

WANBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of a Full Council meeting of WANBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL (WPC) held
at

WANBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL, HIGH STREET, WANBOROUGH

on Monday 28th April 2025 at 7pm

Cllrs present: Richard Bellamy, Kathy Glanville, David Hayward, Colin Offer, Omar Mirza (Chair) , Gary Sumner

In attendance: Sally Thurston (Interim Clerk), two members of public, three Belltown Power representatives

Min ref: FC/28.4/25

1. Apologies

Cllrs. John Warr and John Emmins

2. Declaration of interest

None at this time

3. Minutes

It was PROPOSED that the minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 24th March 2025 be signed as a correct record. This was SECONDED and RESOLVED. Cllr. Hayward abstained.

4. The meeting was adjourned for public speaking.

- a. Two members of public raised objections to planning application S/25/0294
- b. The Belltown Power representatives gave a short presentation regarding plans for a solar farm at Mount Pleasant Farm [Home - Belltown Power](#) which was noted.

Councillors raised several questions including:

- Will there be new footpaths and will existing remain accessible? All paths will remain accessible, no additional paths but a new community orchard will be accessible to the public
- How much community funding will be available? There will be up to £640k over the 40-year life of the site available in an annual community fund which can be applied for.
- Will the panels last 40 years? Some will but there will be degradation and repairs needed throughout the lifespan of the site.
- Is the land bought or rented? There is a 40-year lease option on the land which will be taken up if planning granted. There will be no break clause in the lease.
- Were immediate neighbours fully consulted? Immediate neighbours were offered a phone call. 1359 neighbours were sent a newsletter and invited to a public consultation to which 69 attended.
- Will there be batteries on site? No - it is all instant distribution power
- How much traffic will there be when the site is operational? Approx. 1-2 vans per month
- How much traffic will there be during construction? Approx. 8 x HGV trips per day
- Will there be radiation? No
- What will be the noise level? 12 substations will emit noise from cooling fans and electrical noise – this has been assessed and determined to have no substantial impact
- How will the ground under the panels be maintained? Low density sheep grazing is being investigated
- Where is the substation? The main one will be in Stratton but there will also be small ones onsite
- Is there a risk of flooding on site? Flood assessment did not raise any issues.

5. Report from Swindon Borough Council (SBC) Ward Councillor

A report was NOTED – appendix a

It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to bring forward item 10. To allow members of public to hear the debate.

10. Planning

a) The following planning applications were considered:

- i. S/25/0294 (revised plans) Re: Creation of a dropped kerb and new driveway.
At: Rowenburgh, High Street Wanborough Swindon SN4 0AE
It was PROPOSED that previous OBJECTIONS be restated alongside the following further comments:
 - WPC fully support the comments made by the conservation officer
 - Additional cars parked on the driveway give further concern for the safety of other road users around a busy entrance to the Brewers Arms
 - The conservation officer should be alerted to the fact the front wall has been removed without permissions, and this affects the streetscape of the conservation area.This was SECONDED and RESOLVED.
- ii. S/25/0427 Re: Erection of 1no dwelling, refurbishment of barn to form garage/annexe and associated works - Variation of conditions 2, 3 and 7 from previous application
S/22/1817 to amend the drawing numbers to account for new windows.
At: 3 Church Road, Wanborough Swindon SN4 0BZ. NO OBJECTION.

b) Applications determined by SBC since previous meeting were NOTED

6. Reports

To following minutes, reports and recommendations from the following councillors, officers, committee and working party meetings, including any decisions taken under delegated authority were NOTED:

- a) Clerk's update
- b) Chairmans update - Nothing received
- c) Footpath, Village Maintenance and Allotment Committee – 31st March 2025
- d) Policy and Finance Committee – 2nd April 2025
- e) Hoopers field Committee – 7th April 2025
- f) Strategy Working Party – 22nd April 2025 Nothing received

7. Correspondence

A list of correspondence circulated between 24th March and Monday 28th April 2025 was referred to the next meeting as the list had not been generated.

8. Items for Information

An action List was NOTED

9. Finance and Audit

- a. It was PROPOSED that the updated Financial Regulations as recommended by the policy and finance committee be APPROVED. This was SECONDED and RESOLVED
- b. It was PROPOSED by Cllr. Offer and SECONDED by Cllr Sumner that Orders of payment for April be APPROVED. This was RESOLVED
- c. A financial report was NOTED
- d. Notification of balances were received
- e. It was PROPOSED by Cllr Sumner and SECONDED by Cllr Offer that bank reconciliations for March be APPROVED. This was RESOLVED

- f. Unaudited year end accounts to 31st March 2025 were NOTED
- g. It was PROPOSED that the fixed asset register for the year end 31st March 2025 be APPROVED. It was further PROPOSED that the asset register be fully reviewed in the next financial year. This was SECONDED and RESOLVED
- h. It was NOTED that the following transfer S106 has been received:
 - a) S/22/0574 - Land At Croft Yard, Ham Road – Allotments - £4,543.82
 - b) S/22/0574 - Land At Croft Yard Ham Road Wanborough Swindon - Play Areas - £4,642.31
- i. It was NOTED that the following transfer of CIL funds has been received - £6,628.82
- j. Mandate update – it was NOTED that the Santander change of signatories has been completed but the address needs changing. The Lloyds online changes are still ongoing
- k. Members considered options for investment accounts. This was deferred to a future meeting. The Clerk would invite CCLA to come to a meeting to explain how their deposit account works.

