

HANSLOPE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Allotment Committee held on Thursday 5th September 2024, 2pm -
Pavilion, Hanslope Recreation Ground, MK19 7LG.

Minutes

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

24.025 Apologies

No apologies. Cllr Pacheco was absent.

24.026 Declarations of interest

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

24.027 Minutes of the last meeting held 06/06/24

MOTION: To agree the minutes of the meeting held June 6th 2024, PROPOSED by Mrs Cook, SECONDED by Ms Scott and AGREED

24.028 Public Participation: No items.

24.029 Admin.

- i. **Vacancies/ waiting list and payments.** All payments were up to date. Cllr Simpkins advised there was 1 vacant plot and 1 person interested. However, allocation would be conditional on their own plot being brought up to standard first. Cllr Simpkins will discuss this with them.
- ii. **Any changes to rules and discuss pond rules:** The rules and annual letters were discussed to ensure consistency re. the new date deadline for payment and termination. Mrs. Cook expressed concern over ponds and this was discussed. The major concern was safety and liability and it was agreed plot 75 will be asked to cover their pond, with immediate effect. Other concerns were the size of ponds and the necessity to remove the pond on termination of tenancy. It was discussed and agreed that ponds would no longer be permitted, with effect from Sept. 2024 and the clerk will amend the rules.
- iii. **Community Event:** The summer BBQ, though enjoyable, had a disappointing number of people fail to turn up, having said they would attend, meaning money was spent unnecessarily. It was agreed to discuss this with the organisers for next year before deciding whether to repeat. Thanks were expressed to Mrs. Parry for her hard work.
- iv. **Risks/Hazards:** There were currently no significant hazards, other than the pond as discussed, and committee members will check again before the next meeting. All were reminded that use of petrol to fill machines etc. must always take place outside the container.
- v. **Progress on CAD:** Measuring is complete and Mr. Laurie is finalising the document.

24.030 Maintenance

- i. **Contractor, mowing update and condition of site:** The committee commented on how well the site is being maintained. It was discussed whether to increase from 8 to 10 cuts for the next growing season, and this was agreed. The clerk advised that only £576 of the £4350 budget had been spent.

- ii. **S106 project - back fence:** The clerk advised that the S106 money for the fence has already been received and the project should be organised ASAP. The clerk will ask the contractor to attend before the 1/11/24 date for the site to close.
- iii. **Dog Fouling and signage:** There had been an increase in both dogs on the site and members of the public with dogs passing through, accessing footpaths elsewhere. The current wording on the signs was discussed and it was agreed this needed to be clearer and more robust, so that only allotment tenants and those wishing to access footpath 7, should be entering the site. Wording was agreed and the clerk will order the signs.
- iv. **Servicing Machines:** Annual servicing for the 5 machines was discussed and it was agreed the clerk would book this in after 31/10/24.
- v. **Increasing water points:** Cllr Simpkins suggested meeting on site with Anglian Water, with a view to increasing pipework and water points, possibly using S106 money. It was discussed and agreed that in the first instance, a local contractor would be approached to quote for installing a trench, with pipework and taps, from an existing pipe. Cllr Simpkins will speak to the contractor
- vi. **Any other maintenance issues:** Several posts need knocking in and it was agreed Mr Laurie and Mr Cook would do this. The hedge adjacent to the 'horse field' would need to be hand clipped, due to trees growing directly in front of it. The clerk agreed to action the contractor. Having a skip more often was discussed and it was agreed this would now be 4 x a year. The clerk will arrange for the skip within the next 2 weeks, for clearance of material left by a previous tenant. All tenants would then be invited to use the skip. The pothole in front of the gate was now larger and Ms Scott will check quantities and fill it in with Type 1. There had been a significant increase in machine hires this year and the need for a 2nd mower was discussed and agreed. The same make and model was agreed and the clerk will make the order. It was agreed Mr Ahmad will be given keys to the container, as he is willing to oversee machine hires when others are not available.
MOTION: To agree actions as above AGREED.

24.031 Plot Inspections/issues with plots

- i. **Plot inspection:** Tenants receiving eviction notices in June/July, had now left their plots. Committee members had carried out late summer inspections and advised that the following had not cultivated their plots this summer: Plots 9A, 68, 69, 70B, 55, 72B, 71A, 76A, 76, 74 and were all in contravention of rule 7.2. It was agreed they would be sent 28-day letters.
MOTION: Agreed 28-day letters to go out as detailed above, PROPOSED by Mrs Cook SECONDED by Ms Scott and AGREED.
- ii. **Potential Evictions:** No evictions at this time.

24.032 Date of next meetings:

Committee - Thursday 9th January 2025 – 2pm
Annual Tenant’s Meeting – Monday 27th January 2025 at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be provided but it was agreed no speaker this time.

..... **Signed (Chairman)**

..... **Date**