

North Wootton Village Hall Management Committee

Committee Meeting Thursday 11th September 2025

Apologies: Antony Lamb, Rachel Williamson.

Attendees: Dennis Blackmore (Chairman), Neil Pearce (Secretary), Wendy Border (Treasurer & Bookings), Bob Angell (Maintenance) Will Border, Jason Harper, Kip Baker, Rachel Williamson, Zehra Ebelhack, Lucy Lemon, Doreen Taylor, Colin Smith, John & Pauline Marshall-Grint, Bridget Nurse

Agenda

1) Approval of previous meeting minutes held on 19th June 2025.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record and reflection of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

2) Matters Arising

Nothing raised.

3) Finance

Wendy referred to the finance sheets pointing out that we are in a very healthy position with regular hirers and income streams remaining strong.

4) Maintenance

Bob reported that an electrician is coming in to do a 5 yearly check and also the outside lighting.

Bob highlighted a very serious incident involving bonfires being lit by tenants in a neighbouring property that very nearly got out of control and could have impacted upon the VH and the safety of nearby residents. The Fire Brigade were called out on two separate occasions, and it was lucky that nearby hedges (which were tinder dry due to the hot weather at the time) did not catch alight. The very real risk of sparks drifting across and landing on the cedar shingles of the VH roof

was discussed at length and the secretary inquired as to whether these could be treated with some sort of fire retardant. Bridget said she would look into this and report back.

Bob has spoke to both the police and the fire brigade who have visited the tenants and warned of the dangers and consequences to the VH and nearby residents of fires getting out of control. Bob has also checked the roof and there does not appear to be any damage. To date no other incidences have been reported. A lengthy discussion regarding these incidents and the danger of the hedges catching alight ensued, with Will suggesting we should contact the owners of the property to discuss whether these hedges can be trimmed to minimise the risk in the future. The committee will continue to monitor the situation.

Bob informed the committee that the painting of the outside of the VH has almost been completed.

5) Events Report

In Antony's absence the Chairman read out a statement on his behalf.

Regarding the market on the 20th September: Antony informed the committee that he will be having an operation on his foot on the preceding Saturday (13th September) so extra help at the market would be appreciated.

The VH has been donated two brand new tents/marquees with our branding on them by Travel Chapter. They are on order and will hopefully arrive soon.

Tickets for the upcoming Indian Night in November will go on sale at the end of September/beginning of October in the usual way.

6) Bookings

Wendy reported that bookings continue to remain very strong, both with regular hirers and one-off events and parties. Our competitive pricing continues to make us a very attractive proposition for potential future events/parties and hirers.

Several potential regular hirers have put forward their interests in using the VH on a regular basis.

Wendy/Will remarked upon a conversation they had with members of the Pott Row VH committee. They were very impressed with our set up and how vibrant our own VH is and looking for advice on how to reinvigorate their own VH as they are struggling.

7) A.O.B

Zehra remarked upon on how our VH WhatsApp group is proving popular and useful for committee members keeping in touch. She also proposed we should put ourselves forward for a VH Inspiration Awards 2025 award putting forward our backstory and highlighting our progress. This was agreed by the committee and Zehra will update for the next meeting.

Dennis has ordered 250 'gluhwein' mugs which should arrive in good time for the Christmas Fair.

Date of next Meeting:

Thursday October 16th 2025 at 7pm

Meeting concluded at 20:15.