11. IT Provision

- a. Members NOTED that the upgrades to the clerks IT provision have now been successfully completed.
- b. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to APPROVE a quote for the assistant clerk IT set up
- c. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to APPROVE a quote to purchase business basics for councillors and migrate emails.

12. Village Maintenance

- a) It was agreed that Cllr. Bellamy would allocate footpaths to walk and check for maintenance issues were to members and staff.
- b) An allotment update was NOTED which included:
 - New allotment society functioning well
 - An inspection of plots has been undertaken
 - Two plots have been allocated.
 - Following an audit of holders several have been surrendered, and it looks like the waiting list will be eradicated.
 - Following lengthy debate, it was PROPOSED that plots could be allocated to Redlands Grove residents if the list was empty. This was SECONDED and RESOLVED.

13. Hooper's Field

- a) An update was NOTED – broadband should be installed shortly we are waiting for Open Reach to install lines.
- b) It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED to purchase a Union Jack flag for Hoopers Field

14. Parish Assembly

It was agreed the following approach should be taken alongside usual reports:

- Reduce list of reports on agenda to make more appealing
- Invite local groups and societies to give an update
- Invite residents to come along and give two things they would like to be done to improve the village

15. Community Speed Watch

Deferred to a future meeting awaiting information from Cllr. Warr

16. Future Meeting Dates

Parish Assembly 14th May

Annual Meeting 19th May

17. Staffing

- a) An update was NOTED which informed council that :
 - A handyman has been recruited and started work
 - An assistant clerk has been recruited and starts work on 19th May 2025
- b) Members considered timings for the parish clerk recruitment process. It was NOTED that the Interim Clerk is able to work a maximum of 10 hours per week from May 6th 2025. It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the Staffing Committee should begin recruitment of a permanent parish clerk as soon as is possible.

Meeting closed at 8.56pm

Appendix a.

Ward Councillor update March 2025:

Litter Pick 19/4/25: Only six of us but 20 bin bags filled. Volunteers from the village and Redlands Grove plus Matt Hinton (a Parish Cllr from Chiseldon). Pack Hill completed and Wanborough Road from the village to just past Redlands (rest to complete). That part was 8 bags. More volunteers and a request for another date which I'll organise.

A419 Closure: These closures continue to be an ongoing issue – as well as M4 closures. After many times of asking I have now had the B4192 in Liddington (Purley Road) removed as an alternate route for the M4 when it is closed following agreement from National Highways. This will now revert to the A roads to Marlborough. This will also help Wanborough and Foxhill.

Potholes/Highways: Potholes have been reported at Church Road and Foxhill and now escalated to Stage 2. Potholes reported at top of Pack Hill.

Gulleys blocks on Pack Hill reported to SBC as well as road drainage channels at the bottom of Pack Hill opposite Meadow House.

Mud on road reported in Burycroft. Now cleared, but a resident complained that this is a rural road which didn't need sweeping.

Reported white line painting required at road entrances onto Pack Hill.

I visited a resident of College Green who has an issue with the pavement behind (which connects Magdalen Road to Rotten Row collapsing into their garden – reported to SBC.

Footpaths: I was contacted by a landowner who owns land off Wanborough Road, through which a public footpath runs. Residents from Redlands Grove have started to use this more for dog walking as they have no public spaces (a small one has just opened by the pond with a dog bin). Dog mess has been left in their land. A notice was placed advising residents about the issue and they supplied a temporary bin. The residents of Redlands Grove are grateful we will be placing a dog bin somewhere on Wanborough Road. The situation appears to have improved.

Tree Planting: I met with a resident of Mayfield who advised that a tree had died. These were planted in memory of resident relatives many years ago. I got in touch with the team at SBC who have budget for tree planting and they will do a services survey to see what they can plant and where. They have plenty of budget and asked if we had any other locations for tree planting – to discuss? Warneage Green has a couple of poorly trees – other places?

Museum display at Swindon Museum & Art: Durocornovium: You will know that this important Roman Town is situated to the North of our Parish between Foxbridge, Lotmead and Nythe Farm. An exhibition is now open at Museum & Art Swindon at the Civic Offices until September, where you will be able to get close to artefacts never seen before and touch our history with hands-on discoveries from real excavations. I was lucky enough to see the discovery of a Roman barn on the route of the Southern Connector Road.

Thames Water: At the Corporate Overview & Scrutiny meeting (which I'm missing tonight to attend WPC) I have had the following updates to my questions which I'd previously raised from Thames Water.

