

Sudbrook and West Willoughby Village Hall (SWWVH) Committee Annual General Meeting 8th September 2025

1. Attendance

Present: John Somerville (JS), Louise Burn (LB), John Cairns (JC), Barbara Campbell (BC), Miranda Hickson (MH), Salena Leighton-Humphries (SLH), Andy Newton (AN), Tom Williams (TW).

Apologies: Rae Seng (RS). Fiona Stocks (FS).

2. Chairman's Address.

JS welcomed attendees to the SWWVH Committee Annual General Meeting (AGM). **TW** announced that he had reluctantly decided to resign from the committee but would still be willing to help out on an 'ad hoc' basis. It was unanimously agreed that **TW** had made a significant contribution to the committee since it reformed in 2018 and he was thanked for his exemplary service. Immediately prior to the meeting **FS** had expressed an interest in joining the committee and it was agreed that she should be invited to become a trustee.

3. Progress Report

JC delivered a Progress Report on the Committee's activities since the last AGM held on 30th August 2024. This report is at Attachment 1.

4. Financial Report.

JC also delivered a report on the Committee's finances. This report is at Attachment 2.

5. Any Other Business (AOB)

There were no items for AOB.

Attachments:

1. SWWVH COMMITTEE AGM PROGRESS REPORT 2025.
2. SWWVH COMMITTEE AGM FINANCIAL REPORT 2025.

SWWVH COMMITTEE AGM PROGRESS REPORT 2025

What I'd like to do now is to provide you with a summary of what the Committee has been doing since its last AGM on 30th August 2024.

Village Hall Site

We reported last year that the acquisition of a fixed structure remains a long-term aspiration but that the community's overall level of engagement would need to be raised much higher for us to justify any application for significant external funding. With that in mind, we suggested that adding more outdoor seating would not only raise residents' awareness that the VH site is an amenity for daily use but would also give the community a sense of 'ownership'. We are now delighted to report that we were successful in obtaining a grant of £585 from SKDC's Community Fund for the 3 new picnic benches that arrived just before the Village BBQ. The feedback we've had so far has been extremely positive and we have no doubt that the benches will be well utilized for many years to come.

Notwithstanding, the site still has space for further 'near-term' improvements. The Committee members have had a few potential ideas (such as an item or two of play equipment for young children) but what we would really welcome is suggestions from the community. I'll discuss the means to communicate with us very shortly.

In addition, we continue to benefit from APC's grass cutting contract for which we are extremely grateful. Not only does the contract include 8 cuts per year but, as a goodwill gesture, we are also able to request the timing of the cuts to coincide with preparation for any events.

Communication

Thanks to our resident IT expert, Salena Leighton-Humphries, the Committee is now transitioning to the use of Microsoft Teams to interact with each other in a more timely manner via Chat and to communicate with outside addressees with dedicated Village Hall email addresses. Teams will also be used to load and archive all of our data centrally instead of on individuals' personal computers. As another important part of our efforts to join the 21st Century, Salena is also constructing our own Village Hall website for publicizing future events, permitting ready access to the minutes of our meetings, publishing our VH email addresses, posting photos and providing any other information pertinent to our residents. Clearly feedback from residents will be an essential element

of making sure the website is kept relevant to you, so please do not hesitate to get in touch once it goes live.

Events

The Christmas Sing-Along on 13th December 2024 was a very enjoyable event with an excellent turn-out. Residents were thanked for their generous donations of raffle prizes and the total number of tickets sold was the highest since the committee reformed in 2018, making a net profit of £190 for the Charity's fund - an increase of 131% from the previous year!

The majority of you will already know that the Village Hall Summer BBQ held on 5th July 2025 was a huge success with over 90 attendees enjoying the beefburgers and hot dogs lovingly prepared by our resident expert chefs using meat sourced from Ancaster Butchers, followed by wonderful locally grown strawberries served with cream. The provision of a licensed bar operating on a Temporary Event Notice also proved to be very popular, with two varieties of beer from the local Zest brewery, Pimms' & Lemonade, wine and soft drinks all being readily available. In addition, Tom Williams excelled himself in providing games that appeared to be simple but proved to be deceptively difficult (as well as being highly entertaining to watch!). While our main priority was to attract the maximum number of residents to the VH site, our first ticketed event also raised a net profit of £589 for the Charity's fund.

Regarding future events, we are in the process of formulating our plan for 2026 but we're pretty certain it will include the Curry Night that we had originally intended to hold this August (but ran out of time to organize it!) In the meantime, there will be our Christmas Sing-Along to look forward to in December! As always, we'll welcome your ideas for new event themes.

Are there any questions before my very brief Financial Report?

SWWVH COMMITTEE AGM FINANCIAL REPORT 2025

As reported last year, the Committee had acquired a 'SumUp Air' card reader (or 'tapper') to reduce potential loss of sales due to people carrying insufficient cash. It was used for the first time in anger last year but it really came into its own during the recent BBQ, accounting for nearly £480 of the bar takings.

A Lloyds Business Instant Access Account had been opened last year to run alongside our Treasurer's Business account. It only provides a very small amount of income and its interest rate has now dropped from 1% to 0.7%, but it's still better than nothing!

As of 6th September 2025, the balances are:

Treasurer's Current Account: £472.30

Instant Access Interest Account: £4377.03

Total: £4849.33

That concludes the Financial Report - are there any questions please?