

HANSLOPE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Allotment Committee held on Thursday 11th August 2022, 2pm the Pavilion, Hanslope Recreation Ground, MK19 7LG.

Minutes

Present: C Walmsley (Chair) S Proctor
B Cass P Cook
G Merry (recording) Members of Public: 1

22.025 Co-option and Committee Membership

MOTION: Cllr Proctor was PROPOSED by Mr Walmsley, SECONDED by Mrs Cook, AGREED and joined the Committee. Mr Laurie was present and will join the committee at the next meeting.

22.026 Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Cllr R Simpkins.

22.027 Declarations of interest

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

22.028 Minutes of the last meeting – held on 19/5/2022

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

22.029 Plot Uptake and Availability

There were 3 available plots and no one on the waiting list. It was agreed there would also be a further 2 available plots: Nos 54, 70 and 69a, due to tenants giving up. It was agreed that uptake would be low during the summer months and the current heatwave.

22.030 Tool Hire update:

- i. **Manning the booking system:** There had been no bookings during the excessively hot weather and booking uptake had generally been low since the start of the scheme. It was agreed there was no necessity to pay someone to do the admin. and Mr Laurie would be prepared to take this on going forward.
- ii. **Future Needs:** The current hiring slots will be retained and potentially extended. The keys to the container will need to be duplicated so anyone manning a slot will have a copy. Mr Cass agreed to check if there were any spare keys.

MOTION: To agree to recommend engaging a paid contractor to manage hiring slots – NOT REQUIRED.

22.031 Maintenance

- i. **Ongoing maintenance and smaller jobs:**
Mr Walmsley stated that another plot holder had strimmed some plots in addition to his own, and was happy to strim others which Mr Walmsley will discuss with him. Mr Cass will send a list of plots needing this. Mr Walmsley offered to cut back the overgrown brambles.
- ii. **Larger Maintenance needed:** Mr Cass advised that the ground is too hard for any fencing or post work to be carried out, although the materials are all in the container. It was discussed and agreed that the contractor will be asked for prices to remove the 2 goat willows on plot

70 & 71, plus one oak and a horse chestnut at the end of plot 70. He will also be asked to price clearing plot 70. The ongoing list of jobs: fencing, back fence and remaining corner post work, will be requested once the ground is less hard. Mr Cass agreed to show Mrs Cook how to manage and scrape the composting toilet. Mr Cass advised that only the contractor will be available to do the bulk of maintenance work from now on, as volunteers are not coming forward. The PC should consider increasing rents to help pay for this. It was agreed the plot measuring work should be resumed and Cllr Proctor advised getting the site professionally surveyed and a digitised plot plan completed. Mr Laurie offered to draw up a CAD plan in the meantime.

- iii. **Requests for Wood Chip:** The contractor will also be asked to retain and supply the wood chip from the tree removal, so this can be used to fill indents in the ridings.

22.032 Plot inspections/issues with plots

Inspections had been carried out by committee members, on 7/7/22 and Mr Cass had circulated the outcome, with recommendations. These were generally agreed and tenants would be written to, requesting that outstanding work is completed. Some would be offered support or a reduced plot size. 2 potential evictions were discussed and it was agreed the 28-day eviction notices would be sent, as both tenants had previously been written-to and neither had carried out the required work.

MOTION: To agree the letters would be sent as recommended and 2 evictions notices would be sent to the tenants of plots 20 and 28, PROPOSED by Mr Cass SECONDED by Mr Walmsley and AGREED

22.033 Site security and Risk

- i. There had been no recent issues with security, trespass etc
- ii. Cllr Simpkins had offered to update the risk assessment.

20.034 Date of next meeting

27th October 2022 at 2pm

At the end of the meeting, Mr Cass resigned from the committee and was thanked for all his hard work.

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