

# HANSLOPE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the Allotment Committee held on Thursday 27th October 2022, 2pm the Pavilion, Hanslope Recreation Ground, MK19 7LG.

### Minutes

Present: C Walmsley (Chair) R Simpkins  
I Laurie P Cook  
G Merry (recording) Members of Public: 0

#### **22.035 Co-option and Committee Membership**

**MOTION:** Mr Iain Laurie was PROPOSED by Mr Walmsley, SECONDED by Mrs Cook, AGREED and joined the committee.

#### **22.036 Apologies**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr S Proctor.

#### **22.037 Declarations of interest**

With the exception of Cllr Simpkins, all members are allotment holders and declared that as their interest.

#### **22.038 Minutes of the last meeting – held on 11/8/2022**

The minutes which had previously been circulated were agreed and signed.

#### **22.039 Plot Uptake and Availability**

- i. **Vacancies:** There were 5 available plots and no one on the waiting list. Plot 72 will be divided into 2: 72 and 72 B. The idea of an Open Morning one Saturday in January was discussed and it was agreed to plan for 14/1/23 or 21/1/23, from 10-12am, with tea and coffee etc. Committee members would be on hand to show prospective tenants around.
- ii. **Tenants List and Invoice Check:** The clerk checked through the list of tenants and also any anomalies in charging for those with 2 plots etc. It was agreed new tenants would be given 2 weeks to pay the deposit, after which, the plot would be put back on the available list.

#### **22.040 Tool Hire update:**

- i. **Booking system and updating document:** Mr Laurie had updated the documents and reported there had only been 18 hire-outs this summer. However, this had been an exceptional season with extreme dry conditions and poor growth.
- ii. **Manning the system:** Mr Laurie suggested re-starting with booking slots on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays. This was discussed and it was agreed to canvass opinion via the allotment holder's WhatsApp group, as to what times/days suited the majority. Booking would still be via email to Mr Laurie.

#### **22.041 Maintenance**

- i. **Ongoing maintenance and smaller jobs:**  
The contractor had yet to start the jobs allocated to him and it was discussed that the gate would be locked on 1/11/22, so access would need to be arranged. Mrs Cook agreed to liaise with the contractor.

- ii. **Larger Maintenance needed:** The list was as per the August minutes but had still not taken place, mainly due to the hardness of the ground this summer. It was agreed no further large jobs were needed at the moment.
- iii. **Budget 2023-24:** The clerk advised the budget this year had been £4350 of which £2774 had been spent at approx. halfway through the year. It was discussed and agreed to request the same budget for next year and that an additional noticeboard would be required.

**22.042 Plot inspections/issues with plots**

- i. **Follow-up from August letters:** Tenants who had been contacted following the August meeting were discussed. It was agreed that Plot 20 had now vacated their plot and a final notice of eviction would be sent. Plot 28 had tidied their plot and covered the pond and it was agreed this brought health and safety risk to an acceptable level. It was agreed the clerk would write to tenants of plots 45 & 46 to ask whether they wished to continue, as no cultivation had taken place.
- ii. **New Issues:** It was discussed and agreed that no inspections were currently needed, as it had been an exceptional season where little or no cultivation had been possible.  
**MOTION:** To agree any letters or potential evictions MOTION NOT REQUIRED

**22.043 Site security and Risk**

- i. **Security Issues:** There had been a spate of graffiti in the village weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> October, including on allotment sheds. It was agreed these could be painted over. CCTV was discussed and it was agreed to wait and monitor the situation, as CCTV may prove futile. Mrs Cook agreed to lock the gate and turn off the water on 1/11/22.
- ii. **Updating the Risk Assessment:** Cllr Simpkins circulated the updated R.A. and asked for any suggestions. It was agreed this would be published in approx. one week if there were no amendments. It was agreed that 2 allotment gate keys would be enough and these were held by Mr Walmsley and the clerk. Re. Avian Flu, It was discussed that Hanslope is not currently in the region where chickens must be kept indoors but this would be monitored.
- iii. **Dogs and General Public on site:** Mrs Cook reported dog mess had been found on the site but it was felt this could be users of the Public Right of Way, walking right around the site instead of straight along the PRow. This could be due to the stile being partially blocked by mesh and the clerk agreed to investigate this. It was agreed there needed to be 2 x 'Dogs on Leads. No access to public other than to Public Footpath' signs. The clerk agreed to order these.

**20.044 Date of next meeting**

19<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 2pm  
 Tenant's Meeting – 30/1/22 at 7.30pm  
 Then April, August and October

Signed: ..... Date:.....