

HANSLOPE PARISH COUNCIL

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✉ clerk@hanslopeparishcouncil.gov.uk

ANNUAL TENANT'S MEETING

on Monday 27th January 2025 at 7.30pm at Hanslope Community Hall, Recreation Ground, Castlethorpe Road.

Minutes

Present:

HPC Allotment's Committee: P Cook (Chair), I Laurie, F Scott

G Merry – Council Clerk (recording)

21 guests

Apologies Cllr R Simpkins,

25.001 Introductions and summary of the last year

Mrs Cook welcomed all to the meeting and introduced each committee member. Last season had been extremely wet and this resulted in a delay to the opening of the gate and water turn on. This will be monitored this year.

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

Mrs Cook is the committee chairman. Cllr Simpkins lets out the plots and deals with 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. She urged tenants to contact any member of the committee with any issues. The clerk deals with money, legal agreements and letters to tenants.

25.003 Legals and Agreements

- i. **2025 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, permitting use of the land.
- ii. **Payments:** A new payment deadline of Dec 1st had been implemented this year, in an attempt to reduce the amount of time the clerk spends chasing payments. Anyone who had not paid by January 1st has been asked to leave.
- iii. **Public Liability: Public Liability Insurance:** Tenants are liable for any legal claims for incidents on their plots. It was clarified that P.L. is included in the rent payment and paid-up tenants are covered, under their membership of the SWCAA. The clerk advised all tenants to lower risk levels on their plots, to avoid claims e.g. not leaving tools around. Ponds will no longer be permitted, for the same reason.
- iv. **Issues when giving up your plot:** Mrs Cook 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. However, if tenants are planning on giving up their plots, please let the Committee or PC know in good time and those in good condition will have deposits 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.

24.005 Allotments round-up

- i. **Equipment hiring procedures:** Mr Laurie advised all machines have now been serviced he asked that requests are made well in advance – 48 hours minimum. There are other key holders who can stand in and he asked for further volunteers. There is now a second mower as well as a brush cutter/trimmer and cultivator. Ms Scott asked that machines are returned clean. Mr Laurie and Cllr Simpkins have finished digitising the layout of the site, including plot numbering and the committee are in the process of updating corner posts and physical numbering. Tenants must not remove posts and should fix any accidentally knocked down.
- 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 heavy-duty trimmer will tackle even difficult growth but is not suited to uneven plots. 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 1/4/25, ground conditions permitting.
- 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 the stables. Never leave a bonfire unattended and put them out before leaving the site. The yellow flag shows the direction of the wind and has been moved to the toilet area.
- v. **Weedkiller:** All were asked to use care with 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. Non-compostable plant waste (bindweed etc) was discussed and it was agreed the committee would investigate hiring a skip where organics waste can be placed. Obtaining council green waste bins was discussed and will be investigated but the skip option is preferred.

25.005 Plans and date for Open Morning:

The Open Morning this year will this year be on Sunday 23rd March and all tenants are encouraged to spread the word and bring people along. Refreshments will be available. It is also helpful if plots are being worked on the day, to encourage newcomers. The back fence will be installed this year, as autumn had proved too wet. It was planned to install 3 new taps and these will be coming off of the exiting system. The committee will also be arranging a bore hole survey in the low-lying, communal section of the site, to investigate where water goes. This will enable decisions regarding a better drainage system. The committee are not allowing dipping tanks due to increased risk. Skips will be on site April, Summer & Autumn and once the committee have carried out work, tenants will be invited to fill these. A community compost bin may be installed between plots 18 & 19 and this was discussed. Mrs Cook and Mr Laurie will feedback on this. Volunteers were requested to help with vacant plots. Grass cutting by the contractor will increase by 2 extra cuts this season.

25.006 Tenants Q & A and feedback session

Q: Charles Walmsley introduced his grandson, who is doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award again this year. He is offering free help at the allotments, evenings/weekends, throughout the coming season. He will consider anything e.g. digging, post tops, any chores or clearance. Anyone interested in this should contact Charles, via the WhatsApp group.

Q: Mrs Cook reminded everyone not to bring dogs to the site but if brought, must be kept on leads. Dog walkers are being encouraged to stick to the Public footpath which runs along the front of the site only and not to let dogs run around or foul. Any dog fouling should be reported to the committee or clerk.

Q: The quality of hedge cutting was poor and could the contractor be asked to use a better flail? The clerk will look into this.

Q: What are the plans for the communal plot? Mrs Cook responded that tenants can use it as they wish, e.g. drinks evenings and picnics. Tenants can help themselves to any fruit grown there e.g. plums. Ms Scott advised that the communal shed has tools for anyone to use, provided these are returned.

Mrs Parry gave a vote of thanks to the committee for all their hard work and reminded all that the committee are volunteers. Mrs Cook encouraged all to get in touch with any issues and closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

gm: 29/01/25

**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