

Minutes of the Allotment Committee of Hanslope Parish Council, held on 4th
September 2025, 2pm
at the Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Hanslope.

Present:

P Cook (Chairman)
I Laurie

Cllr H Needham
Cllr R Simpkins

Clerk: G Merry

0 Members of Public

25.25 Apologies for Absence: Apologies were received and accepted from Ms Scott.

25.26 Declarations of Interest

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

25.27 Minutes of the committee meeting held on June 6th, 2025:

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

25.28 Public Time: No items

25.29 Admin:

- i **Payment and budget situation:** The clerk advised that allotment rents will go up to £1.90/pole for 2026 and this was agreed. The new tenants for plots 20 and 25 had not paid yet and the clerk advised that they are not officially tenants, therefore are not insured and asked everyone to look out for them attending the site. Cllr Simpkins clarified as follows:
 - Plot 71 is swapping for 75A from January
 - Plot 72B is adding plot 72
 - The tenant of plot 76A has already switched to this one.
 - 9a is being taken on by 9B, so will be invoiced for both.
- ii **Vacancies/waiting list:** Cllr Simpkins advised there were no vacant plots and no waiting list at present.
- iii **Rules 2025-26:** The clerk had circulated the amended rules with the final revised wording. These were agreed and will be implemented for 2026.
- iv **GDPR:** The clerk advised that a higher level of attention to Data Protection will now be required of parish councils and circulated a policy for the allotment committee. It was agreed that 6 months for retaining emails may be too short and this would be amended to 12 months. Otherwise, it was agreed the policy would be implemented.
- v **Risks on site:** The clerk advised that although the risk assessment is in place, this is an ongoing responsibility. There were no significant further risks at present.
- vi **Progress on CAD and new numbering:** Mr Laurie stated that numbering of poles is not quite complete and as such, the 2026 invoices would go out with the previous numbering. Mr Laurie will send Cllr Simpkins an updated spreadsheet with the new numbering, as all but 9 are changing numbers and these will be implemented from next year.

25.30 Maintenance:

- i. **Condition of site and vacant plots:** Hot temperatures over the summer had resulted in less work taking place. However, all tenants written to in June, had carried out some work. The skips had been well used.

- ii. **Arboricultural Assessment:** The assessor's report had been circulated and was generally accepted. The trees requiring action in the public/communal areas will be removed. However, some were on neighbouring land and the clerk will try to find out who the landowner is. There were 2 identified trees on tenanted plots (74 and 31) and it was agreed these did not currently pose a significant risk. The clerk will ask the tenants if they wished the trees to be removed.
MOTION: To agree the work on those trees in communal areas but amended to 'pending the outcome of repairs of 2 tenants as above'. A revised quote will be requested. PROPOSED by Mrs Cook SECONDED by Mr Laurie and AGREED.
- iii. **Flood Investigation Feedback:** The bore hole study had concluded that water will continue to pool in the low-lying section of the site, as the clay base allows only very slow drainage. Cllr Simpkins suggested an attenuation pond (funded from S106), might be the answer and this was discussed. It was agreed that as the flooding happens where tenants drive, it is not suitable for a pond and may even become a hazard, so the idea was shelved.
- iv. **Machine Maintenance:** Except for the large Bushwacker and the cultivator, all machines will be sent for servicing at the end of the growing season. The clerk will make the arrangements.
- v. **Any other maintenance issues:** It was agreed the clerk will purchase a second Stahl strimmer in time for next season.

25.31: Plot Inspections/issues:

- i **Updates from plot inspections:** The tenant of plot 75 had installed a pergola and some fencing but there was still no evidence of anything being grown. The pond is now covered but as this was the second year without growing, it was discussed and agreed not to renew the tenant's plot in 2026. Mrs Cook agreed to forward a copy of her letter sent to the tenant in June, to the clerk.
MOTION: To agree not to renew tenancy of plot 75, PROPOSED by Mr Laurie SECONDED by Cllr Needham and AGREED

25.32 Date of Next Meeting: Thursday January 22nd 2026 at 2pm.

The annual tenant's meeting will be on Monday 2nd February 2026 at 7pm

Signed Date