

Sudbrook and West Willoughby Village Hall (SWWVH) Committee Annual General Meeting 10th September 2026

1. Attendance

Present: John Somerville (JS), Louise Burn (LB), John Cairns (JC), Andy Newton (AN), Fiona Stocks (FS).

Apologies: Barbara Campbell (BC), Miranda Hickson (MH), Salena Leighton-Humphries (SLH), Rae Seng (RS).

2. Chairman's Address.

JS welcomed attendees to the SWWVH Committee Annual General Meeting (AGM). None of the current trustees or APC's representative had indicated an intention to resign from their roles and, as there were no other potential candidates at the AGM, an election was not required.

3. Progress Report

JC delivered a Progress Report on the Committee's activities since the last AGM held on 8th September 2025. 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 2026.
2. SWWVH COMMITTEE AGM FINANCIAL REPORT 2026.

SWWVH COMMITTEE AGM PROGRESS REPORT 2026

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 8th September 2025.

Village Hall Site

The acquisition of a fixed structure on the VH site remains a long-term aspiration but we will be required to prove a high level of engagement within the community to attract sufficient funding from external sources. Consequently, maintaining a good level of attendance at pre-planned events is essential and we have been pleased with the number of residents who turned out to enjoy our major event at Christmas and in the summer (more later). However, organizing smaller-scale events at relatively short notice would invariably still involve using our trusty old marquee which requires a team of 6 people for at least an hour to erect and to disassemble it. In addition, it has had to be repaired several times and will need replacing before too long. To that end, we applied to the South Kesteven Community Fund for a grant of £1985.75 to purchase 2 sturdy pop-up gazebos that can be swiftly put up/taken down by 2 people. The gazebos can also be joined together to form a marquee-sized shelter when required. We've delighted to announce that our application has recently been declared successful and so we'll be ordering the gazebos as soon as the funding is received (75% initially with the remainder paid upon completion of the project).

However, encouraging the community's sense of ownership of the site will only be fully achieved if it can be used as an amenity for daily use during the more temperate months. Last year's purchase of 3 extra picnic tables with a grant from the South Kesteven Community Fund has certainly helped in that regard. Nevertheless, the site still has plenty of space for other 'near-term' improvements. The Committee has discussed a few ideas but what we would really welcome is suggestions from the community. I'll update you on the means to communicate with us shortly.

Finally, we are still benefiting from APC's grass cutting contract for which we are extremely grateful. The contract includes 8 cuts per year and we are able to request the timing of the cuts to coincide with the preparation for any events.

Communication

We reported last year that our resident IT expert, Salena Leighton-Humphries, had introduced the Committee to 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 is also now being used to load and archive all of our data centrally instead of on individuals' personal computers. Salena has also constructed 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 residents.

Due to Salena's extensive work commitments we have identified the need for a second trustee to be trained in managing the website. John Somerville has kindly volunteered for this role and we'll update you when the website becomes available to residents in the near future.

Events

Our very popular Christmas Sing-Along was held on 12th December 2025 and was a very enjoyable event with John Somerville working his magic music box to provide us with both traditional and modern festive songs to join in with. Needless to say, the mulled wine, mince pies and donated sausage rolls went down extremely well. Moreover, residents were thanked for their extremely generous donations of raffle prizes and the ticket sales raised £231. After the cost of the wine and mince pies was deducted, the event raised a net profit of £177 for the Charity's fund.

Following the success of our first ticketed event last year, we held another Village Hall Summer BBQ on 4th July 2026. Thankfully the weather was lovely and we were grateful for a brief respite from the extreme heatwaves. Our resident chefs did a wonderful job in preparing the sausages and burgers sourced from Ancaster Butchers, and the strawberries and cream that followed really hit the spot. We were also extremely grateful for the wonderful homemade cakes and cookies that had been baked and donated by village residents. The total number of attendees was good but lower than last year (70 as opposed to 90). However, the event still raised £376 for the Charity's Fund and, most importantly, the feedback we had after the BBQ was extremely positive.

Finally, we held a very successful Friday Night Social on 7th August 2026. We were blessed with lovely weather and the merry throng of villagers all enjoyed the opportunity to meet up with their fellow residents on a fine summer's evening.

Regarding future events, we will soon be formulating our plan for 2027 and would welcome any ideas for new event themes. In the meantime, there will be our Christmas Sing-Along to look forward to in December!

Are there any questions before my very brief Financial Report?

Financial Report

Last summer we were informed that our Lloyds Treasurers' Business Account (effectively a fee-free current account) would be changing to Lloyds' new Charity Account which could involve banking charges for certain transactions. We examined other banks that cater for charities and concluded that they either offer no significant advantages compared to Lloyds or, in several cases, could be even more expensive to use. After closer examination, we determined that our current levels of income and expenditure, combined with careful management of the types of transactions we use, were unlikely to incur Lloyds' new banking fees. Hence, we elected to remain with Lloyds but will continue to monitor the overall situation closely.

Our Lloyds Business Instant Access Account was not effected by the changes and it runs alongside our new Charity account in exactly the same manner as before. However, it still only offers a very small interest rate which has now dropped from 0.7% to 0.5%, but it's still better than nothing!

As of 2nd September 2026, the balances were:

Charity Account: £234.86

Instant Access Interest Account: £4904.86

Total: £5139.72

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