

## **North Wootton Village Hall Management Committee**

### **Committee Meeting Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Apologies:** Bridget Nurse, Doreen Smith, Antony Lamb, Colin Smith, Zehra Ebelhack

**Attendees:** Dennis Blackmore (Chairman), Neil Pearce (Secretary), Wendy Border (Treasurer & Bookings), Bob Angell (Maintenance) Will Border, Jason Harper, Kip Baker, Rachel Williamson, John & Pauline Marshall-Grint, Lucy Lemon, Anne Winson

#### **Agenda**

##### **1) Approval of previous meeting minutes held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 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**

Dennis welcomed our new member to the committee Anne Winson.

Bob updated the committee on the proposed new storage shed at the rear of the VH. Bob has secured several quotes. Wayne Skipper (architect) has viewed the proposed area. We will require planning permission to erect, but as we are a registered charity it won't cost anything to process. It was discussed and agreed that the end where the bike rack is situated is more suitable. Will reported we are not eligible for funding as we are not regarded as a deprived area, although he has spoken to Simon Ring and there is potentially an option for local Council funding? Will to contact Simon again and report back at the next meeting. All on the committee in agreement to go ahead with proposed shed and Bob to contact Wayne Skipper to draw up plans for the structure.

Land acquisition at the rear of the hall. This was raised at the last Parish Council meeting in Dennis' absence. If the decision is approved to buy the land the PC

will be the purchasers of the land. The next step is a valuation of the land in question. Dennis to follow this up and report back at the next meeting.

Wendy to purchase more teaspoons.

### **3) New Proposed Pricing structure**

As we have not raised our prices since the present committee took over back in 2017 it was proposed that we increase our overall pricing structure for stallholders at the VH markets and Christmas Fayre, and for regular and one-off hirers of the VH.

The cost of a stall at our monthly market will increase from £10 to £12, to take affect from April. Antony to inform our regular and prospective stallholders.

Stalls at the next Christmas Fayre will increase to £25.

Proposed new improvement in methods for cashing up after markets and any events. Each area, i.e. bread stall, raffle, kitchen etc, will cash up on the day and all monies will be given to the treasurer. This way it will be easier to see how each area is performing month-to-month. Also it was agreed we should categorize the card machine so it keeps track of which area takes what.

All present agreed this was a good way of doing things going forward and will take effect immediately.

It was agreed we should be more proactive with VH Charity collection buckets at events, especially the Christmas Fayre. Neil also suggested the notion of installing a contactless donation point. Neil to follow up the cost and feasibility of this and report back to the next meeting.

It was agreed that the temporary road closure at the last Fayre (when it was reopened) became potentially dangerous for stall holders on the verges of the road and visitors to the market. It was suggested we look into some kind of security fencing and stalls near the verge to face inwards to the path and not facing the road. Further discussion and agreement needed with this at the next meeting.

Jason pointed out that our current alcohol license only permits us to sell alcohol on the VH premises and not on other sites further along Priory Lane. If we do require to sell off the premises we can get a temporary licence if needed.

John Marshall Grint pointed out that 'The Minster' cancelled their proposed Christmas event when they discovered our Fayre date clashed with theirs. We agreed that we would ensure our market is advertised well in advance and will contact the Minster as a courtesy. .

#### **4) Finance**

Wendy handed out the latest financial figures. So far the figures indicate for this year that income has exceeded expenditure.

##### Hiring the VH

Following discussions we agreed to will increase our regular hourly rate for hiring the hall from £14 to £16 per hour. The rate increases to £27.50 per hour after 6pm at weekends.

Overall the figures indicate we are busy and thriving.

#### **5) Maintenance**

Bob reported that covers have been installed for the heater switches so that they cannot keep being turned up.

The water heater has been serviced.

The lights outside-one has been moved to one side of the De-Fib.

Dennis to give the immediate neighbour notice of when we will start cutting down the trees and bushes at the side of the VH.

#### **6) Events Report**

Wendy & Will are away for the next Bingo Evening (Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February) so we need volunteers. Antony to be approached to see if he can help.

Next VH Market is Saturday (21<sup>st</sup> February) Any volunteers to help set up Friday before would be greatly appreciated.

#### **7) Bookings**

Wendy reported that bookings are still very healthy, especially for parties-many of them for Sundays. Our competitive pricing (despite our slight increase discussed earlier in the meeting) means we are still incredibly popular.

### **7) A.O.B**

Wendy suggested we have a 'Doggy Treat jar' at the VH as many people visit the markets with the dogs. All agreed this was a good idea and Wendy will purchase one.

'The Pizza Slice Guy' has asked if he can set up every Sunday evening outside the VH. All agreed this was fine as long it is after any parties have finished. Wendy to follow up.

'We buy vintage jewellery and antiques' wish to hold another roadshow at the hall like they did back in January. Committee have no objections if they have more bookings. Wendy to follow up.

No other business was discussed.

### **Date of next Meeting:**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 7pm.

Meeting concluded at 20:00