

WANBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hooper's Field and Recreation Committee held on Monday 8th February 2021 at 7.30pm
via Zoom

Present: Colin Offer (Chair), Bob Biggs, John Emmins, Colin Hayes (Parish Councillors), Brian Clarke (Wanborough Bowls Club), Gordon Heywood, Mel Brough (Wanborough Tennis Club), Paul Penfold (Wanborough Cricket Club), Ian Butcher, James Petherbridge (Wanborough JFC), Nick Salter (Priory Vale FC), Lee Herring (Petanque)

1. Apologies: Andy Clinning (Wanborough Cricket Club), Geoff Sanders (Wanborough Bowls Club).
2. Declaration of interest: None

THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

No public questions

3. Update from Hooper's Field Project

John Emmins provided an update on the Hooper's Field expansion project, confirming that the final plans had been approved at the last Parish Council meeting and are available to view. The aim is to approve the planning application at the meeting in February 2021; there are just a few amendments needed on the Design & Access Statement and it should then be ready for approval. John Emmins confirmed that Parish Council have approved new Terms of Reference for a committee to move this project forward and are asking for a representative from each of the clubs to join this committee.

Colin Offer asked a question about what has been done to show that the new facility will be financially viable. He stated that Hooper's Field has been costing in the region of £10k to £15k for many years and wanted to know how this cost would be reduced for residents of the village.

John Emmins confirmed that by increasing the potential to hire the main hall for activities will increase the income for the facility. With the relocation of the kitchen it will allow more than one activity to take place at a time allowing an increase in usage and therefore increase in income.

Paul Penfold asked if any financial figures have been calculated to see if the potential financial viability is reasonably achievable. Bob Biggs confirmed that one of the aims of the new committee is to finalise the business case as set out in the Terms of Reference circulated to all. Parish Clerk confirmed that she has been working on the forecasted financial figures and the potential income and expenditure to confirm it is achievable; it's the forecast of potential capital costs where more work is needed.

Questions were raised in relation to the work that is likely to be involved for those who decide to join the new committee. Bob Biggs stated that the amount of time will depend on the amount of time you have to offer. It is likely that, as a committee, the work will be delegated to those who are able to carry out each specific item that needs to be done depending on those who have time and those who have more expertise in certain areas etc.

4. Grounds Maintenance

- a. Colin Offer confirmed that Parish Council recently went out to tender for a new grounds maintenance contractor and have appointed a new contractor from 1st April 2021. Paul Penfold asked how the Cricket Club will be able to contact the contractor if they are not happy with the work carried out.

Angela Raymond
Clerk to Wanborough Parish Council

Questions were raising in relation to the terms of the contract. Clerk confirmed that she would circulate a copy of the specification which confirms details.

Ian Butcher asked if the same contractor will be cutting the other village open spaces. Clerk confirmed that it is the same contractor for all, but they will not be carrying out the line-marking and this is something the clubs need to arrange themselves.

5. Licence Fees 2021/22

Colin Hayes confirmed that Parish Council have agreed to keep the licence fees for 2021/22 the same as 2020/21. He said that at the time of the meeting it was not known when the facility will be able to reopen, so any discount due to closure of the facility will be calculated in the same way for all clubs.

6. Covid-19 Grants

Clerk confirmed that Parish Council have claimed for as many grants as are available and have managed to gain support. There are grants available from Sports England for clubs to apply for to help them restart after being closed and asked if any clubs are going to apply for these. The grants are specific to clubs only. **Action** Clerk to forward details to all clubs

7. Wanborough JFC

Ian Butcher provided a presentation on his proposal to move junior pitches to Hooper's Field. He confirmed that he has discussed and agreed this proposal with Wanborough Cricket Club. They would like to move 1 x 7v7 pitch for U9s & U10s and 1 x 5v5 pitch for U7s & U8s. U11s to U13s will play at Liddington or Lower Rec. They will have no older teams and therefore will not need to use the larger pitch. They would like to have the opportunity to increase their income by offering refreshments to those attending the matches.

Questions were raised in relation to the storage of goal posts; whether they can use the crate at the back of the field or whether there is room in the large storage room in the pavilion, depending on the size of the goals.

They also confirmed that the proposed location of the junior pitches are prone to being water-logged and asked what measures can be undertaken to improve this. It was suggested that drainage can be reviewed as part of the project. Nick Salter confirmed that the pitches were inspected and secondary drainage was suggested.

8. CLUB REPORTS:

• Wanborough Tennis Club

Membership is 164 which is up from previous year. They have internal plans to increase coaching so apart from the current lockdown all is going well. Gordon Heywood confirmed that he has been looking at potential funding options and confirmed that he is willing to join the committee. Bob Biggs thanked him.

Colin Offer suggested that for the plan for new tennis club floodlights could be completed as the club's own stand-alone project, by submitting a planning application separately to the current project and getting funding through the LTA in a similar way as before, as this could be a lot quicker. Mel Brough confirmed that as the club hasn't even started putting together a planning application it would not be beneficial for them to make a separate application and would prefer to be included within the Parish Council planning application.

• Wanborough Bowls Club

Final membership numbers for the coming season are unknown; there are a number of older members who are hanging on to see what is likely to happen in the coming months. Normal membership is around 90 but at the moment they are up to 75.

They have been unable to hold their usual fund-raising events over the winter months and due to lockdown have not been able to carry out a deep clean. They are currently unsure when they will be able to re-open but hoping to start at the beginning of the season.

- **Wanborough Cricket Club**
Last season due to covid-19 lockdown they were only able to play 6 games. They thanked Parish Council for the discount in licence fees due to closure which has helped their financial situation. The league have issued new fixtures for the coming season but they will wait to see what happens. They couldn't charge an annual membership last season due to the number of games played; hopefully they will this year, memberships is around 20.
- **Wanborough Junior Football Club**
The club haven't played any matches since before Christmas and they are not sure if they will play before the end of the season, they are waiting to hear.
The current U17s/U18s team will fold at the end of the season with no further older teams and therefore will not be using the large pitch.
They have gained new members in the new U6s team.
- **Priory Vale FC**
It is possible that their season has ended; there is potential that they might be able to play some games in April but this hasn't been decided yet.
They confirmed that they are pleased with the new goal posts.
- **Petanque**
Lee Herring confirmed that he is looking to form a club ready for when the plans are approved for a new petanque area. Lee Herring confirmed that he is willing to join the new committee and look at funding options; Bob Biggs thanked Lee Herring.

Meeting closed 8.40pm