Q1: Capacity of the STW at Wanborough:

The works at Wanborough STW will not be creating headroom for additional properties but will increase capacity to ensure compliance with our Environmental Permit. The additional temporary flows from the NEV are small and can be accommodated within our existing permit limits.

Q2: Smells at the allotments:

Wanborough STW has a large open sludge tank and the allotment members are on our immediate boundary which is only 20 metres away. We can look at the operation of the sludge tank and frequency of collections through the summer months. There are no current investment plans to modify or replace this asset. We will try to reduce strength of the odours and see if we can invest in a new covered sludge tank. – this will need to go through our approval stages.

Q3: Whether developers at NEV villages will have the right to access adjoining land to lay sewage connections to the pumping station at Merlin Way:

Where possible we will lay all our below ground essential infrastructure through the serving of Water Industry Notices – i.e. Section 159 notices. Generally, any essential infrastructure not covered by the serving of Water Industry Notices, shall be secured through landowner negotiation. The use of CPO is a last resort when all avenues to use our water industry powers and negotiations with landowners have been exhausted. Currently, there is no expectation that any CPO processes will be required to deliver the essential infrastructure needed by Swindon BC's local plan.

Q4: I asked Thames Water to confirm the capacity of their new pumping station at Merlin Way in light of increases in NEV housing numbers from 7,500 to around 9,000.

A phased approach will be adopted for operation of the new pumping station:

Phase 1 - up to 2000 homes 40l/s – Short rising main only

Phase 2 - up to 5000 homes 120l/s – Long rising main only

Phase 3 - 5000+ homes 160l/s – Both short and long rising main

Our original assumption was that 8,850 new residential dwellings, two primary schools, one secondary school, and 30 hectares of commercial property would be built in the NEV development area, therefore, there is no concern if the housing stock increases to nearly 9000 properties with our existing phased plans. The pump station, rising mains and associated gravity sewer arrangements are hydraulically capable of taking further growth in the future, but would require pump replacement/ upgrades. We are unable to provide any definitive figures of how many additional houses this infrastructure could accommodate in the future, as this will be influenced by factors such as occupancy rates, average water consumption, network infiltration, etc. which will change over time.

Fly tipping: Ridgeway – caravan covered in graffiti (update) has had more fly tipping dumped alongside it. This included personal ID information so reported to SBC.

Dumpy bag fly tipped at Wick Lane – reported to SBC.

Fly tipping at The Hollow reported and removed.

Greyhound rescue centre: I have received further complaints from residents about noise and this is being investigated by Planning Enforcement. Letter sent to operator to respond by end April.

Redlands Grove: A young female Ridgeway student was followed by a van whilst walking back from the school bus which picks up and returns to the Brewers Arms. Parents very concerned. I've asked about the possibility of a pickup point at Redlands Grove – either within the development or outside. Education team came back to me, and I've been advised to submit a formal request – which I've done.

Ward Surgery: Our local policing team joined us on the 29th March. A few local issues which they are dealing with but no other problems. Several residents attended including from Redlands Grove.

Update from the police today which WPC can also share and I'd ask Parish Councillors to join/support:

I am emailing to inform you we will be travelling around the ridgeway villages on Sunday 11th May 2025 in the mobile Police station.

It will give the communities a chance to come and meet the team and have a chat about any concerns in their area, there will also be activities for children.

Please see below schedule for timings and locations. It would be really appreciated if you could advertise on your Facebook page, we will also be advertising on the North East Rural Facebook page.

Liddington	Village Inn Public House carpark	10:00 – 10:45
Bishopstone/Hinton Parva	Village Hall Car Park	11:15 – 12:00
Wanborough	Village Hall Car Park	13:00 – 13:45

Chiseldon	Calleys Memorial Hall Car Park	14:15 – 15:00
Wroughton	Ellendune Centre Car Park	15:30 – 16:15

I've also had an email from the agents representing Foxbridge North with plans and details of Reserved Matters applications.

Appendix b.

ORDERS OF PAYMENT APRIL 2025 MEETING		
Payee	Description	Gross Invoice Amount (£)
<i>Paid – expenditure previously approved at Council meeting/regular payments or under Delegation</i>		
ID Mobile Ltd.	Phone – Clerk	£ 6.00
Starboard Systems	Scribe software	£ 62.40
Cloudy Group	Annual 365 licences	£ 336.96
G Poynter	Handyperson work March	£ 404.19
British Gas	Hoopers Gas	£ 614.80
Microsoft	Final Payment	£ 10.32
Post Office	Stamps	£ 30.00
<i>For approval</i>		
Staff	Total Salaries	£ 3,338.77
Castle Water	Hoopers Water	£ 21.87
Castle Water	Allotments - Water	£ 54.75
AllBuild	Services	£ 3,204.00
WALC	Subscription to WALC and NALC	£ 915.14
PCC Wanborough	Lyden Magazine invoice	£ 286.25
JuSteel	Container Hire	£ 60.00
Totals		£ 9,345.45