# Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the Bear Hotel on Tuesday 3 November 2026.

**Present**: Matt Andrew (chair), Peter Constable (sec), Peter Powell (match sec), John Blackwell, Jonathan Roberts, Theo Andrew & Andy Earl.

**Apologies**: Richard Harrison (treasurer), Les Teale, Andy Moody & Joe Bowman.

Meeting started at 8:10pm, the minutes from October 2026 were read and accepted.

**Pond Monitoring**

Dissolved oxygen between 40-62% and water temperature is 10.4°C

A quote of £1,153 was received for repair of the old oxygen monitor, this was declined and the unit returned at at cost of £76.20 for labour and postage (to be shared with The Plough AC).

The National Water Quality Instrumentation Service (NWQIS) was approached and have provided a new YSI ProODO meter and probe free of charge. The NWQIS will also service the unit free of charge, probably annually.

There have been no recent water quality measurements taken but in August all pollutants were below detectable levels.

There have been three otter sightings on the cameras recently, 21, 22 & 27 Oct.

## Chair's Report

Thanks to Les Teale for his work getting a new oxygen meter without cost to either this club or The Plough.

There was a considerable amount of work got through at the recent work parties and thanks go to all who attended, in addition to Pete Powell for his work on the platforms on the pond after the work party.

## Treasurer's Report

There is no treasurer's report this month.

## Match Secretary's Report

The memorial match fees will be donated to Sobel House.

The sum of £258.90 was spent on prizes for the forthcoming Christmas match leaving £588 in the match fund.

Any keepsake trophies will be decided on an ad-hoc basis and discussion with the trophy winner.

## Secretary's Report

**Local Police**

On Tuesday 27 October Richard and I met PC Oldroyd at the Wantage police station. PC Oldroyd is keen to teach some of the local kids to fish correctly and get involved with a proper club rather than fishing on an ad-hoc basis on local streams. He said that funding may be available for a suitable venture.

As actioned in that meeting I have managed to contact a pair of professional fishing coaches who are prepared to offer their services for a day either during the spring half-term or the summer holidays. The cost is £60 each, plus expenses.

It is suggested that the equipment should be: Elasticated 4 metre whips with 10-12 elastic, 6lb line 2lb or 3lb hooklength, Size 16 or 14 barbless hook, Waggler float, max 2AAA.

**Wantage.com**

I have updated the club's details on this website.

**AGM – Monday 1 February 2027**
I have contacted Loyd Lindsay rooms. They are available at a cost of £90.
I have completed the booking form and Richard has paid the £9 deposit.

**Fire and Rescue service**
On 7 October I sent letters to Grove parish Council, Vale and South Oxford district council and Olly Glover (local MP). On 20 October (under prompting from Olly Glover MP) I had a call from Ben Fisher from the Wantage fire station. He understands our plight but is unable to assist us.
There are no further avenues I can follow on this.

**Tip-Top tree services**
On Wednesday 28 Oct Andy and I met Ben from Tip-Top tree services. Andy walked the pond with him and detailed the work needed. A quote for £2,580 incl Vat has been received.

**Electrical safety testing – generator**
A meeting was arranged for Brook Alder to meet Matt on 16 October but, to my knowledge, Brook didn't keep the appointment.

**Network Rail Invoice**
The NR invoice has been received. The details ore incorrect and I have asked NR to change them and reissue the invoice. I have passed this to Richard for payment.

## Any Other Business

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| Cormorants have been sighted at the pond. Members are to be informed and encouraged to drive down to the pond to disrupt the birds. | PC to action |
| A work party is needed to clear the ground for the shed. | To be scheduled |
| The club agreed to get pre-paid fuel cards for diesel buying for the generator. | Ongoing |
| John Blackwell has yet to submit his costs to the club for reimbursement for the hedge-cutting. | JB to submit costs |
| 2 bags each 6mm & 8mm pellets have been collected from Blake's. | No further action |
| The "shelter" above peg 11 has gone | No further action |
| "Danger – Deep Water" signs are to be purchased and erected. | Jonathan Roberts to buy and erect |
| The meeting felt the tree surgeon quote was very high and we would not proceed this time. | PC to advise contractors |
| A question was asked about the bank support at peg 10, this is not scheduled for the near future. | On hold |
| The sliding supports for the solar panels have not yet been fitted and await a suitable opportunity. | On hold |
| There was a discussion about stocking fish. Whilst the club had no plans to introduce fish it was felt that plans should be readied in case the results of the netting in December show particular problems. | Matt to pencil in stock with the ability to cancel |
| Matt requested that the start of the next meeting (1 Dec) be brought forwards to 7pm. | PC to inform membership |

The meeting closed at 9:10pm.
The next ordinary meeting is Tuesday 1 December 2026 at The Bear Hotel.

I agree these are an accurate minute of the meeting on Tuesday 3 November 2026.

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| Proposed | | Seconded | |
| Signed by | | Position | |
| | | Date | |

## Minutes from the extraordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the Bear Hotel on Monday 9 November 2026.

**Present**: Matt Andrew (chair), Peter Powell (match sec), Richard Harrison (treasurer), John Blackwell, Jonathan Roberts, Andy Moody, Danny Dance, Joe Bowman, Theo Andrew, & Cruz Powell.
**By Phone**: Peter Constable (sec)

The meeting was called to discuss the raised pollution levels at the pond and what action should be taken.
Meeting started at 6:35pm.

- Matt reported that the recent chemical tests showed a raised ammonia levels of 1ppm (part per million).
- Whilst there is normally a peak of ammonia around this time of year the levels now are dangerously high, this may be due to the lack of water in the pond to dilute the ammonia.
- During a long call by Matt with a representative from the Environment Agency it was recommended that aeration is run 24 hours a day and that the fishery is closed.
- The latest test, taken on Saturday 7 November, confirmed the high ammonia levels at 1ppm.
- There is the possibility to chemically counter the ammonia with other chemicals, this will be looked at but if done it must be done carefully as over-correction could be as bad as the initial problem.
- Les will be asked to conduct weekly ammonia checks until the situation is resolved.
- Andrew Ellis will be contacted to see if the netting should be postponed. *
- It was proposed by Richard H, seconded by Danny D, that the pond be closed until further notice. This was passed unanimously. The members will be informed by all available means.

The meeting closed at 6:55pm.

* Post meeting note – Matt has spoken to Andrew Ellis and it was decided that the netting will go ahead as planned. Alongside his normal equipment Andrew Ellis will bring a second, fine mesh, net in order to see if there has been a large number of fry coming through following the warm summer.

I agree these are an accurate minute of the extraordinary meeting on Monday 9 November 2026.

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| Proposed | | Seconded | |
| Signed by | | Position | |
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