

Minutes of the Allotment Committee of Hanslope Parish Council, held on 22nd
January 2026, 2pm
at the Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Hanslope.

Present:

P Cook (Chairman)	Cllr H Needham
I Laurie	Cllr R Simpkins
Clerk: G Merry	0 Members of Public

26.01 Apologies for Absence: No apologies

26.02 Declarations of Interest

Mrs Cook and Mr Laurie declared an interest as allotment holders.

26.03 Minutes of the committee meeting held on September 4th, 2025:

The minutes were PROPOSED by Mrs Cook SECONDED by Mr Laurie and AGREED

26.04 Public Time: No items

26.05 Admin:

- i **Payment and budget situation:** The clerk advised that 1 tenant had not renewed and had not responded to emails or phone calls. It was agreed a letter would be sent advising the plot will now be vacated and re-let. The budget had been slightly exceeded this year, due to the high water bill and the cost of tree removal. However, there was a healthy balance in the income account.
- ii **Vacancies/waiting list:** Cllr Simpkins circulated a list of 8 vacant plots with no one on the waiting list. The clerk will publish the flier again on social media.
- iii **Bushwacker:** There had been little interest in this, with the best offer at £80. It was discussed and agreed to keep the Bushwacker for now.
- iv **Increase water contribution:** The clerk advised that water bills had increased significantly due to the availability of new taps and the very dry summer. It was discussed and agreed to increase the water rate portion of rents, from £7/year to £9, with immediate effect for new applicants.
MOTION: To agree the increase to £9/plot/year PROPOSED by Cllr Simpkins, SECONDED by Cllr Needham and AGREED.
- v **Agenda for Tenant's Meeting:** The clerk circulated the proposed agenda and this was agreed. It was agreed to publish this on the WhatsApp group and place on the notice boards at the site. The running of the meeting was discussed and it will start with chairman's introduction, short presentations from each member and an admin. update from the clerk. A seed swap table will be set up and the clerk will organise refreshments as usual. Cllr Needham will introduce her ideas.
- vi **Risks on site:** The clerk advised that although the risk assessment is in place, this is an ongoing responsibility. It was agreed the large Goat Willow in the centre of the site, will need reducing next year and will continue to be monitored. There were no other significant risks at present.

26.06 Maintenance:

- i **Condition of site and vacant plots:** No issues at present, as plots had been largely dormant over the winter. Any plots not worked last year will be monitored.

- ii. **Pond – consider quote and course of action:** The contractor had supplied a quote for £460, including dragging back removed spoil, installing fresh topsoil and removal of debris & pallets. The quote and work were agreed in principle. However, Mr Laurie will speak to the new tenant regarding options before implementing the work, as timing will be key due to the stages involved. The wood and pallets will be offered for other tenants to take.
- iii. **Any other maintenance issues:** A skip will be ordered early in April. Mr Laurie will complete the installation and painting of poles but will wait for drier weather.
MOTION: To agree the course of action and quote re. plot 75 @ £460, PROPOSED by Mrs Cook SECONDED by Mr Laurie and AGREED.

27.07 Plot Inspections/issues:

- i. **Updates from plot inspections:** No inspections had taken place, therefore no evictions. Inspections will be carried out in mid-late April.
MOTION: Not required

27.08 Plans

- i. **Speaker for Podcast:** Cllr Simpkins recommended all to listen to the new Hanslope Podcast and asked if anyone would like to take part as a guest. It was agreed plot holders would be asked at the Tenant’s meeting.
- ii. **Open Morning:** This will be held on Sunday 15th March 10-12am. Mrs Cook will organise refreshments and a poster/flyer and the banner will be needed.
- iii. **Social Events/competitions:** Cllr Needham circulated details of potential ideas for competitions e.g. Best Kept Plot. A local, trusted and impartial judge could be approached and winners will receive a cup, with medals for smaller prizes. A prize-giving event could be combined with a BBQ and it was agreed this should be a ‘bring your own food/drink’ arrangement. A potential date could be Sunday 6th September, with judging during August (potentially in National Allotment Week 11-17th Aug). This will be brought up at the tenant’s meeting in February to gauge enthusiasm.
- iv. **Swap Table:** Mr Laurie will move this closer to the wooden fence where it will be more sheltered and will build-in shelving and a covering.

27.09 Date of Next Meeting: Thursday April 20th 2026 at 2pm.

The annual tenant’s meeting on Monday 2nd February 2026 will have a new start time of 7pm

Signed Date