

## **Sudbrook and West Willoughby Village Hall (SWVH) Committee Meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026**

### 1. Attendance

Present: John Somerville (JS), Louise Burn (LB), John Cairns (JC), Barbara Campbell (BC), Fiona Stocks (FS).

Apologies: Miranda Hickson (MH), Salena Leighton-Humphries (SLH), Andy Newton (AN), Rae Seng (RS).

### 2. Approval/ Amendments of the minutes of the previous Committee meeting.

It was agreed that the minutes of the Committee meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025 provided a good overall record. **JC** was to forward the minutes for inclusion on the APC website.

### 3. Christmas Sing-along 2025 Debrief.

The Christmas Sing-along on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025 had been thoroughly enjoyed by all and it was agreed that the current format was still working well. The number of attendees was thought to be lower than the previous year's event, possibly due to an outbreak of flu. Regardless, the raffle still raised £231.51 which was up from £222.65 in 2024. Most attendees paid by cash, but the SumUp card tapper was used for 7 sales totaling £28.51. The raffle prizes had all been generously donated by residents and the cost of the mulled wine and mince pies was £54.25, leaving a net profit of £177.26.

The amount of purchased mulled wine and mince pies (18 bottles of mulled wine and 8 boxes of mince pies (6 boxes of standard & 2 boxes of gluten free)), supplemented with donated sausage rolls, was still deemed to be appropriate. Finally, the trustees extended their sincere thanks to **Wendy Cairns** for decorating the marquee and Christmas tree so beautifully.

### 4. Village Litter-Pick.

A build-up of litter had been noted in Sudbrook, with the area surrounding the hard-standing on Rookery Lane being particularly noticeable. Consequently it was agreed that the Committee should organize a Village Litter-Pick along Sudbrook's three access roads. A provisional date of Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026 was selected with volunteers meeting on the VH site at 10am. This date would be confirmed or changed nearer the time depending on the weather forecast. Arrangements would then be announced on the VH and Ancaster Facebook sites plus the village noticeboard. **JS** offered to liaise with **AN** regarding the availability of high-viz vests, heavy duty gloves, 'Litter Pickers' and green council litter bags.

5. Consideration of the best day to hold future meetings.

Since reforming formally in 2019, the Committee had normally held its routine meetings on Monday evenings. However, **SLH's** recent promotion and associated new job precluded her from attending meetings on Mondays and Tuesdays. Those in attendance considered Wednesday evenings to be a viable alternative. **JS** agreed to seek the views of **MH, SLH, AN** and **RS** via email.

6. Possible Appointment of Assistant Website Manager.

Further to the above, **SLH's** promotion also highlighted a potential requirement for someone to assist her with managing the VH's new website, particularly if frequent and/or short-notice updates were required for events etc. **JS** offered to consult with **SLH** as to the viability of him assisting her with managing the VH website.

7. Planning Events for 2026.

Discussions about potential future events highlighted the impracticality of erecting and disassembling the marquee for anything other than pre-planned major events. Specifically, both activities required a minimum of 6 people for 1.5 to 2 hours in relatively fine weather and wind conditions. In addition, the current marquee was likely to suffer unnecessary wear and tear if left standing for too long. Potential alternatives for 'ad hoc' events during 2026 could be a small number of gazebos that could be swiftly set up and taken down, preferably with the option of joining them together if required. The viability of purchasing a fixed wooden structure in the longer term was also discussed. Funding for these options could be sought from sources such as SKDC's Community Fund. **All Trustees** were invited to investigate potential options for gazebos with associated costs for consideration at the next meeting.

Notwithstanding the above, the following events for 2026 were provisionally agreed:

Summer BBQ (ticketed): Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July.

Quiz Night: Friday 7<sup>th</sup> August.

Christmas Sing-along: Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

8. Any Other Business (AOB)

There were no items for AOB.

9. Date/Venue of Next Meeting.

The next routine SWVVH Committee meeting would be held at **BC's** home on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7pm.