

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 13th April 2026 at 7pm

at Hooper's Field Sports Pavillion, Rotten Row, Wanborough

Cllrs Present: Colin Offer (Chairman)

David Hayward

Kathy Glanville

John Warr

In attendance: Gordon Heywood (Wanborough Tennis Club)

Paul Penfold (Wanborough Cricket Club)

John Errington (Wanborough Bowls Club)

Mel Brough (Wanborough Tennis Club)

Aaron Baker (Wanborough Cricket Club)

John (Wanborough Cricket Club)

Ian Butcher (Wanborough Junior Football Club)

Lee Herring (Pétanque Club)

Laura Evans, Clerk (WPC)

Minute Ref: HF/04.13/2026

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Gary Sumner

2. Declaration of interest

No Declarations of interest were made.

3. Minutes

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19th January 2026 were approved and signed as a true record.

4. THE MEETING WILL BE ADJOURNED FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS

(Maximum time allowed 10 minutes)

No public were in attendance.

5. Items for Information

- Club's open days – On Saturday 23 May, all clubs will be open to members of the public from 10:00am to 12:30pm. The Bowls Club will also continue its open day on Sunday 24 May 2026, offering opportunities for members of the public to speak with club members, take part in sample activities, and discuss membership.
- Clearance of the Storage cupboard- The Clubs were informed that they have six weeks remove items from the storage containers due to a safety hazard.

The Clerk confirmed that, in accordance with the November 2025 minutes, the new container was agreed to be shared between the Cricket Club and the Football Club. Shelving and racking arrangements were discussed. The Football Club has not been given access to the container, with the Cricket Club advising that there is currently no available space.

The Cricket Club agreed to have a key cut for the container delivered to site in November and to provide this to the Clerk, so the container can be inspected to ensure it is being used appropriately.

Options for shelving for the Football Club remain an ongoing project, with the matter to be revisited at a later meeting.

Cllr Offer explained that £25,000 has been allocated for storage units in 2026/27 budget; however, grant funding will be required, and any change to the layout may require planning permission to be re-submitted. As a result, progress is dependent on securing funding and approvals, meaning implementation is unlikely within the short term.

6. Update from Sports Clubs

To receive reports and consider actions from:

- i. Wanborough Bowls Club- The season is due to commence at the end of April. Membership has decreased slightly; however, this may increase following the upcoming open days.
- ii. Wanborough Tennis Club- The club remains stable, although membership is slightly down. The club has 170 members currently in the renewal season. Two to three inter-club tournaments are planned, and the club is hosting an LTA Under-10s event, with funding options being explored. LED lighting on courts 3 and 4 is installed and working well for social play; however, it is not suitable for match play.
- iii. Wanborough Cricket Club- The season has not yet started. An official opening of the new cricket nets is scheduled for 29 April, dependent on weather conditions. A number of Councillors are expected to attend. It was reported that children had pulled the gate and gained access to the site; therefore, security at the top of the fence requires review. The club has successfully established a girls' team.
- iv. Wanborough Junior Football Club - The season concludes in May, with the Under-10s team reaching the cup final and the club reported to be in a healthy position. Consideration is being given to introducing an Under-7s team next season; although there is interest from children, there are currently no volunteers available to run the team. The club is looking to source funding via the Parish Council for pitch improvements. It was noted that there are no longer any adult teams. Concerns were raised regarding the far end of the car park, where the surface is in poor condition. A number of cars have become stuck, and it was noted that this area accounts for approximately ten parking spaces near the mounds.
- v. Wanborough Pétanque Club- The club played its first league game yesterday. New teams have been formed and were reported to be very social. Membership numbers remain similar to last year, at approximately twenty members. The club will be training at Hooper's Field more frequently, with plans to provide junior coaching. It was noted that the club needs to contact the local Primary School to explore junior engagement.

7. Finance

- a) An outstanding invoice from Harrow was noted.

Members were reminded to avoid over-use of water and electricity due to rising utility costs. While there are grants and budgeted funds available, it was noted that resources are not unlimited, with £5,000 budgeted for the clubs in 2026/27. The importance of making Hooper's more financially sustainable was emphasised.

It was noted that the Wroughton Solar Farm has previously offered grants, and the potential installation of solar panels was discussed as an energy-efficient option.

All clubs are to submit their financial plans for the next five years. It was agreed that a working group will be re-established, potentially in three months, to identify project priorities and projected

expenditure over the five-year period. In the interim, work will take place between now and the next meeting to progress funding options to address pitch requirements.

End of Football Season Works – The Football Club and Cricket Club are to work together to improve the pitch conditions by fertilising and re-seeding. The Football Club (WJFC) confirmed it will be able to contribute once costs are known.

8. Review of Pitch Hire Arrangements

The Committee considered the current arrangements for pitch use by Hooper's teams and discussed the introduction of a formal hire fee structure to replace the existing setup. The Clerk and Ian Butcher are to review and develop proposals for a formal hire fee structure for consideration at a future meeting.

9. Hooper's Field maintenance and improvements

- a) Roof Cleaning – Bowls Club – The Committee considered the need for roof cleaning at the Bowls Club, as visibility through the roof is currently poor and cleaning is required. It was agreed to source companies that provide roof-cleaning services and bring options back to the Council for consideration. It was noted that the Bowls Club section of the facilities has been repainted by volunteers.
- b) Storage facilities update- no progress has been made.
- c) To consider financial support for court maintenance 2026/27 – The Committee considered financial support for court maintenance for 2026/27. It was noted that match funding will be required for court repainting and maintenance and that a professional audit of the courts has been completed, with timescales provided.

Resolved: Cllr David Hayward proposed that £3,000 be allocated to enable the Tennis Club to arrange court repainting, with the understanding that other clubs would accept their adjusted funding allocations. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Kathy Glanville and agreed by the Committee as a recommendation to Full Council.

The clubs in attendance agreed to the funding allocation comprising £2,500 for court works and £500 towards mower head costs for the Cricket Club, subject to Full Parish Council approval.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm