

Sudbrook & West Willoughby Village Hall Committee Newsletter – October 2019

Welcome to our first newsletter which, together with the inclusion of the minutes of our meetings on the Ancaster Parish Council (APC) website and noticeboard, is intended to keep the residents of Sudbrook and West Willoughby better informed of the Committee's activities and associated plans for the Village Hall site.

Since commencing regular monthly meetings in May 2019, the Committee's initial focus has been on establishing the essential administrative processes and practices required of us by the Charity Commission. So far this has included the formal signing-in of the trustees and making them aware of their duties and legal responsibilities, allocating specific appointments within the Committee, inviting representation by APC and the local Parochial Church Council, regaining full control of the Charity's bank account and purchasing appropriate insurance cover for the site. Arrangements for the site's maintenance and safety have also been addressed, including plans for replacing the current wire fencing with more sympathetic four-foot high wooden fence paneling, the introduction of a grass mowing roster and the erection of dog fouling notices. Finally, at our request, APC has agreed that its noticeboard may be moved to the front of the Village Hall site where it will be more closely associated with the physical location of the villages' activities.

With the initial administrative requirements nearing completion, the Committee will now be able to focus more on its main aim which is essentially to provide an amenity that will benefit all residents of Sudbrook and West Willoughby. In the short term, we are planning to hold a carol singing event on the site on Saturday 21st December at 5.00pm. More details to follow but, in the meantime, please mark it in your calendars! For the longer term, we will be seeking your opinions on potential options for the future use of the site. With that in mind, we will be seeking guidance from the Charity Commission on the types of options that it would consider appropriate for our Charity, together with the best methods of achieving a democratic decision within the community. We cannot be any more specific than that at the moment, but we will endeavour to keep all residents informed of our progress through further newsletters and the promulgation of the minutes of our meetings as discussed earlier.

In the meantime we look forward to seeing you all at the carol singing event on Saturday 21st December at 5.00pm on the Village Hall site.

Best regards

John Cairns

Sudbrook and West Willoughby Village Hall Committee: John Somerville (Chairperson): Karen Barrett: Louise Burn: John Cairns (Vice-Chairperson): Neil Gray (Treasurer): Peter Hall: Andrew Newton (APC): Rachael Seng (Secretary): Tom Williams