

# WANBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of the HOOPER'S FIELD AND RECREATION committee meeting held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 19.30

**Present:** Colin Hayes, Jon Beeden, Roger Whitfield, John Emmins, Bob Biggs (Parish Councillors), Angela Raymond (Parish Clerk), Jane Flew (Wanborough Tennis Club), Andy Clinning, Paul Penfold (Wanborough Cricket Club), Brian Clarke (Wanborough Bowls Club), Gary Sumner (Wanborough JFC)

**In attendance:** 2 members of public

1. Apologies: Colin Offer (Parish Councillor), Gordon Heywood (Wanborough Tennis Club)

2. GDPR

Clerk circulated Parish Council's Privacy Notice and asked all clubs to read and complete the form at the end, and to complete and return the consent form.

3. Grounds Maintenance contracts

Brian Clarke confirmed that Wanborough Bowls Club will now gain their own quotes for the maintenance of the bowls green now that they have received confirmation from Parish Council. Once they have a new contract in place they will confirm details to Parish Council.

4. Review of any other maintenance issues

Gary Sumner raised a concern about the cracks on the sports field, stating that he had sent an e-mail to Parish Council on the 30<sup>th</sup> September and had not received a reply; Bob Biggs confirmed the he replied on 4<sup>th</sup> October providing him a copy of the e-mail he sent.

A discussion took place in relation to the sports field. Clerk confirmed that the work carried out by the contractor in June was over seeding, fertilising and weed killing, not verti-draining as stated.

Parish Council confirmed that the cracks in the sports field are as a result of a very long period of dry weather; it is the same everywhere not just at Hooper's Field. Parish Council have so far asked the contractor to spread 2 tonne of top soil around the large pitch, an additional 1 tonne of soil was purchased for the small pitch but this was used for the large pitch.

Andy Clinning felt the work carried out by the contractor in June was done at the wrong time. Bob Biggs felt that it wouldn't have been possible to carry the work out any earlier, and no one was to know that we were going to have several months of dry weather.

Clerk confirmed that the contractor has advised that best way to improve the problem is by top dressing the whole field; however this is extremely expensive.

Bob Biggs stated that putting more top soil down will only cause further problems later in the season.

After a discussion it was agreed to wait to see if some rain will close up some of the cracks and to review the field again in two weeks' time.

Gary Sumner stated that the small pitch remains unplayable. Colin Hayes stated that WJFC can use alternative pitches at Church Meadow or Lower Rec for matches that cannot be played on the small pitch; if this is not possible then matches will have to be postponed.

5. Update from Hooper's Field Project Committee

John Emmins provided an update on the project. He confirmed that the committee consists of club representatives, 3 councillors and 3 members of public. They have met 5 times, reviewed the questionnaire results and have now put together a specification for a Project Manager for the "concept design and feasibility study" stage, which is due to be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

A discussion took place in relation to the amount of budget set for the Project Manager. John Emmins confirmed that until Parish Council have discussed he was unable to provide a figure.

Andy Clinning asked what the total budget was for the whole project and where this money is going to come from. John Emmins stated that in order to apply for funding you need to have plans and ideas in place otherwise your project will not be considered. Money will have to be committed up front in order to

Angela Raymond  
Clerk to Wanborough Parish Council

progress the project. He stated that the aim is to go out to tender for a project manager, tenders to be returned by the end of December, and to appoint someone by January 2019.

John Emmins stated that he has also met with Swindon Sports Forum who have provided advice and he will continue to work with them.

A discussion took place in relation to S106 money. Gary Sumner advised that he attended a meeting the previous week where it was confirmed that funding will only be available for outside sports which show increased participation; S106 money will not be gained for expanding the hall or kitchen. Gary Sumner stated that majority of sports funding will go towards football. John Emmins confirmed that committee members agreed that the improvement of the sports field should be included within the scope of the project.

## 6. Club Reports

### a. Wanborough Tennis Club

Jane Flew confirmed that tennis club membership is up with approx. 156 members. They will again offer their half price winter membership. They have entered two teams in the winter league, which is one less than last year.

Jane Flew asked about the licence agreement which states the management committee must only include residents from Wanborough. Clerk confirmed that Parish Council have recently agreed a change to the Bowls Club licence so that there needs to be at least one member from Wanborough on the committee but other members can be from outside the Parish; this change will be made for all clubs.

Jane Flew asked about insurance cover; Clerk confirmed that Parish Council's insurance covers all assets at Hooper's Field.

### b. Wanborough Bowls Club

Brian Clarke confirmed that the club is currently without a chairperson and they are also struggling to find a captain for their team. They are concerned that they will lose a number of players this season, which will result in a loss of income and more expenses. Without a chairperson they might have to review whether the club continues. They will have a better idea of membership in January when their renewals are due. A discussion took place as to how they can increase their membership.

Brian Clarke confirmed that the club are looking at green maintenance contracts.

### c. Wanborough Cricket Club

Andy Clinning confirmed that the club has just had their best ever season, with the first team finishing first in division 4 and the second team finishing first in division 9. The junior section is continuing to thrive and the mid-week team is also progressing well.

They have just carried out autumn maintenance of their wickets which will now be left over the winter. The club have recently purchased new covers for the wickets.

### d. Wanborough Junior Football Club

Gary Sumner confirmed that the club has just renewed their Charter Standard. The club now has a new secretary. They have 10 teams plus an U6's team. The club has agreed not to increase their subs again for the fourth season in a row.

Their winter training costs have increased as the pitch at the primary school isn't in a very good condition so training has had to be moved to an artificial pitch.

The 3g pitch at County Ground is due to be ready in May 2019; once this is open the club will move all their training from Dorcan to the County Ground which will be a much better facility for them to train on. There will also be the opportunity to play matches there on a Sunday morning. Colin Hayes asked if the league will allow them to play on 3g pitches. Gary Sumner confirmed that this is already happening for some clubs; playing on 3g pitches has become more popular.

Gary Sumner stated that this season the teams playing on the larger pitch have already lost 4 footballs this season due to the hedge and overgrown ditch; he stated that the hedge needs to be cut back and the ditch cleared.

Gary Sumner confirmed that WJFC do not want to be involved in the Open Day if this happens again next year.

7. Any other business

Andy Clinning confirmed that dog fouling around the sports field has become extremely bad. Clerk confirmed that she had put another article in the Lyden as this is something that has already been raised with her.

Jane Flew asked if the CCTV was working in the facility; Clerk confirmed that this hasn't been working for some time, but will be included in the project.

Hooper's Field club representatives left the meeting at 8.45pm

Other Recreation – Lower Recreation Field & Church Meadow

1. Play Area inspections – Clerk confirmed that the annual inspection of the play areas has been carried out and a report has been received. All areas identified are either “very low risk” or “low risk”, so there is nothing urgent that needs dealing with. Clerk confirmed that some of the equipment at the Lower Rec is now quite old and showing signs of deterioration; Parish Council agreed to look into replacement of the area with the oldest equipment.
2. Grass cutting contract – Clerk confirmed that the grass cutting contract has been good this year.
3. Other Maintenance issues – Clerk confirmed that the goal mouths did not end up being repaired as the weather conditions were never right for this work to be carried out. This will now have to be left until spring next year at the earliest.

Meeting closed at 21.10.