

## WANBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hooper's Field Sports Facility Committee meeting held on  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm at Wanborough Village Hall

Present: Colin Offer (Chair), Bob Biggs, Richard Angwin, John Emmins (Parish Councillors), Ian Butcher (Wanborough JFC), Lee Herring (Wanborough JFC & Petanque), Gordon Heywood (Wanborough Tennis Club & Cricket Club).

In attendance: Angela Raymond (Parish Clerk)

1 Apologies received from Mike Webster (Parish Councillor), Mel Brough (Wanborough Tennis Club), Paul Penfold (Wanborough Cricket Club), Geoff Sander & Brian Clarke (Wanborough Bowls Club).

2 Declaration of interest:  
None declared

### THE MEETING WILL BE ADJOURNED FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS

3. Update on the Hooper's Field Expansion Planning Application submitted to SBC

John Emmins confirmed that the planning application submitted to Swindon Borough Council received granted permission on 20<sup>th</sup> October. The business case working party recently met and are working on the business case. There are few sections that need to be completed by the clubs confirming the benefit the new proposal will bring to their clubs. John Emmins confirmed that someone from the Bowls Club & Cricket Club have agreed to write a benefit statement, we just need a volunteer to write the Tennis Club benefit statement.

Colin Offer asked who is currently on the committee helping him with this project. Clerk confirmed that the scheduled committee meeting in September was cancelled as we were still waiting for the planning permission decision the next committee meeting due to be held in December.

Ian Butcher asked about the timescale for this development, assuming it will be within 3 years. John Emmins confirmed that it will depend on funding, there are sections of the project such as the floodlights for the tennis courts that might come forward earlier. John Emmins stated that Parish Council are due to meet with SBC early December when hopefully a meeting to discuss funding will be arranged. Clerk confirmed that it is difficult to apply for any grant funding until planning permission is gained, similarly SBC Planning Officers stated that they wanted to wait until permission was gained before they would discuss S106 funding, now we have permission we can move forward with these discussions.

A question was asked in relation to the likely cost of the project, John Emmins confirmed that the architect had provided a costing summary / budget with an overall total of £1.4million.

4. Grounds maintenance

4.1 Since April 2021 a new contractor has been carrying out the grounds maintenance contract at Hooper's Field, Clerk confirmed that apart from the Cricket Club she has not received any further problems with the grounds maintenance at Hooper's. Football club confirmed that they are happy with the maintenance at Hooper's, they felt that it would have been beneficial to have one further cut at the Lower Recreation Field as the grass has continued to grow since the last cut, but the length of the grass at Hooper's is all fine.

*Angela Raymond*  
*Parish Clerk & RFO*

**Action:** Clerk to gain a quote to carry out 1 further cut at Lower Recreation Field.

A discussion took place in relation to the grass cutting and the length of the grass needed for the Cricket Club. It was confirmed that the grass is cut weekly during the cricket season, the grass will not be collected as this will be too expensive. The contractors contract and specification has been provided to the Cricket Club. It was agreed to have a further discussion with the contractor prior to the start of the next season to ensure the length of the grass is cut as per the specification it was also agreed to ask how much an extra cut would be if this was needed.

#### 4.2 Pond restoration project

Clerk confirmed that Wiltshire Wildlife Trust have completed their restoration work and the pond has started to refill. Some additional tidying up work is needed around the area, the Handyperson has started to do this, the plan is to get some wood chippings to lay around the edge to form a path near where the new bench has been installed.

A discussion took place in relation to whether a netting is needed to prevent footballs going into the pond, Clerk confirmed that the adult teams haven't stated it's a problem, they have stated that at least they can see where they have gone now whereas before it was so overgrown they just lost them. It was agreed that the clubs would come up with a proposal for some kind of netting that would

#### 4.3 To discuss driveway / entrance surface condition

Everyone agreed that urgent attention was needed for the driveway. Colin Offer suggested asking for S106 money for this work but due to the urgency it was agreed to look for a temporary fix that can be carried out quickly, as apply for funding could take time. It was also agreed that a temporary fix would be better until the proposed plans for Hooper's Field can be carried out. It was agreed to just look at the driveway and entrance only, the car parks are fine.

**Action:** Clerk to gain quotes to remove all the green plastic, scrap back the top surface, new material to be laid and compacted down so that it's level.

#### 5. Clean up of main store room cupboard

5.1 It was agreed to arrange for a skip to be hired so that clubs can clear out anything they no longer need from the store room.

**Action:** Clerk to gain a quote for a skip.

#### 6. Update from Sports Clubs

##### a. Wanborough Bowls Club

John Emmins confirmed that they had a good summer season with matches recommencing mid-June 2021. Their club membership isn't quite up to what it was previously but it is slowly increasing. They have a full social programme over the winter months at Hooper's Field.

##### b. Wanborough Tennis Club

Gordon Heywood confirmed that the tennis club had a very successful summer, with one of the teams finishing top of their league, with other teams not far off the top. Membership is up slightly with more families joining this year. The club has started fundraising for the new floodlights and any help with this will be greatly received. He stated that they currently have a very strong committee, they have a very diverse membership with those who want to play matches and those who just want to play socially, coaching is also going very strong.

Angela Raymond  
Parish Clerk & RFO

A question was raised in relation to whether the tennis club have gained quotes for the floodlights so they know what their fundraising target is, Gordon confirmed in the region of £25k.

John Emmins asked if the Tennis Club are going to apply for a grant from the LTA for the floodlights. Gordon Heywood confirmed that there is a current hold on funding for capital projects.

c. Wanborough Cricket Club

Gordon Heywood confirmed that the Cricket Club had a successful season, they have a strong membership with enough members for 3 ½ teams. Weather was good which meant they were able to play most of their fixtures.

Colin Offer asked if the hospital team still play, Gordon confirmed that they play mid-week, so overall they have 5 adult teams using the cricket square at Hooper's.

In addition they have junior teams for players under 13 only, older juniors either leave or move to a different club so they haven't been successful if keeping junior players over 13.

c. Wanborough JFC

Ian Butcher confirmed that their U18's team folded which meant they lost a number of players. They have very strong teams from U6's up to U13's, with some of the younger teams playing in top divisions.

The club have been very pleased with moving their younger teams to Hooper's Field, the pitches are much better for them, ground conditions and line marking all good, so it has been a much better all-round experience.

They recently had an incident at the Lower Recreation Field which resulted in them needing to call an ambulance. This highlighted a concern in relation to access to the field, keys etc. Ian confirmed that they were able to get the key from the box on the gate post, but this was because the box was open and the key was inside, so all was fine on this occasion but they need procedures in place in case this happens again.

Clerk confirmed the code for the key box and confirmed that she will check the box as she was not aware there was a problem with it.

Discussion took place in relation to the procedures at Hooper's Field if an ambulance is called. Ian to check if they have a key for the bollard between the pavilion and tennis courts.

7. To discuss and confirm if there are any capital project ideas / suggestions that the committee would like to put forward to the Finance Committee for consideration for the 2022/23 budget.

Gordon Heywood confirmed that he would like the floodlights to be considered. Lee Herring asked for funding toward the cost of the new petanque terrain. John Emmins stated that one of the conditions on the planning application asked for a survey to be carried out prior to the floodlights being installed, he suggested that a budget be provided to cover the cost of this survey.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm

*Angela Raymond*  
*Parish Clerk & RFO*