

Sweffling Village Hut Report For APM 9th May 2023

July 2022 saw the first committee meeting since the beginning of the pandemic.

SPC had agreed that I as a Parish Councillor should approach the Hut Committee through the only remaining officer the Treasurer, Jenny Tyson. She and I put out a notice to the village to arrange the convening meeting of a new committee. We were able to welcome new faces and form 4 sub-committees all feeding information to the main committee of 12 trustees who will now meet twice a year.

They are:

1. Governance, Policies, & Grants

We are grateful to Mike Smithson for overseeing in an advisory capacity.

2. Events & Communications

3. Kitchen team and volunteer manager.

4. Hut Maintenance

Anne Gladwell is happy to continue managing bookings and is a most diligent caretaker.

The initial aim of the committee is to get the Hut being used again by the village after the pandemic. This was rather than just raising funds.

A series of monthly Swapshops was planned for the Autumn 2022 which encouraged folk back to the Hut. There was no charge for items exchanged, just a donation encouraged for refreshments.

With home heating prices at an all time high, in November we decided to open the Hut once a week to all so that anyone could come and work or socialise in the warm between 10am & 5pm. We were very grateful to the Townlands Trust and East Suffolk Council for their 'Ease the Squeeze' grants. This has enabled the Hut Committee to organise the weekly Hygge warm hub where anyone could come to warm up, have free hot drinks and hot food. The grants paid for the heating, equipment and weekly food bills and did so right up until Easter. Thanks go to the dedicated team of helpers, cooks and drivers who made this all possible with numbers attending between 15 and 40.

The next meeting will consider how the Hut can begin to put on events that will bring in an income. Thanks to the PC we have installed WiFi which we hope will attract more folk wanting to hold meetings and events. We have already used some of the grant to purchase a licence to show films. When we have sorted out funding for the right projection equipment, we plan to put on Filmshows with refreshments that will bring in a regular income; plus evening classes and daytime sessions that have been requested by villagers.

Grateful thanks go to our very hardworking secretary Laura Mann and the whole committee for their dedication to the cause over the year.

Hut Chairman - Jill Abbott