

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 Allotments Committee (FVM&A)** meeting held at 7.00 pm on Monday 5 October 2026 at Hooper's Field Pavilion, Rotten Row, Wanborough

Councillors present: Richard Bellamy (Chair), John Emmins, Kathy Glanville, Nathan Morse and John Warr

In attendance: Laura Evans (Clerk) and Cllr David Hayward

REF: FVMA/05.10/26

1. Apologies

No apologies were received.

2. Declaration of Interest

Cllr Morse declared an interest in matters relating to the allotments.

3. Minutes

Resolved: The minutes of the committee meeting held on Monday 6 July 2026 were approved and signed as a true record.

Proposed: Cllr Morse **Seconded:** Cllr Emmins and agreed unanimously.

4. Public Questions

No public were in attendance.

5. Items for Information

It was agreed that the Resident Consultation survey that closed on 30th September, would be reviewed in full at the next Full Council meeting.

6. Allotments

- a. The Committee reviewed the allotments risk assessment and noted the contractor's quotation. Members discussed measures to manage access to the plots and the need for the contractor to mow the four paths within the existing maintenance hours. Allotment holders would be reminded of their responsibility to maintain their plots.

Members also discussed sharing the overall cost of levelling the footpaths with Covingham Parish Council, given the number of Covingham residents who hold plots. It was noted that two residents had experienced accidents.

Action: The Assistant Clerk to obtain quotations from other grounds-maintenance contractors.

Proposed: Cllr Warr proposed allocating £2,500 in the current year and a further £2,500 in the following year for the paths. **Seconded:** Cllr Glanville, which was agreed unanimously.

The meeting discussed the progress of the Allotment Provision Agreement; feedback had been provided by Covingham Parish Council and would be incorporated into the document.

Action: Circulate the allotment provision proposals to the Committee for feedback before presenting them to Full Council in November.

- b. The Committee considered the levelling of the allotment paths as discussed above.

7. Finance

- a) The Committee considered the finance report. Thanks were recorded for the residents who regularly carry out litter-picking at The Marsh and Commonhead roundabout. The Committee delegated authority to the Clerk to make arrangements for the road sweeper, one in December and another in February.
- b) The Committee considered the budget monitoring report. Footpath expenditure and general maintenance were discussed. The footpath register is to be circulated before the next meeting. Green Lane, at the Far Marsh end, was identified as a potential priority. It was noted that Kings Lane is the responsibility of Swindon Borough Council.

- c) The Committee considered capital expenditure requests for 2027/28.
- d) The Committee considered the draft committee budget for 2027/28.

The Clerk reported that the approved red paint for the telephone box by the Village Hall had been identified at a cost of £14. Cllr Nathan Morse volunteered to paint the telephone box. The Clerk to order.

8. Playpark Remedial Works

The Committee considered the quotation for remedial works at the playparks.

It was agreed to monitor the swing surface at the Lower Rec during wet weather and review its condition in January. Cllr Warr will inspect the play equipment.

The foliage around the bench in Church Meadow, in the car park is to be cut back. The Clerk was authorised to arrange either the repair, removal or replacement of the bench, up to a cost of £600.

The memorial bench proposal is to be referred to Full Council.

9. Footpaths and Village Maintenance:

- a. The Committee received an update from the current village maintenance contractor. Weekly inspections of the playpark are to continue.
- b. The Committee received an update on the allocated footpaths that had been walked and inspected, together with any routes still awaiting inspection.

All routes had been allocated, with Cllr Glanville having completed the largest number of inspections.

Action: Cllr Bellamy to send Cllr Morse details of the relevant footpath by Thursday.

The handrail at Chapel Lane was raised. Although Chapel Lane is a private road, the route is considered a public right of way. The matter relates to footpath FP55 and has been reported to the SBC for further investigation.

The Clerk confirmed that the following email had been sent to the Rights of Way Officer at SBC;

FP14 (Oakapple Footpath): As winter approaches, this footpath becomes increasingly hazardous. Surface water regularly drains across the path and freezes during cold weather, creating a significant slip risk for pedestrians. - This has now been closed by SBC due to safety issues.

Bridleway between the bottom of Kite Hill and The Marsh (via Woodland Trust land): Several trees along the route have developed very low-hanging branches, restricting access for horse riders. A resident has reported that a friend in his 80s recently struggled to pass safely along the bridleway and had to crouch low over his horse's neck to avoid the branches. We would be grateful if these trees could be inspected and any necessary pruning undertaken to improve safety and accessibility for users of the bridleway

The meeting closed at 8.21 pm.