

## HANSLOPE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Allotment Committee held on Thursday 5th October 2023, 2pm the Pavilion, Hanslope Recreation Ground, MK19 7LG.

### Minutes

Present: P Cook (Chair) Cllr R Simpkins  
I Laurie Cllr W Pacheco  
G Merry (recording) Members of Public: 0

#### **23.029 Co-option of new member.**

**MOTION:** To elect Mr Waldo Pacheco to the committee, NOMINATED by Mrs Cook SECONDED by Cllr. Simpkins and AGREED.

#### **23.030 Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Ms Scott

#### **23.031 Declarations of interest**

Mr Laurie and Mrs Cook declared an interest as allotment tenants themselves.

#### **23.032 Minutes of the last meeting**

**MOTION:** To agree the minutes of the meeting held July 13th 2023, PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins and AGREED

#### **23.033 Public Participation:** No items.

#### **23.034 Admin.**

- i. **Vacancies, waiting list and tenant check:** Cllr Simpkins advised there 3 vacant plots with 2 more in the process of giving up. There were no applications and the clerk agreed to publicise the allotments on Facebook. Cllr Simpkins suggested splitting plot 75 into 3 smaller plots and this was agreed. Tennant lists were up to date, ready for Dec invoicing.
- ii. **Update, review of implementation of new allotment Rules:** The parish council had made a ruling of 'no flags' at the allotments, except for a small, wind directional flag installed by the committee. Cllr Simpkins had amended the rules accordingly and agreed to circulate these in time for the Dec. letters going out.  
**MOTION:** To agree to implement the updated rules PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins SECONDED by Mrs. Cook and AGREED.
- iii. **Tool Hire:** Mr. Laurie reported no problems with the system and the new brush cutter has proved popular.
- iv. **Progress on CAD:** No further progress. However, Mr. Laurie will soon be retiring and will have more time to complete this task.
- v. **Plans 2024-25:** It was agreed the 'back' fence would not be repaired and a local contractor may be interested in buying materials previously purchased for this. The clerk agreed to contact him. The '2<sup>nd</sup>' car park will need more type 1 and the new noticeboard will need to be installed, as well as the work to the gate, still outstanding. It was discussed and agreed to retain the budget for 2024-25 at £4,350. Cllr Simpkins had arranged a seed swapping morning in February. However the village hall had cancelled the booking and it was agreed it was too

late now to reschedule this but it will be considered for next year. The gate will be locked and water switched off on 1<sup>st</sup> November.

**23.035 Maintenance**

- i. **Maintenance of Machines:** It was discussed and agreed that use of the machines will now be minimal and the clerk will arrange a late October/early November date for the machines to be collected and serviced.
- ii. **Communal Spaces and plots:** Mrs Cook has been overseeing this and there were now 2 plots together. The previous contractor had mowed this area as a favour but as they were no longer the PC's contractor, arrangements would need to be made. It was agreed that Mr Laurie and Mrs Cook would mow it for the time being. The area is being well used by the tenants.
- iii. **'Back' Fence and gates:** The gate has not been fixed, despite Mrs Cook speaking to the contractor on 4/9/23. This now needs urgent attention. It was agreed the clerk would chivvy him and also enquire whether he wishes to do the job.
- iv. **Any other Maintenance Issues:** More type 1 will be needed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> car park.

**23.036 Plot Inspections/issues with plots**

- i. **Plot inspection:** Summer plot inspections had been followed up by Mrs Cook. Those who had received letters in July, had made noticeable improvements. However, tenants of plots 75A and 76A now needed letters, reminding them to keep their plots cultivated, tidy and weed-free. Specific 28-day letters will be sent, prior to potential eviction.  
**MOTION:** To agree letters to go out as above PROPOSED by Mrs Cook SECONDED by Mr. Laurie and AGREED.

**23.037 Date of next meeting:**

Thursday January 18th 2024 – 2pm

*After Note: Annual Tenant's Meeting is now rescheduled to 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7.30pm*

..... Signed (Chairman)

..... Date