

Minutes of the Allotment Committee of Hanslope Parish Council, held on 30th  
April 2026, 2pm  
at the Pavilion, Recreation Ground, Hanslope.

**Present:**

P Cook (Chairman)  
I Laurie  
F Armstrong

Cllr H Needham  
Cllr R Simpkins

Clerk: G Merry

0 Members of Public

**26.10 Apologies for Absence:** No apologies

**26.11 Declarations of Interest**

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

**26.12 Minutes of the committee meeting held on January 22nd, 2026:**

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

**26.13 Public Time:** No items

**26.14 Admin:**

- i **Payment and budget situation:** The clerk advised that all tenants were paid up and the budget for the new financial year was set at £4350, of which £295 had been spent (skip) .
- ii **Vacancies/waiting list:** Cllr Simpkins advised that there were no vacancies with one person on the waiting list. Ms Armstrong advised that she is giving up her plot and will therefore need to resign from the committee. Her plot will be offered to someone on the waiting list. There is a need to get someone else onto the committee and the clerk will e-mail to all tenants.
- iii **Equipment Hire Documents:** The documents need to be revised, as deposits are no longer required and loaning of equipment is no longer limited to certain days. Mr Laurie advised that another tenant will be a key holder to the container and will help with equipment loans. Ms Armstrong will return her key. Mr Laurie will rewrite the hire documents and Cllr Simpkins will circulate these.
- iv **Risks on Site:** Now the pond has been filled, this no longer presented a risk. The damaged greenhouse has been disposed of and no further risks on site were identified.

**26.15 Maintenance:**

- i. **Condition of site and vacant plots:** Mrs Cook reported that there were several plots that had not yet been worked. Vacant plots will be monitored.
- ii. **Signage:** There was a need for a sign in the turning area and Mrs Cook suggested that this is 1 of several items to be included in an S106 application.
- iii. **Any other maintenance issues:** A skip will be ordered in late May. There were no further issues.

**26.16 Plot Inspections/issues:**

- i **Updates from plot inspections:** With regard to unworked plots, Mrs Cook advised as follows:
  - Plot 97 (formerly 34) needs to get a letter now as they are not working their plot. They need to tidy up and get rid of pallets.
  - Plot 55 (old numbering) has not been touched for two years. It was agreed the clerk would write to ask if they wish to give up their plot.

Mr Laurie and Mrs Cook will do an inspection at the end of May and notify the clerk.

**MOTION:** to agree letters to go out to tenants as detailed above PROPOSED by Mrs Cook, SECONDED by Mr Laurie, and AGREED.

**26.17 Plans**

- i. **Competition/prize giving, podcast and prizes:** Cllr Needham Is sourcing cups/trophies and rosettes. It was discussed and agreed that a new cup will be engraved each year. There will be rosettes for smaller prizes. 3 judges have agreed to take part and although there had been no entries just yet, Cllr Needham is continuing to promote the event.
- ii. **Other:** MKCC had advised that there was over £13,000 available in S106 money for Hanslope allotments. Mrs Cook had been working on a project to include a package of improvements. These include: enhancements to the community area, improving the car parking spaces by gate 2, more durable numbers to go on the posts, more fence posts to create more plots, pruning of the goat willow in the centre of the site to create space, the creation of raised beds in the community area with a view to encouraging children's groups such as the preschool, to come and plant strawberries etc. The cost of a gardener to create the raised beds, a picnic bench and some recycled plastic chairs, a paved area for a manure container plus fencing and gates and a contractor to create fencing for the community area plus cost of a contractor. The timeframe ideally would be this summer into autumn. However, the clerk advised the items will need to be collated, quotes obtained and only then the application submitted and this could take some time. Additionally it was agreed the clerk will apply Highways for permission to install plastic mesh inserts to the verges outside the site and MOT in the gateways. Mrs Cook and Mr Laurie will continue to work on all specifications and will advise the Clerk regarding quotes needed.

**26.18 Date of Next Meeting:** Thursday June 4th 2026 (TBC).

Signed ..... Date .....