VERWOOD BOWLING CLUB
EXTRA COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY 27th OCTOBER, 2026

Present: Ken Haxby-Thompson, Chrissie Haxby-Thompson, Peter Campbell, Steve Green, David O'Toole, Alan Coul, Barry Chick, Keith Newman, Mal Hancock, Keith Shaw, Sandra Campbell.

Ken Haxby Thompson opened the meeting at 10.30 am.

1) **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Angela Daymond and Alan Wase.

2) Ken Haxby-Thompson opened the meeting and explained it had been convened due to the unrest concerning the Life-Time Membership.

3) Alan Coul then addressed the meeting. He said we all knew his views and several e-mails have been sent out outlining his reasons for approving this scheme and he has not seen any other proposals. He went on to explain his views and said the Life membership meant just that no ifs or buts. So his view was that we should go ahead with it as it is. He stated that the proposed scheme is fully costed and financed.

4) Keith Shaw spoke next and asked Alan why his figures do not include future years. Alan Coul replied that his figures show a projected surplus of £5,000.00 in the next year and that is why he is happy to approve this. Estimated figures have been provided to the Committee for our next Financial Year 2026/2027 showing surplus for that year. He is happy to approve the scheme as it is financially viable and the Club will still be very solvent at the start of the forthcoming Accounting Year. It is impossible to predict further into the future,

5) Steve Green then spoke. He said his main concern was the future years without the nineteen members who are paying £1,000.00 and will not pay anything else in the future. A discussion took place and Alan Coul said it is hoped that our annual Taster Days would draw in more members who obviously will pay their fees. Steve Green did not agree with this as there is no guarantee of bringing in enough new members. However Ken Haxby-Thompson wanted to add that the last three years Taster Days had been very successful. Steve Green then added that obviously this is all the unknown and his view is that our numbers have probably peaked over these three years.

6) Peter Campbell then spoke. Went in to great depth to explain what work needs doing which includes two quotes from a local company (Cole Creations) which were the lowest quotes. These quotes are for the original work and further work required. The two quotes come to £28,800.00. This work certainly needs doing but Peter Campbell said we did not need to rush this as it will not be done until February (when the company are available). Also Peter Campbell mentioned the fact that he thought we could have thought about another way of raising the money, i.e. £400 for three years membership and then they will pay their annual

fees. However this was never canvassed as following the letter being sent out money was received by the club.

Discussion regarding this other suggestion. Ken Haxby-Thompson said obviously we would need at least 50 members to take up this offer and the club would not sustain the loss of 50 annual subscriptions during the next three years. Steve Green did not agree with this analogy and it was not put to the vote however he did point out his view that he thinks our reserve money should cover it over three years.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the above. Ken Haxby-Thompson was of the view we should go ahead with the Life Membership. At that point Peter Campbell did not agree as he thought there could be financial problems with both ideas but no-one will know until it has progressed. Alan Coul was asked his views and he said he still wanted to go ahead with Life Membership.

Ken Haxby-Thompson then spoke about the letter he sent out. He said all Club members were asked about this suggestion and immediately people were agreeing and sending their money in. He said we should be pleased we had such a good result. He also said how much hard work had been put in by Alan Coul in order to ensure this would work.

Steve Green wanted to say that in the back of his mind he can see fees having to go up more to cover the absent fees. This would worry him.

Sandra Campbell did not agree with the money being accepted so soon as we have until February. As Peter Campbell said we could have had more time to find other ways to get the money.

One of the problems raised was that there were no Terms and Conditions mentioned in the letter sent out. Steve Green said he was not happy with voting without some kind of Terms and Conditions. Sandra Campbell had mentioned in the last set of minutes bowlers have to pay Affiliation fees to Bowls England and Bowls Dorset - fees which have to be paid by all members regardless of whether they play in leagues etc. or not.

After long discussions Ken Haxby-Thompson said we should go ahead with the £1,000 offer. He then asked Alan Coul if we can afford to have all the work quoted done - P e t e r C a m p b e l l explaining all the work required. Discussion about this after which Alan Coul said we can cover all the work.

The scheme was proposed to proceed in its present form by a majority as Ken Haxby-Thompson asked for a vote:
There were 11 members present and 2 absent. There was a majority vote (seven for and five against (one of the absentees being a Proxy Vote against)).

Following this there was still doubt about Affiliation fees. It was decided that Ken Haxby-Thompson will write a letter to all 19 who agreed to pay the £1,000 informing them that they will still have to pay their Affiliation fees in order to play bowls (as per regulations of Bowls England and Bowls Dorset). **This was agreed.**

Also agreed, Ken Haxby-Thompson will address all present at the AGM to explain how this has come about and where we are now.

Any Other Business

If you read the latest Minutes you will have seen the problem that has arisen with photographs on our Website which are Copywrite to Associated Press. At the time of the last minutes Alan Coul had been told that we had to pay £800.00 for the use of. He had come back with paying zero. At the present time they have said we have to pay £400.00. Discussed and if we have to pay we will have to pay but he is still hoping he can reduce it. Now ongoing, watch this space !!