

HANSLOPE PARISH COUNCIL

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ANNUAL TENANT'S MEETING

on Monday 24th January 2022 at 7.00pm remotely via Zoom.

Minutes

Present - Committee:

C Walmsley (Chair)

R Simpkins (HPC)

P Cook

J Cass (HPC)

B Cass

G Merry (recording)

Allotments Tenants: 12 (apologies x 2)

22.001 Introductions and summary of the last year

Mr Walmsley welcomed all to the meeting and each member of the committee introduced themselves. Mr Walmsley stated that there had been full occupancy for most of the year with very few issues coming out of plot inspections but that these were necessary to mitigate against risk and to ensure compliance with rules. The allotment improvement project was complete, and this would be discussed later.

22.002 Who does what and who to contact

The clerk was introduced as the first point of contact for legal matters, paperwork and payments. Cllr Simpkins deals with lettings and allocation of plots. Mr Cass along with Mrs Cook, Cllr Cass and Mr Walmsley do most of the practical work and tenants were encouraged to make contact when visiting the site.

22.003 Legal and Agreements

i. New agreements – changes and limits on structures

Tenants were reminded that agreements are legally binding and must be signed and returned every year. The rules on structures such as sheds, greenhouses etc. had been changed to one per plot only. However, this would not be enforced retroactively. Tenants were reminded that rule 10 requires the paths and borders to be kept today and rule 25 states dogs should be kept on leads.

ii. Public Liability Insurance

Tenants were reminded that P.L. insurance is now included in the agreements and in their payments.

iii. Plot reduction option

Tenants were encouraged to contact the committee if at any point they felt their plot was too big or unmanageable, as options for reducing size were possible.

22.004 Allotments round-up

i. Chickens and bird flu

With increased incidents of bird flu nationally, tenants were asked to keep updated with any changes in rules/advice.

ii. Gate and water arrangements

The gates will be locked from Nov to March with access possible again from 1st April. The water will also be switched on at this point.

iii. **Bonfires**

There had been complaints from residents on Newport Road regarding smoke from bonfires and also from the stables adjacent to the site. Tenants were asked to be mindful generally of the wind direction and refrain from lighting fires if smoke would travel in the direction of the stables particularly. If there were several bonfires already, tenants were asked to please leave it for another day and reminded to only burn allotment waste, not items brought from home.

iv. **Weedkiller**

Tenants were asked not to use weedkiller when the wind is blowing as there had been incidents of drift, and to keep any spraying close to the ground.

v. **Other**

Tenants were asked to consider volunteering for the committee, or in the shorter term, for helping out with practical tasks around the allotment site.

22.005 2022 Plans – Mr Cass reported as follows

- i. **Posts:** Several corner posts were to be installed and this will ensure clear identification of plots and boundaries. A recently vacated plot will be split.
- ii. **Jobs to be done:** A contractor has been engaged to carry out work at the site, including fixing the back fence, installing posts, filling rutted ridings to bring level and levelling work at the gate entrances.
- iii. **Toilet:** The new composting toilet will have a keypad and tenants will be issued with the code but asked not to pass this on to anybody else. The toilet is 'flushed' using sawdust and paper/hand sanitiser will be provided. Water may also be used from the tap behind the toilet for hand washing. The compost from the toilet can be used on non-consumable plants.
- iv. **Container:** The new container has equipment that can be lent out to tenants: a mower (petrol will be provided), rotavator and strimmer. There will be a £20 deposit, returnable when the item is returned in good order, but instructions provided must be followed, including the use of PPE e.g. correct footwear.
- v. **Parking:** S106 funding had been turned down, for embedding reinforcement mesh into the verges outside the site, because MK Council do not support parking on verges. 2 areas were being converted for parking inside the site – next to the container and adjacent to plot 18A.

22.006 Tenants Q & A and feedback session:

Q: How long is the committee's term?

CW responded it runs concurrently with the parish council term and the clerk confirmed this runs until 2023.

Q: Can anything be done to counteract the deep mud by the gates?

BC responded that options for this are being looked at and will hopefully be addressed.

Q: Will the parking inside be adequate?

JC responded there will be 7-8 spaces inside. However, MK council were not stopping parking on the verges. Just not supporting measures to facilitate this.

Q: What may be done to encourage wildlife and re-wilding? It had been disappointing that large branches had been removed and the tenant preferred to see birds, insects etc. at the site.

CW responded that if tenants wished to make their own plots more wildlife-friendly they could, but the purpose of the allotments is to grow crops. Pests must also not be encouraged. Some plots do have wildlife-friendly sections and there are lots of trees, bushes etc, surrounding the site.

Q: There was concern that there was too much emphasis on over-manicuring at the site. CW stated that the committee are not currently considering any re-wilding measures.

Mr Cass was thanked for all his hard work at the allotments site in the past year.

After Note: Tenants are reminded there is a page on the parish council website now dedicated to allotment matters:

<https://www.hanslopeparishcouncil.org/community/hanslope-parish-council-15401/facilities--services/>