

HANSLOPE PARISH COUNCIL

☎ 07383 091319

✉ clerk@hanslopeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of The Allotment's Committee held on Thursday 26th August 2021 at 2.00pm the Pavilion, Hanslope Recreation Ground, MK19 7LG.

Minutes

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

21.029 Apologies

No apologies

21.030 Declarations of interest

Except for Cllr Simpkins, all members are allotment holders and therefore declared that as their interest.

21.031 Minutes of the last meeting – held 29/04/2021

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

21.032 Waiting List and availability

Cllr Simpkins reported there were 2 names on the waiting list and currently no availability. It was discussed that smaller plots are needed Mr Cass reported that once the planned bonfire happens, plot 50A may be available. Additionally a couple of plots may become available through termination of contract.

21.033 Inspections: follow-up actions

Inspections had taken place in July. Mr Walmsley stated that although most plots were in reasonable condition, 18 letters had been sent, of which the majority were requests to improve. 7 had given a 28-day warning and it was discussed that as the allotment agreement, signed by all tenants, is a legally binding document, the parish council has the right to require tenants to comply with the rules, implementing termination if necessary. It was not unreasonable to expect tenants to cultivate their plots and keep them tidy. Each of the plots in question were discussed in detail and many had made improvements. Some may be offered support from the committee in exceptional circumstances. It was discussed and agreed to implement eviction notices to 2 tenants who had not made any improvements and images were circulated of the size of weeds on these plots. The clerk agreed to send the letters. It was agreed the next inspection would be late Sept-early Oct.

21.034 Maintenance and work needed.

- i. Boundary definition and plot measurement: The measuring is currently on-hold until after the new items are installed but before 2022 invoices go out. It was agreed that more posts would be needed.
- ii. Side Hedge, ridings and footpaths: Mr Cass reported there was significant overgrowth of brambles and asked when the contractor was attending. The clerk stated this would be after 1/9/21 and offered to find out and revert back to the committee. The caretaker would be asked to weed spray the overgrowth of nettles around the perimeter. There were areas where the footpaths were uneven, and Mr Cass suggested asking the contractor from the 'Hayfields'

site if they would use their dumper to take some topsoil to the site. Mr Cass would then manage moving this into place and it was agreed he would speak to the site manager.

- iii. The back fence was discussed and there were still sections missing, with no response from the neighbouring landowner. It was agreed that Mr Cass and Mr Walmsley would assess how much needed replacing with a view to the parish council funding the replacement.
- iv. Other work: Mr Cass will trim the trees adjacent to the gates, to facilitate the container delivery and some may need to be dug out, as the container needs space to swing round.

21.035 Issues

- i. Dogs: Mr Walmsley stated that the situation had improved and there were now less dogs at the site.
- ii. Health & Safety and Risk: The tenant with the pond had placed chains around it and this was now assessed at a lower risk. Cllr and Mr Cass expressed concern re. tenants using the strimmer, due to the risk and liability involved and stated this should be for the committee only to use. This was discussed and agreed.
- iii. Other: A few fences need to be checked and Mr Cass will speak to plot 28 re. rubbish clearance. Mr Cass reported that the grasscutter had failed and a new one was needed. The clerk advised that out of an annual budget of £3350, only £276 had been spent and it was agreed the following items would be requested from the PC:
 - A new grasscutter – Mr Cass will look into suitable models and let the clerk know approx. cost.
 - 2 x 5 litre metal containers for storing petrol for the mower
 - A cabinet to store the petrol.

The new rotavator was to come out of the S106 money. Safe storage of petrol was discussed, and it was agreed that tenants would need to apply to use the grasscutter and the rotavators, with potentially a small charge to be made. Cllr Cass circulated a Power Tool Guidance document, and it was agreed something similar should be implemented.

21.036 Improvement Project

Mr Cass reported that the container would be installed on 2/9/21 and the toilet on 17/9/21. The shed will come at the same time as the toilet and must be unpacked immediately, so the packing material can be taken away. The committee will stand by for this. The ground contractor will also attend but will not be able to dig the hole for the toilet installation if it is raining. Mr Cass will manage the timings. The gates are on order but sourcing the drop bolts was proving difficult. A lockable drop bolt was needed before winter, to prevent vehicles entering the site and driving on soft ground. Mr Cass asked to have metal posts from the MUGA when it is replaced, and this was agreed. A new noticeboard will be installed once the project is complete. A dividing wall will be needed for the new container, as well as a ramp to get machinery in and out and a boot scraper. Mr Cass will source these once installed. An event such as a community picnic was discussed for after the project is complete.

21.037 Date of next meeting

18/11/2021

Signed: Date:.....