

WANBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

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

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Minutes of the Wanborough Parish Council (WPC) Footpaths, Village Maintenance and Allotment Committee (FVM&A) meeting held on Wednesday 15th April 2026 at 7pm at Hooper's Field Pavilion, Rotten Row, Wanborough

Cllr's Present: Richard Bellamy (Chair), John Emmins, John Warr, Kathy Glanville and Colin Offer.

In attendance: Laura Evans (Clerk)

1. Apologies

Cllr Omar Mirza

2. Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were declared.

3. Minutes

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2026 were approved and signed as a true record.

4. Public Questions

The meeting will be adjourned for public speaking and questions (max 20 minutes)
No public were in attendance.

5. Items for Information

The Clerk confirmed that a 4-yard skip had been delivered to the allotments on 10 April. Emails have since been received from allotment plot holders advising that the skip is now full, however further clearance work is still required.

Resolved: Cllr John Warr proposed that a further 4-yard skip be ordered. This proposal was unanimously approved.

6. Allotments

a. Partnership Agreement- As noted in the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 23 March (Minute Ref: FC/26.03/26), the amended Partnership Agreement was forwarded to the Chair of Covingham Parish Council. No further correspondence has been received to date. Cllr John Warr queried whether the invoice for the previous financial year had been issued to Covingham Parish Council. The Clerk agreed to investigate this matter.

b. Security fencing quotations- still awaiting the amended quotation from the Contractor.

7. Footpath- Manor Orchard to Chapel Lane

A request was considered for a handrail to be installed on the footpath, which is regularly used by elderly residents. Concerns have been raised regarding accessibility and safety.

Cllr Richard Bellamy reported that he had inspected the site and agreed that the installation of a handrail would be beneficial. It was noted that the footpath is tarmacked and maintained by Swindon Borough Council and that the location is somewhat restricted in terms of available space. It was agreed that the Swindon Borough Council Highways Team would be asked to carry out a desktop assessment to confirm feasibility. Subject to this, the contractor would be asked to provide a quotation. Cllr Richard Bellamy agreed to attend a site meeting with Lee to facilitate the quotation.

8. Finance

a) To consider the Finance report

Road Sweeping and Village Maintenance – Road sweeping within the village was discussed. It was confirmed that a budget was allocated to carry out two sweeps, but it appears that only one has taken place in the financial year 2025/26. It was agreed that residents would be notified of future road sweeping in advance by way of a letter drop, as certain areas have experienced a build-up of debris due to the road sweeper being unable to access the area because of parked vehicles.

It was agreed that the remaining balance of £6,435 from the 2025/26 budget be transferred to reserves, with £5,000 of this amount ring-fenced for the Play Park reserves.

Cllr Richard Bellamy advised the meeting that the Probation Service is seeking suitable projects within parishes, which could be considered for future works.

9. Footpaths and Village Maintenance:

a. To receive and consider an update from the current Village Maintenance Contractor – The meeting received an update on village maintenance arrangements. It was suggested that grass cutting should commence in March in future years, utilising any banked grass cuts during periods of bad weather, to adopt a more proactive rather than reactive approach. It was also reported that one of the village fingerposts has been knocked down. The need to inspect and consider appropriate maintenance or repair options was noted.

b. To allocate footpaths to walk and check for maintenance issues- It was noted that the list of parish footpaths is available on SharePoint, and councillors were asked to select footpaths local to their area to walk and inspect.

It was agreed that all allocated footpaths should be walked by the end of July.

Cllr Colin Offer suggested that this be put into the Lyden Magazine as this would encourage residents to walk and fill in the report on the footpaths as this will enable us to get the detail quicker.

Cllr Richard Bellamy agreed to circulate the relevant information to the Clerk for inclusion in the next Lyden article.

Cllr John Emmins gave apologies and left the meeting at 7:33pm

c. To provide update on the tree maintenance project- a formal quote to be bought to the next FVMA for works on these trees listed as 6 months.

d. Horse Rider Safety – Replacement of Signage – The replacement of existing horse rider safety signage was discussed; however, it was noted that insufficient information had been provided by the resident at this stage. The Clerk agreed to contact the resident to confirm the exact locations and to obtain photographs, to enable the issues to be formally raised with Swindon Borough Council.

Cllr Colin Offer asked whether any grant funding may be available in relation to the allotments from the Scarecrow Trail. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the organisers of the Scarecrow Trail requesting a contribution. The possibility of seeking a contribution from the Redlands developer was also noted.

The meeting closed at 7:43pm