

Minutes of the Allotment Committee of Hanslope Parish Council, held on 9th
January 2025, 2pm
at the Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Hanslope.

Present:

P Cook (Chairman)

Cllr R Simpkins

I Laurie

F Scott

Cllr W Pacheco

Clerk: G Merry

0 Members of Public

25.01 Apologies for Absence: None

25.02 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Sept 5th, 2024:

The minutes were PROPOSED by Mrs Cook SECONDED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED

25.03 Declarations of Interest

Mrs Cook, Ms Scott and Mr Laurie declared an interest as allotment holders.

25.04 Public Time: No items

25.05 Admin:

- i **Renewal situation and eviction of non-payers:** Tenants of plots 25a, 55a, 68 and 75a had not paid, despite several follow-up reminders. It was discussed and agreed that the new rule would be implemented and the clerk will write to them advising of termination.
- ii **Vacancies/waiting list:** Cllr Simpkins advised of 6 plots vacated in recent weeks. The clerk asked who qualified to have their deposits back and it was agreed numbers: 69a and 45. Mr Laurie will strim the vacant plots and keep them tidy until re-let. The clerk advised that there is money in the unused deposits account, which may be used for vacant plot maintenance. Plot 75 was discussed and it was agreed that at present this plot is not maintained enough to allow expansion to plot 75a. This would therefore be grounds for refusal.
- iii **Committee membership:** Everyone agreed they were happy to stay on the committee and membership would be opened up to allotment holders at the tenant's meeting, as usual.
- iv **Open morning:** It was discussed and agreed to hold this on Sunday 23/3/25, 10-12am. This will also be highlighted at the Tenant's meeting and the clerk will devise a poster.
- v **Risk/Hazards:** The clerk reminded the committee it is their responsibility to assess risk and bring matters to her attention. The pond had been covered but only with pallets and a proper mesh cover and fence surround was still needed. Ponds were now prohibited and the clerk agreed to send the updated rules to Cllr Simpkins for distribution to new tenants.
- vi **Progress on CAD:** Mr Laurie confirmed this was complete but would not be published or circulated until a walk-round could be undertaken, to get clarity on multiple plots i.e. with a, b etc. Mr Laurie and Cllr Simpkins will arrange this.

25.06 Maintenance:

- i **Condition of site and vacant plots:** The committee will continue to monitor this. More posts are needed and the clerk agreed to let the committee know the previous supplier. The site is very wet and Mrs Cook will liaise with the contractor regarding availability of sawdust/chip.
- ii **S106 project and back fence:** The site is too wet for the contractor to drive over and it was agreed the fence could wait until the spring.

- iii **Increasing water points and quotes for new taps:** Cllr Simpkins had sought 3 quotes but only 1 contractor had submitted one @ £3993.67 + VAT. This contractor had also suggested digging a small test pit at plot 33, with a view to addressing waterlogging in the lowest lying area. The optimum areas for water points was discussed and agreed and Cllr Simpkins will liaise with the contractor to re-quote, prior to S106 funds being applied for. The test dig at plot 33 was agreed @ £600.
- iv **Any other maintenance issues:** It was agreed a skip would be needed again around 1st April and the clerk will arrange this, with further hires in June and Sept. A compost heap was discussed and it was agreed to develop this on the community plot. Ideally a 3-sided wooden structure will be installed and the clerk will obtain quotes. Mr Lauire will supply a simple specification to the clerk and S106 money could be applied for. The hand-clipped hedge was discussed and it was agreed, this did not need to go into the annual contract but was only needed occasionally. The tenant with the excavator is permitted to keep his machine on his plot in return for carrying out occasional work for the allotments. It was suggested that he is asked to level plot 68. Previously, only fuel expenses have been reimbursed to him.

25.07: Plot Inspections/issues:

On
Bramble Land

- i **Plot 45 adding plot 44:** Cllr Simpkins had been asked if the tenant of plot 45 could acquire plot 44, minus the pathway which is communal. This was discussed and agreed.
- ii **Inspections:** No inspections had taken place over the winter but were discussed and scheduled for early May.
- iii **Overgrown and problem plots:** Evictions were discussed and agreed at 25.05 i.

take over the triangle of

25.08 Date of Next Meeting: Thursdays April 17th and June 5th

Signed P. Cook Date 17/4/25