#  **STEEPLE ASTON VILLAGE ARCHIVE TRUST**

 Registered Charity number 1093071.

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######  VILLAGE HALL EXTENSION PROPOSAL

**Brief** : Steeple Aston Village archive is currently located in the lean-to adjacent to the village hall. Its accommodation consists of a fireproof store and a small storage area. The space is unheated, and there is no room for documents to be examined, still less for any work associated with SAVA’s educational role to be carried out. There is a serious need for a more suitable environment in which historic and other documents and objects can be safely stored, and for working space in which SAVA members can prepare exhibitions, etc., and invite members of the local community and other visitors to inspect the archive and to become involved in its work. This might have the effect of transforming the village archive from a small-scale and rather esoteric activity into a more wide-reaching one.

In addition, the village hall itself has two issues associated with changes of level- one is that of the storage of chairs (which are currently kept on the stage) and the other is the ladies WCs which are down a short flight of steps, making disabled access difficult.

**Proposal** : The proposal is to demolish the lean-to and replace it with a single-storey flat-roofed extension infilling the north-east corner of the building. The accommodation will incorporate the existing boiler room, a new chair store for 120 stacked chairs, and better accommodation for SAVA. This extension will mirror the existing extension on the south-east corner (the committee room), but also connect up with the WC extension so as to make a unified whole. It will do this by including the WC building within the proposed works, raising its external wall height slightly to incorporate a parapet. The architecture of the new extension would therefore be identical with the committee room (rubble stone walls, parapets, window shapes) to form a largely symmetrical composition on the east side of the village hall.

The floor level of the new extension will be the same as the hall, facilitating both level chair storage and easy access for SAVA’s exhibition materials. The opportunity will also be taken to raise the floor level of the ladies WC, whilst maintaining its plan.

**Construction** : A good standard of construction quality is required to complement the village hall. New external stone rubble walling will need to join seamlessly with the existing walls, and windows and lintols will be purpose-made to the same pattern, and a matching stone parapet coping will need to be sourced.

Drainage arrangements will need to be revised to accommodate the raised WC floor level, and the incorporation of an existing manhole, 500mm higher, into the SAVA area. Subject to survey, it is intended to adapt the existing roof construction of the WC block, adding a parapet on one side. Roof falls and rainwater disposal will also need to be revised.

The external walls and roof of the new extension will be insulated to a high standard, and windows will be double-glazed. It is proposed that underfloor heating pipework be incorporated into the screed, fed if possible from the existing boilers. Zoned heating control will be necessary for the SAVA area to maintain the correct conditions. The archive area will include an enlarged fireproof store and fixed shelving and benches.

**Access** : Wheelchair access to the SAVA area will be possible from within the hall, but additionally from an external door reached by extending the main hall’s entrance platform for about 4.5 metres. The kitchen door remains in situ but will benefit from the creation of a covered porch (which also gives access to the boiler room).

Martin Lipson, March 2012