

HANSLOPE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of The Allotment's Committee held on Thursday 10th February 2022 at 2.00pm the Pavilion, Hanslope Recreation Ground, MK19 7LG.

Minutes

Present: C Walmsley (Chair) J Cass
B Cass P Cook
G Merry (recording) Members of Public: 0

22.001 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Simpkins.

22.002 Declarations of interest

All members are allotment holders and therefore declared that as their interest.

22.003 Minutes of the last meeting – held 18/11/2021

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

22.004 Admin.

- i. **Outstanding payments:** The clerk reported 3 tenants had not yet paid and asked if there were issues with their plots. These were discussed and it was agreed the clerk would continue to chase the payments.
- ii. **Waiting List and availability:** Cllr Simpkins had advised there were 3 names on the waiting list and 6 plots available. 55B may be let to the pre-school, who were currently discussing this with their Board and would also be investigating safeguarding protocols etc, to see if the idea was viable. It was agreed that liability would lie with the pre-school, and they would need to fence their plot, though the letting was agreed in principle. An application from a non-resident, for half of 12A was discussed and it was agreed to obtain more information. The former tenant from plot 12 had left tools and a wheelbarrow. It was agreed there had been plenty of time for these to be retrieved as requested, and the items would now be placed in the container.
- iii. **Equipment Hire and Charges:** Mr Cass will run the new equipment and from that, put together detailed information on operating and taking care of each item. It was agreed there would be a simple form, for hirers to sign and Mr Walmsley agreed to research suitable templates. It was agreed hiring would be for 4 hours i.e. a morning or afternoon, but may be longer if no committee member was available to sign items back in. The clerk stated the form must indemnify the parish council against any liability and should state the necessary safe usage, use of PPE etc. Tenants would need to book in advance by email/phone and if no committee member were available, hiring may not be possible that day. It was discussed and agreed that 2 x 2-door filing cabinets are needed for the container, to organise the admin work. Mr Cass will convert these into a desk and the clerk will do the ordering @ £163 + £168.
- iv. **Volunteer Issue:** Mr Walmsley advised of 1 volunteer, with potentially 2-3 more. It was discussed that building a sense of community would help engender more engagement. An event for the opening of the new toilet was suggested and Mrs Cook agreed to work on the details. The clerk advised the PC could fund refreshments, as the reason for the event was to everyone's advantage.

- v. **Noticeboard:** Mr Cass circulated details of the IP56 lockable whiteboard in silver anodised aluminium, @ £482.57 and this was agreed. It was agreed in principle that 2 would be ideal but one would be purchased for now, so as not to exceed the budget agreed by the PC.

22.005 Inspections: follow-up actions

Plot 28 contained some scrap metal, and it was agreed the clerk would write to ask for it's removal. Additionally, 28 and 48 now both had ponds and it was agreed that both must now be asked to cover these, especially in the light of the potential for young children to be on the allotments. Plot 20 would continue to be monitored. The issue of risk from broken/loose glass from greenhouses was discussed and it was agreed to defer any action for now. The next inspections will be in April.

22.006 Maintenance and work needed.

- i. **General:** Mr Cass was thanked for his work on overseeing the current jobs. Mr Walmsley has begun pollarding the hazel tree and reported this should be cropped on a 5-year cycle. Brambles needed to be cleared and the committee would organise this, along with a tip-run.
- ii. **Corner Posts:** Work was well underway and would be completed in approx. 7-10 days, after which, the posts will be painted, and numbers stencilled on.
- iii. **Toilet Readyng:** Mr Cass reported a small amount of work is needed and the toilet would be ready for opening in March. All committee members asked to be there when the sawdust is installed.

22.007 Issues

- i. **Health & Safety and Risk:** Mr Cass has tested a disused shed for asbestos which, although positive, was the least harmful kind and only hazardous if moved. He is obtaining quotes for its removal. Ponds and scrap metal on plots had been discussed at 22.005.
- ii. **Bonfires:** It had been advised at the annual tenant's meeting that bonfires must be limited and not be left burning. It was further discussed that anyone planning to have a bonfire should inform the neighbouring horse owner, so that she could move the horses if necessary. It was agreed the clerk would remind tenants when doing a general mail-out.
- iii. **Risk Assessment:** The R.A. needs updating, and Cllr Cass agreed to do this once the decision from the pre-school was received.

22.008 Project Update and Future Plans

- i. **Wildlife and potential rewilding:** It was discussed and agreed that the PC, via this committee, has a duty of care to the general public, as the allotments are a communal area. If tenants wanted a small wild area on their plots, they were free to do so but the PC's only obligation is to provide allotments for cultivation.
- ii. **Other:** The clerk stated that not all of the applied-for S106 money had been used for the recent improvement project, and it may be worth revisiting the matter of reinforcement of the verges. It was discussed and agreed that the recent Gigaclear installation of fibre-optic broadband, had ruined the verges and these had been back-filled with inappropriate MOT, instead of reinstating the soil and grass. The clerk was in discussion with Ward Cllr Wardle (MKC) about addressing this.

22.009 Date of next meeting

19/5/22

Signed: Date:.....