x 5m deep):

<https://dunsterhouse.co.uk/log-cabins/vanguard-with-upvc-insulated-log-cabin>

TW offered to draft a costed plan based upon Dunster House's Vanguard log cabin (W6m x D5m). In addition, it was thought that 3 quotes for a building might be required when applying for funding.

Toilet

It was acknowledged that the site's initial development should ideally include 'off-grid' toilet facilities which cater for female, male and disabled requirements. **TC** agreed to investigate the viability of Chemical toilets while **LB** agreed to research Composting toilets. **BC** offered to examine the suitability of 'Portaloos'.

Power

The provision of an electrical supply was recognised as a future aspiration. In the meantime, **JS** offered to examine potential requirements that could be satisfied by relatively inexpensive rechargeable devices.

Additional structure(s) for storage.

The provision of additional structure(s) for storage was also considered to be a future aspiration.

Garden Design

It was thought that the initial wooden structure should be orientated parallel to the site's Eastern boundary. **Each Attendee** agreed to produce a suggested 'plan view' design of the associated garden area.

3. Planning Permission Requirements

SKDC's likely requirements for planning permission were already being investigated by **AN** and an update was anticipated at his next SWWVH meeting.

4. Funding

Each Attendee agreed to investigate potential sources of funding for the VH site's initial development and identify the sources' 'key considerations' that might make a successful application more likely.

5. Community support/engagement

This topic would require further discussion but, in the meantime, it was agreed that another ad hoc social gathering would be held on Friday 25th August 2023 on a 'weather permitting' basis. **BC** agreed to advertise the event on the VH's Facebook site.

6. Sustainability

Sustainability issues would be addressed in the draft costed plan discussed earlier.

7. Any Other Business

APC's funding of the grass cutting for the VH site had been terminated following the reinstatement of the SWWVH Committee and the associated change to the Area of Benefit. Consequently, grass cutting had been conducted at the personal expense of the trustees since 2018. It was suggested that APC should be approached to re-start their funding of the VH's

grass cutting. **BC** offered to liaise with **AN** to determine if such an approach would be appropriate.

Recently elected Committee Members needed to be formally inducted as Trustees. **JS** would then update the Charity's details on the Charity Commission's website accordingly.

8. Date/Venue of Next Meeting

Further 'Extraordinary' meetings will be held on an 'as-required' basis. The next regular SWWVH Committee meeting was to be held at 7pm on 25th September at JS' home.