

WANBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hooper's Field Project Committee meeting held on Monday 13th February 2023 at Hooper's Field starting at 7.30pm

Present: : John Emmins (Chairman), Bob Biggs, Dave Hayward and Kathy Glanville (Wanborough Parish Councillors), Paul Penfold (Wanborough Cricket Club), Gordon Heywood (Wanborough Tennis Club), Lee Herring (Wanborough Petanque and Wanborough JFC), David Halfhead (resident), Graham Luxton (resident & adviser).

In attendance: Angela Raymond (Parish Clerk) and 1 member of public

Minute Ref:
HFP/02/23/

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from John Errington (Wanborough Bowls Club) and David Adams (resident) and approved at the meeting
Absent: Colin Offer (Parish Councillor)
2. Declaration of interest: None declared

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No public questions

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2022
Committee unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 21st November 2022.
4. Planning application – Discharge of conditions
Graeme Luxton confirmed that he is waiting for an amendment to the tree survey report; once received he will have all the information to submit the discharge of conditions application to SBC. The aim is to submit week commencing 20th February 2023.
ACTION Graeme Luxton
5. Working Party – Funding – update
 - Update on the meeting held with Sir Robert Buckland. Dave Hayward confirmed the meeting was very successful. He was fully supportive of what the Parish Council were doing and liked the design and plans. He could not understand why SBC would not support the project with S106 funds. He agreed to write the SBC to confirm his support for the project and request SBC allocate funds towards the project. He also confirmed that he would write a letter of support for the grant applications.
John Emmins confirmed that since the meeting Sir Robert Buckland has received a response from David Renard, the Leader of Swindon Borough Council. He said that it was no surprise that the answer is a “no”, with many excuses including a shortfall in funding for the education facility and roads designed so that those within the NEV will not travel through Wanborough. SBC lost the Foxbridge planning appeal which resulted in them only getting 1/6th of the S106 funds that they wanted. Committee agreed that they should reply to David Renard’s response as there are number of points he raises that should be questioned.
 - Grant applications. Once all quotes are gained the aim is to submit a Landfill Tax grant application for phase 1, which will include:-

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- Temporary access and car parking area,
- Storage units,
- Floodlights for tennis courts 3 & 4,
- Petanque terrain, and
- Cricket Club nets.

Clerk confirmed that she has quotes for all items apart from the “temporary access” and “storage units”. Graeme Luxton confirmed that he will be able to supply these quotes. He asked if all the above items would be too much for the landfill tax application. Clerk confirmed that the aim is to submit an application for around £80k with the aim of getting at least 50% (£40k).

Graeme Luxton asked if the committee had any objection to him contacting Conlon to see if they will quote to install the temporary access. Committee raised no objection.

ACTION Graeme Luxton to provide quotes to Clerk so that grant application can be submitted within the next two weeks.

It was confirmed that the other funding options for the later phases are:

- Lottery Community Fund – Grants up to £500k, and
- The FA – Grants of £25k towards refurbishment of changing rooms.

A discussion took place in relation to gaining a grant from the ECB (Cricket), however one of the requirements is to have girls/ladies cricket. It was agreed to look at options to see if girls/ladies cricket could be considered at Wanborough Cricket Club.

6. To review current phasing of the project

A copy of the current phasing of the project was circulated to the committee.

Graeme Luxton confirmed that he has been reviewing the plans and confirmed that it would not be possible to gain all the funding needed via the Lottery Community Fund and Landfill Tax, so another option would be to look at gaining funding from Sports England. To gain funding from Sports England an increase in participation needs to be shown.

Graeme Luxton provided a plan with some additional layout changes, including a second hall suitable to be used by other sports, such as badminton. In addition he felt that there is room to add a MUGA (multi-use games area) next to the tennis courts within the overflow car park area.

Committee discussed the proposals and benefits of the new designs. Questions were raised as to what these additions would cost and whether the grant that could be gained from Sports England would be sufficient to cover the additional cost of the project.

A discussion took place in relation to the location of the MUGA. Dave Hayward stated that the reason it was designed at the back of the sports field originally was so that it was away from residents’ homes on Rotten Row.

It was confirmed that to make any major change to the current planning application, a new application for these changes would need to be made.

It was agreed that these proposed changes would not affect the current phasing of the project, until phase 3 & 4. Committee therefore agreed that a discussion needs to take place with a representative from Sports England prior to making any further decision.

ACTION Clerk to arrange meeting with Sports England representative.

Meeting closed 8.45pm

Next meeting TBC

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