

Report to	Findon Parish Council
Meeting Date	18 May 2026
From	Cllr Gilbert
Title of Report	Wattle House Working Group (WHWG)
Purpose of Report	To note progress and consider items for approval

1. Updates for noting

- 1.1 A very positive response has been received from the Weald and Downland Museum (W&D) who are very keen to support us.
- 1.2 Cllr Dean is making contact with potential stakeholders over the next few weeks. Most significantly, we have met with the Sheep Fair Committee who in principle are supportive of what we are doing. Indeed, it was discussed that they may not have any storage in the Wattle House. This would however pose a problem in that they need to find an alternative solution to their storage requirements. The WHWG agreed on behalf of the Parish Council to support in whatever way we can. To this end, the Sheep Fair suggested they would carry out a kit audit so they can establish more precise needs.
- 1.3 Parking is a potential issue and the WHWG are investigating whether the informal parking at the top end of the Green could be better utilised and formalised to help.
- 1.4 The WHWG would like to appoint an independent facilitator for a 'Thinking Day' for the village in order to obtain as many ideas of possible uses for the Wattle House. The dates is to be confirmed but needs to be accessible to village residents of all ages. The probable venue will be the Village Hall with a potential alternative being Findon Manor. Cllr Gilbert is meeting a possible facilitator on 21 May 2026. Cllr Kelly has been very busy – a particular highlight being her illustrative video. The clock is ticking and we still have a lot to do. A key factor is deciding on potential uses, and the proposed Day is critical to this process.
- 1.5 Cllr Peskett is in the process of producing a Business Plan.
- 1.6 The WHWG has received two fee proposals from Quantity Surveyors (QS) to produce a scope of works and cost plan, both of which are required for the grant submission. One QS is local and the other is in Salisbury. The local QS has proposed a fee of £125.00 per hour capped at £1500.00 and the other a fee of £2200.00 plus expenses. In effect, they are more or less the same level of fee. I would like to recommend the appointment of the local QS as this would be much more convenient and, more importantly, efficient.
- 1.7 The WHWG would like to have its own set of keys for the Wattle House held centrally to access the building and when meeting with stakeholders/designers etc on site in the future. Cllr Peskett would keep the set of keys securely at Findon Manor.

2. Issues for discussion/ratification by full Council (if applicable)

- 2.1 Approval and authority to appoint the local QS as per para 1.6 of the report at a capped fee of £2500.00.

- 2.2 Approval and authority to appoint a facilitator for a village 'Thinking Day' at a fee not to exceed £1000.00.
- 2.3 Approval for the WHWG to have its own set of keys as per para 1.7 of the report.