

WANBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Hoopers Field, Rotten Row, Wanborough, Swindon, SN4 0AN

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Minutes of Wanborough Parish Council (WPC) Hooper's Field Sports Facility Committee meeting held on Monday 7th April 2025 at 7pm at Hooper's Field Sports Pavillion, Rotten Row, Wanborough

Cllrs Present: Colin Offer (Chairman)
John Warr
David Hayward

In attendance: Gordon Heywood (Wanborough Tennis Club)
Aaron Baker (Wanborough Cricket Club)
Paul Penfold (Wanborough Cricket Club),
John Errington (Wanborough Bowls Club)
Ian Butcher (Wanborough Juniors Football Club)
Lee Herring (Wanborough JFC & Pétanque Club)
Sally Thurston, Interim Clerk (WPC)

Minute Ref: HF/04/2025

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Gary Sumner

2. Declaration of interest

None

3. Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th October 2024 were approved as a correct record

4. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – No public present

5. Update from Sports Clubs

To receive reports and consider actions from:

- i. Wanborough Bowls Club: influx of 20 new members from Garrard Bowls club. There are currently 60 playing members, including 12 women members. Union Jack flag has now deteriorated. A new quality flag would cost £115. It was AGREED to recommend purchase of the flag to full council. On 24th May there will be an open day at the bowls club from 1pm to 5pm. All other clubs will join in with a variety of activities. There will also be a cricket match that afternoon. The open day will be advertised by the Parish Council in the Lyden.
- ii. Wanborough Tennis Club – membership now 200. 120 children and 80 adults. The club are introducing pickleball tennis. Tennis club requested help with grant applications. Cllr. Warr will arrange a meeting with club to consider needs. A request was made for the handy man to look at court netting and make it secure.
- iii. Wanborough Cricket Club – season starts in May 2025 currently 22 members. The dry weather has been positive as the wicket can be rolled, although the dry weather does lead to wear and tear on high traffic areas. Conversations have been held with All Build to improve drainage and overseed, quotes required. Current drainage is every 10m – All Build have suggested sand banding that creates secondary drainage. 75% grants may be available from the football foundation. The Clerk will liaise with both cricket and football club and also All Build to investigate further.

- iv. Wanborough Junior Football Club – coming to end of season. Fixtures have run over due to bad weather in December. Discussion with PGL have been fruitful as they have facilities available which could take the pressure off the HF pitches in bad weather. PGL have agreed to cut pitches if football club mark them.

There are currently 220 registered players with a total of 17 teams, this includes 20 girls (two teams). All teams are playing well and are competitive in their leagues.

Next season the club will extend with U18 teams. The Harrow FC have enquired about feeding into their adult teams, this would involve extra safeguarding which is being investigated by the Harrow. Additional girls teams are also being investigated.

There is a need for further pitches in the village – Church Meadow was suggested but this would need significant, expensive, works to make it match ready.

The opening up of the veranda has had a positive impact and the club are now raising more funds by selling coffees on match days. It would be even better if a window could be made into a hatch and a patio could be put outside building.

A general concern was raised about lack of parking and how this could be resolved – possibly with an extension to existing. Clerk would seek advice and rough costs. There was also concern about the grit used on the car park, which is treaded through and could damage floors and playing surfaces on bowls.

- v. Wanborough Petanque Club – the new club already has 25 members, and it is growing weekly. Open sessions have been advertised, and first competitive game has been played. The club will join the Cotswold league. A disabled sign gone up to keep disabled access clear. Most people walk so no pressure on car parking. No juniors yet but this is an aspiration for the near future and will be encouraged with a one household fee for membership. The pitch is currently soft, and solutions are under investigation. If the direction of play is changed to get more capacity, then protection will be needed for cars.

An enquiry was made if there was room for any memorial benches – it was confirmed that three could be sited. The community would be informed in the Lyden.

6. Finance

Financial reports were NOTED

7. Charges Fees and Payments

- i. Clubs were informed that invoices could not be paid by WPC if the council had not placed the order and followed procurement processes. This was noted by clubs.
- ii. Clubs were advised that an 8% increase in fees had been set for 2025.26. Licences are being drafted by solicitor for a 10-year security on tenure. The new licences would be distributed for comment when drafts received.

8. Hooper's Field maintenance

Actions:

- Clerk to work with football, cricket and All Build to investigate better drainage
- Handyman would be requested to look at tennis netting
- Car park improvements to be investigated

9. Grant applications

£10k landfill grant secured towards cricket nets. Further grant funding and WPC funding is needed to reach £28k target. Funds need to be secured, and project started in three months to ensure the landfill grant is released. Lengthy discussion followed as to how this would be achieved and if a Plan B was needed.

Clerk will work with Cllr. Offer and WCC to submit further applications. WCC committed to raising £1,000 in fundraising. Clerk will enquire regarding landfill tax what flexibility there is in the funding for a plan b or time extensions.

It was noted that grants that increase participation in sporting activities were easier to find than those for infrastructure improvements, such as storage. Therefore, as much of the WPC reserve should be retained for infrastructure improvements as possible.

10. Storage Facilities

- i. A draft report and action plan was received by council members. Lengthy discussions took place on how the project could be achieved as timely as possible.
- ii. It was agreed by all that the clubs could manage with less storage. It was felt that a bigger building would be difficult to get approved and space is limited. It was the original, granted plans should be costed as a next step to enable a firm project plan to be drafted to full council to consider.

11. Hopers field Improvements and Expansion

- i. Minutes from Working Party held 20th Nov 2024 were received by council members.
- ii. Council members received a report and draft action plan.
- iii. A lengthy discussion took place regarding club and community need, aspirations, fully utilising current assets and funding strategy. It was felt by the committee that a scaled down, realistic expansion plan should be investigated further. It was also agreed that phase one of the project should be installing the storage, which has been agreed by council as a priority. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Warr that a realistic plan of under £100,000 should be drafted as phase two, this was agreed.

Meeting closed at 9.02pm

Committee members:

Colin Offer (Chair), John Warr, Omar Mirza, Gary Sumner and Dave Hayward (Parish Councillors).

Club Representatives:

Paul Penfold (Wanborough Cricket Club), Mark Baldwin (Wanborough Cricket Club), Mel Brough (Wanborough Tennis Club), Gordon Heywood (Wanborough Tennis Club), Geoff Sanders (Wanborough Bowls Club), John Errington (Wanborough Bowls Club), Ian Butcher (Wanborough Juniors Football Club) & Lee Herring (Wanborough JFC & Pétanque Club)