

HANSLOPE PARISH COUNCIL

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✉ clerk@hanslopeparishcouncil.gov.uk

ANNUAL TENANT'S MEETING

on Monday 5th February 2024 at 7.30pm at Hanslope Community Hall, Recreation Ground, Castlethorpe Road.

Minutes

Present:

HPC Allotment's Committee: P Cook (Chair), Cllr R Simpkins, I Laurie, F Scott, Cllr W Pacheco

G Merry – Council Clerk (recording)

26 guests – No apologies

24.001 Introductions and summary of the last year

Mrs Cook welcomed all to the meeting and each committee member introduced themselves. The work has now been completed on the second gate, so that it will open and close properly. All were asked to take care with it, as it had only been installed a year ago.

24.002 Who does what, who to contact and keeping in touch (contact details appended).

Mrs Cook is the committee chairman. Mr Laurie holds the key for the main gate and should be contacted in the event of a genuine emergency. Cllr Simpkins lets out the plots and deals with the maintenance contracts. Mr Laurie is the first point of contact for hiring tools/equipment and is currently digitising the plots, with a view to more accurate measurements. Mrs Cook and Ms Scott trim around plots and the container, plants bulbs, and tend to the communal area. There is an active WhatsApp group for plot holders and anyone wishing to be added should contact Cllr Simpkins. Mrs Cook advised that the new emergency contact numbers will be posted on the gate. Ms Scott reported the communal area has tools available in the shed. People are welcome to plant small fruits and gather for picnics etc.

24.003 Legals and Agreements

- i. **2024 agreements: changes, limits on structures & clarifications:** The clerk advised that the Allotment Rules must be agreed to, signed and returned every year and this should be considered a legally binding document. There were currently 28 agreements missing for 2024. She clarified that the rule with structures, means only 1 shed and 1 greenhouse per plot and no other structures. The rule will not be implemented retrospectively however.
- ii. **Payments:** The clerk requested that rents must be paid on time and if late, the tenants will not be covered for public liability. Tenants were encouraged to read the rules.
- iii. **Public Liability Insurance:** Tenants are liable for any legal claims for incidents on their plots. It was clarified that PL is included in the rent payment and paid-up tenants are covered, under their membership of the SWCAA. Receipts/membership details from SWCAA are available from the clerk on request.

- iv. **Issues when giving up your plot:** Cllr Simpkins advised that plots are occasionally given up in poor condition and costs may end up being passed on to tenants, if the parish council has to pay for clearance, as well as deposits not being returned.
- v. **Plot reduction option:** Tenants were encouraged not to just give up plots, but to speak with any member of the committee first, as support may be available, as well as a smaller plot option.

24.004 Allotments round-up

- i. Mr Laurie advised there is a large cultivator, a rotavator, mower and brush cutter/strimmer. All have now been serviced he asked that requests are made well in advance – 48 hours minimum. There is a returnable deposit of £20 to secure hiring and petrol is provided FOC.
- ii. **Tidiness – keeping plots in ‘good order’:** Mrs Cook outlined that it is everyone’s responsibility to contribute to maintaining the site. If plots cannot be tended for a period of time, consider covering areas to keep down weeds and seed spread, even if just a membrane. The new strimmer will tackle even difficult growth. Tenants are responsible for pathways in between plots and any plot fences. All were encouraged to discuss this with their neighbours, to address who will maintain what. All were encouraged to use the equipment for ‘hire’. If any tenant is struggling to look after their plot, they are encouraged to contact the committee for support. Please note as follows:
 - Don’t let weeds get out of hand
 - Regularly remove or burn any rubbish.
 - Check boundary fences.
 - Remove any protruding metal posts.
 - Mow inner pathways.
 - Keep any ponds covered with metal grids (not just fence them) and cover any water butts. There are more children on the site now and it is incumbent on everyone to reduce risk.
- iii. **Gate and water arrangements:** The water will be switched on and the main gate unlocked on 1/4/24. All were reminded that attaching hoses to the tap is not permitted, as it uses too much water and everyone shares the cost.
- iv. **Bonfires:** Mrs Cook reminded all to be considerate of the houses on Newport Road and also the stables, when considering a bonfire. Check there are not several bonfires already and that the wind isn’t blowing towards the homes, or particularly the stables. Never leave a bonfire unattended and always put them out before leaving the site. The yellow flag shows the direction of the wind and will be moved to the toilet area this season.
- v. **Weedkiller:** All were asked not to use weedkiller when windy, as it drifts to other areas/plots. No weedkiller to be used on the paths.
- vi. **Other:** Tenants were reminded that they are responsible for mowing and maintaining the ridings adjacent to their plot.

