

## **PLANNING APPLICATION PL/2026/02830**

Ref SJB - 3

### **DESIGN AND ACCESS STATEMENT**

This planning application seeks permission for the replacement of an existing small wooden shed in the churchyard of St John the Baptist Church, Bishopstone with a new one. The church has no toilet facilities and the shed contains a camping toilet for use in emergencies.

St John the Baptist, Bishopstone is a largely 14<sup>th</sup> century church listed as Grade 1 in Historic England's national list of buildings of Architectural of Historic Interest. The Parochial Church Council recently received a grant of £248,000 from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This very significant investment is funding a major reconstruction project to save the church's failing North Transept roof and secure the future of one of Wiltshire's most significant heritage assets. This work forms part of a wider programme of projects that will help deliver the NLHF's "investment principles" by widening the building's role, increasing community access and ensuring its sustainability in the longer term.



At present the church has no permanent toilet facilities and no public facilities exist in the area. In due course the intention is to bring forward a project to construct a proper, fully accessible, toilet facility. The current arrangements involve the provision of a camping toilet in a small wooden shed located within the churchyard (see site plan). This is the only facility we have at the moment for people who come to the church. The current shed housing the toilet is in a very poor state of repair and the wood of the ceiling, walls and floor is rotting.

It is proposed to replace the existing shed with a slightly smaller new one (existing shed measures 3.00m x 1.80m, the new one will be 2.40m x 1.80m) – see Existing Elevations and Floor Plans and Proposed Elevations and Floor Plans (Drawings SJB 5 and SJB 6). The replacement building will be of similar design and construction to the existing one – timber frame with shiplap cladding and a felt roof. It will be located in the same position as the existing one, partially screened from both the road and most of the churchyard by two yew trees and a beech tree. The trees will not be affected by the proposed development. There are some graves nearby but no other graves can be dug there because of the proximity of the trees. The site is easily accessed from the path to the church via a grass path, but neither the path nor the toilet are currently suitable for people with significant mobility difficulties.

As indicated above, subject to the necessary consents and funding being available, we hope to construct a proper fully accessible toilet, with a proper path leading to it. The new shed the subject of this application will then be used for storing items from the church, e.g. extra chairs etc.

Sarah Seal

Church Warden.