

WANBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hooper's Field Sports Facility Committee meeting held on Monday 7th August 2023 at 7.30pm at
Hooper's Field Sports Pavilion

Present: Colin Offer (Chairman), John Warr, Omar Mirza, John Emmins, (Parish Councillors), Karen Hawkins, (Wanborough Tennis Club), Mark Baldwin (Wanborough Cricket Club), Lee Herring (Wanborough JFC), Brian Clarke, John Errington (Wanborough Bowls Club), Paul Penfold (Wanborough Cricket Club),

In Attendance: Julie Flenley (Locum Parish Clerk), Graeme Luxton (Hooper's Project Expert Advisor)

Minute Ref: HF/08/23/

1. Apologies: Gary Sumner (Parish Councillor), Ian Butcher (Wanborough JFC)
2. Introductions: Introductions and welcomes were given to new Committee members and the Locum Clerk was introduced to members.
3. Declaration of interest: No interests declared other than respective interests in members sports clubs.

THE MEETING WILL BE ADJOURNED FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

No public questions

4. Minutes of previous meeting held on 17th April 2023 were agreed and signed as a true copy.
5. Update from the Parish Council – Chair
 - 5.1 Club Licence fees, VAT reclaim for the last four years
Cllr Warr noted that the previous Clerk had reclaimed the previous 4 years worth of VAT on sports clubs payments. Cllr Warr noted that the Parish Council could keep the funds as it was not enrichment. The parish council have adopted a holding position for the funds for 6 months in the unlikely event that HMRC reclaim the funds from WPC.

The question of the use of the funds was raised, whether it would be divvied out between the respective sports clubs at Hoopers Field, or whether it is pooled and used to improve/upgrade the facilities. Cllr Offer proposed that the funds be pooled and used for improvement works. Seconded by Mr. Baldwin. 4 Members in agreement, 1 against. Motion carried.
 - 5.2 Maintenance work carried out since the last meeting
It was noted that a PAT test had been carried out at the pavilion and that a new cricket water meter had been installed. Cllr Offer noted that the store room was in need of a tidy up as equipment was a trip and fire hazard and requested that the clubs visit it and tidy up their respective equipment.
 - 5.3 Update on the Wi-Fi & CCTV camera installation
Cllr Warr noted that the Wi-Fi had successfully been installed at Hoopers Field Pavilion but there had been an incident where someone had accessed the pavilion building and cut the cable within 2 days of it's installation. It was agreed by committee members that the security of the pavilion and access to it should be reviewed

Julie Flenley

Locum Clerk

Chairman's signature.....

6. Hooper's Field maintenance

6.1 Grounds Maintenance

It was reported that Cllr Emmins cleared up after the party which was held at the pavilion at the weekend. There are issues surrounding the gate closure which the Committee agreed to keep under review. Requested that the Locum Clerk ask the village handyman to look at the gate to ensure that there are no issues with the closing mechanism and to review the potholes in the car park.

The committee noted that the final cricket game of the season was noted for 3rd September 2023. There was a crossover between football and cricket on 1st September and it was requested that the football and cricket clubs liaise over the use of the clubhouse beforehand. Mr. Penfold confirmed that there had been issues with the cricket screen being moved around the pitch which required the screen to be moved back once matches were scheduled. It was suggested that an anchor of sorts be used to prevent the wind from blowing the screens out of position in the following season.

6.2 Storage Areas

Cllr Offer noted that the grants would need to be reviewed – a Landfill Tax Grant had been applied for and awarded for storage at Hoopers Field, and discharge of conditions would need to be looked at. Clerk to review.

7. Hoopers Field Project

7.1 John Emmins to provide a verbal update on the report

Cllr Emmins noted that the architects revised plans for the proposed redevelopment at Hoopers Field would need to be agreed by the council at a cost of £460. The plans had to be revised on a technicality due to a highways issue. It was agreed to take expenditure to full council in September if expenditure was outside financial delegations. Locum Clerk noted. John Emmins to send drawings to the Locum Clerk for circulation and update to be provided to the Committee.

The Committee also noted the plans for the location of the Pétanque terrain which needed to be amended to its original position by the tennis courts and is subject to a planning application. The project had secured 50% funding from The Wanborough Trust which had been received by the Parish Council in June. The other half of funding is being funded by the Parish Council. This would ensure that any future development would not be affected by the location of the pitches and there would be a reduction on project costs.

8. Update from Sports Clubs

a. Wanborough Bowls Club

Mr. Clark noted that the Bowls pitch hedge was in excess of 10" on the inside when the contracts stipulated 7" and that requests had been made over the last 3 years have not been actioned. Cllr Warr proposed that the Locum Clerk reviews the contract and if the height is contractually 7", that ID Verde are formally requested to take the hedge down to its contractual size and remove arisings. If the contract does not stipulate the height, that extra costs will be covered by the parish council. Seconded by Cllr Offer, motion carried.

ACTION: Locum Clerk to liaise with ID Verde

b. Wanborough Tennis Club

Ms. Hawkins noted that the Tennis Club license agreement with WPC was agreed and returned in April. Noted no longer paying VAT as a sports facility is now exempt. There might be some discussion about changing from License to lease and questions from other clubs about how fees are determined.

She further noted that replacement LED floodlights planned to be fitted courts 1 & 2 week commencing 11 Sept if delivery of units is on time. Once this date is confirmed 50% payment to Carbon8Lighting will be required 7 days before the installation. Wanborough Tennis Club will transfer the funds of 50% of the final costs when requested by WPC at a total costing of £13,560, 50% funded by WPC at £6780 and 50% funded by Wanborough Tennis Club at £6780.

Membership numbers update. Membership remains stable. 169 total membership 25% of which are juniors and memberships are moved to rolling 12 months in April.

The tennis courts were cleaned and treated in June at a cost of £1,500, which was funded through club membership subs.

Next year - possibly June/ July repainting is scheduled at an estimated cost of £6200. This has been supported 50% by WPC in the past under the license agreement of shared maintenance costs.

Mel Brough contacted Hooper's with an agreement from the tennis club to supporting an Open Day for any date during the summer, but nothing else was heard about this.

c. Wanborough Cricket Club

The Club has 35 active Senior Memberships and 20 active Youth Memberships. Despite issues with the weather our season is going well with our 1st XI and 2nd XI competing in the Wiltshire County Cricket League on Saturday afternoons. We also have the Doctors XI renting the facility in the Swindon Midweek Cricket League circa every other Thursday. We ourselves are also playing Friendly Fixtures on corresponding Wednesday/Thursday evenings.

d. Wanborough JFC

Mr. Baldwin noted that there was now a girls team and that there had been an email to the Clerk's email inbox about a charity football event on the August Bank Holiday weekend, Clerk to check and respond.

Meeting closed 20.52

Date of next meeting: 16th October 2023

Julie Flenley

Locum Clerk

Chairman's signature.....