

## **Minutes from the ordinary general meeting of Wantage & Grove Angling Club, held in the Bear Hotel on Tuesday 7 April 2026.**

**Present:** Matt Andrew (chair), Peter Constable (sec), Andy Moody (match sec), Peter Powell, Cruz Powell, John Blackwell, Des Bushnell & Andy Earl.

**Apologies:** Richard Harrison (treasurer) & Les Teale.

Meeting started at 8:00pm, the minutes from January 2026 (there was no meeting in March) were read and accepted.

### **Pond Monitoring**

Dissolved oxygen levels were between 78-91%. There were no detectable pollutants. PH is at 8.0. There were no otters seen on the trail cameras since 14 March, a cormorant was seen on 27 March

### **Chair's Report**

The cost of a full netting and report by EA fisheries would be £1,195 plus VAT (£1,434 total). This would be carried out in the winter 2026/27. This was put to the vote, for 6, against, 2 carried. A statement was read regarding decisions taken following the AGM (full text below)

### **Treasurer's Report**

There is no report from the treasurer this month.

### **Match Secretary's Report**

Ten members fished the Last Chance match which was won by Tony Dixey.

There is £348 in the match fund.

The cost of maintaining the trophies is increasing rapidly and there are difficulties with location management of the cups and shields. There also seems to be no great desire amongst members to look after the trophy for a year.

Consequently, match anglers will be canvassed on their views regarding whether they wish to continue with the physical trophies or if a certificate or virtual acknowledgement of their triumph would be sufficient.

### **Secretary's Report**

#### **Network Rail**

On Thursday 26 March I had a meeting with Stephen Phillips who is a surveyor with the Wales and Western region of Network Rail. He is the link between us (as users of the land) and what we are or are not allowed to do on NR land.

We looked round the pond and talked for the best part of an hour. Stephen was impressed by the overall tidiness of the site especially the fact that we kept the hedge trimmed and that the roadway was maintained (pot holes filled etc.).

In summary, regarding cormorants, he advised me that NR would not grant us permission to use a shotgun on the land.

With regards the otter fencing there was no commitment given either way. Stephen did make clear that we may not put fencing of any kind, even with gates, across Station Road (the track that runs beside the pond). Any fence would need to be between the road and the pond, although, in principle, we can use the outer fence on the south and east of the pond to secure the otter fencing.

Following the meeting I have sent Stephen details of the appearance of otter fencing and a rough outline of where the fence would go. I await his reply.

### Anti-bird netting

In various online chats the possibility of netting the pond to deter cormorants was mentioned, I have done some online research and find that if we wish to completely net the pond on a temporary basis the cost would be in the region of £2,000. I have obtained 3 costs from web searches and selected length and width of netting that should be manageable.

Collins Nets - Anti predator bird netting, 4" (100mm)

15qty 20 x 150ft (aprox 6 x 45m) @ £119 Total £1,785

Enviroguard - Pigeon netting 50mm (2") - Cut to size

12 qty 35 x 10m @ £154 Total £1,848

Roofing Superstore - Bird netting - Pigeon sized 50mm (2")

12 qty 35 x 10m @ £207 Total £2,484

### Renewals - To 5 April 2026

Adult – 62 renewals and 11 new members (including 7 guest permits)

Junior – 5 renewals and 4 new

### Any Other Business

There was a brief discussion regarding the anti-bird netting and it was agreed that this would be best in the winter when we could close the pond for a couple of weeks.	
The work to fix the solar panels together remains outstanding. Electrical conduit or similar is needed.	Matt A to source conduit material.
The purchase of new lily cutter blades remains outstanding.	Matt A to buy
It was confirmed that any members using the boat at any time <b>must</b> use a life jackets.	
Feed pellets are running low. Richard will be contacted by Andy to see if the account with Blake's has been set up. John B will collect layers pellets.	Andy M & John B to act accordingly
The Siltex should be applied soon.	Matt to contact suppliers
The cut wood is being burnt when time allows	
The hedge needs cutting, this could be done at a work party of contractors used.	
The barley straw should be applied to the pond soon.	Peter P will action this

The meeting closed at 9:30pm.

The next ordinary meeting is Tuesday 5 May 2026 at The Bear Hotel.

### Statement from the chair:

On behalf of the committee I would like to issue the following statement:

During the AGM there were two items given brief discussion before being voted on. Firstly, the proposal of Peter Powell to the position of match secretary and secondly, the proposal that three keepnets are required during matches for different size and type of fish.

Unfortunately, the proposals were in direct conflict with the club's constitution, this was not picked up at the time and for that, on behalf of the committee, I apologise to all those involved and for the confusion caused.

Consequently, because these proposals were unconstitutional, the committee members are now status quo ante and the keepnet rule will not be added.

This does not prevent either or both of these issues being on the agenda at the next AGM so long as the matter is formally raised within the required timetable.

Once again, on behalf of the committee I apologise for this situation. The matter is now closed and there will be no further discussion.