24.005 2024 Plans and date for Open Morning:

The Open Morning this year will this year be on 9/3/24 and all tenants are encouraged to spread the word and bring people along. Refreshments will be available. A skip will be hired over Easter weekend for clearance work needed on certain lots. Once filled with clearance

items by the committee, tenants would be welcome to use it for their own items. Committee meetings will be held on April 11th and then 6th June, with inspections mid-May and September.

24.006 Tenants Q & A and feedback session

Q: The tenant of plot 73 expressed unhappiness that the neighbouring plots to his, had consistently not kept down their weeds. He has been trying for several years to grow things but is constantly thwarted by seed heads and weeds encroaching onto his plot. He asked that the committee implement a policy of weedkiller applied to plots, if after the 28-day warning period, there has been no improvement. This was discussed but the committee advised that as plots are tenanted, they would not have the right to enter the plot and apply weedkiller. It was agreed a firmer approach would be taken this year re. the 28-day warnings, enforcement and evictions. The committee also advised that they are currently planning work to plots in that area and the clearance planned should improve the condition of those plots. Mr Laurie stated everyone should adopt an attitude of caring for the site as whole. Tenants were also asked to let the committee know early, if issues with their plots were in fact being caused by neighbours.

Q: Charles Walmsley introduced his grandson, who is doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award. He is offering free help at the allotments for approx. 1 hour a week, evenings/weekends, for the next 3 months. Anyone interested in this should contact Charles.

Q: Wood chippings were arriving on 6/2/24 at the side of the gate and all were encouraged to help themselves.

Q: The tenant of Plot 55 advised that a shed had blown on to his plot and all were advised to weight down their sheds.

Q: Can a hose be used to fill a poly bottle, from the communal tap. The answer was unfortunately not, as no hoses are permitted to be used on the site and the water rates are already quite high.

QM: 10/02/24

**HANSLOPE PARISH COUNCIL - ALLOTMENT'S COMMITTEE
CONTACTS AND EMERGENCIES**

**IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, SUCH AS REQUIRING AN AMBULANCE, CALL 999
FOR NON-EMERGENCY POLICE MATTERS, CALL 101**

**IF YOU NEED THE GATE OPENING FOR THE EMERGENCY SERVICES TO ACCESS THE
ALLOTMENT SITE, CALL: IAIN LAURIE OR THE PARISH CLERK**

**FOR ALL OTHER ALLOTMENT MATTERS, PLEASE CONTACT A MEMBER OF THE ALLOTMENT
COMMITTEE, OR THE PARISH COUNCIL: -**

Committee Contact details:

Pat Cook – Practical help/advice:
Tel: 01908 510402

Roland Simpkins – Rents, Plot availability/allocation:
Mobile: 07973 772024 or roland.simpkins@hanslopeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Iain Laurie – Tool & machine hire (**to book tools – email Iain**):
Tel: 07768 362164
iain633@hotmail.com;

Fiona Scott – Practical help/advice
Tel: 07710 230915

Waldo Pacheco – Parish Councillor
Waldo.pacheco@hanslopeparishcouncil.gov.uk
Tel: 07764 563318

*Charles Walmsley - Help from the grandson:
Mobile: 07879 440067
email: walmsley302@btinternet.com*

Parish Council:

Gill Merry (Clerk) – Payments, tenancy agreements etc:
Mobile: 07383 091319 (Mon-Fri mornings only) or clerk@hanslopeparishcouncil.gov.uk