# GRACE & FLAVOUR DIRECTORS' MEETING 12th June 2025

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Present | Gerry (Chair), Michael, Beverley, Helena, Anne, Mark, Ray. | | |
| Apologies | John F, John W, Rob, Jane | | |
| Minute Taker | Gerry | | |
| REF | **ITEM** | **NOTES** | **ACTION** |
| **1.** | **Minutes of Last Meeting (April)** | Agreed | |
| | **Minutes of OGM (10 May 25)** | Agreed | |
| **2.** | **Matters Arising not covered elsewhere** | None | |
| **3.** | **Garden Report:** (tabled) An incredibly dry three months has led to many challenges (especially watering and blackfly) but overall, we can be pleased with the start of the 2025 crops. This year we have had an increase in the number of asparagus spears, as a result of having three beds of asparagus in production, last year there was only two, next year there will be four.<br>The plan is always to have masses of spinach available to ensure we have a green vegetable in the hungry gap. In spite of the blackfly which has resulted in some losses, the spinach has been excellent. Early turnips have been enjoyed by those who dare try them. We shall sow more in August for the autumn.<br>We had a seamless transition from polytunnel salads to outdoor salads. Although it is irritating to have to cover them as a result of the pheasant damage to our first little gem lettuces.<br>We have kept up with the sowing and planting plan, except the dry weather has meant sowing carrots and parsnips has been difficult. Hopefully though we are now up to date.<br>By the time this report is read the broad beans and peas should be being enjoyed.<br>We have had some issues of germination perhaps caused by excessive temperatures in the polytunnel or perhaps the seed quality. My biggest concern are the autumn cauliflowers, red cabbages and dwarf French beans. Hopefully some resowing will have resolved this.<br>Sadly as ever the weeds have grown larger than intended but the paeonies have been the most sought after crop in the garden.<br>The polytunnels and greenhouses are full of summer crops. We have planted more tomatoes this year, with sweet peppers, chilies and aubergines being grown in pots in the greenhouses. The fruit team led by Beverley have been summer pruning the plums, and will have to do significant thinning of the fruit as so much has set.<br>RB commented that low volunteer numbers meant we were somewhat behind with weeding and planting compared to April.<br>MT raised the issue of members not taking requested vegetables immediately after the morning break. Cropping often delayed until after the break.<br>**Action: Cropping of limited supply items to be done before break.** | | **RB /JW** |
| **4.** | **Company Secretary Issues:** Annual return done on line, fee paid and receipt acknowledged by Companies House.<br>Companies House are asking all company directors to confirm their identities. This will be a mandatory process by autumn of this year.<br>**GR to go through process and feedback to other directors.** | | **GR** |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **5.** | **Finance Reports: (tabled)**<br>**Finance Report- month ending 30th April 2025**<br>The value of sales to members during April 2025 was £345 compared with £263 in April 2024. In addition thank you to Ashtead Horticultural Society for their generous donation of £100 following a presentation kindly given by Bob Spackman.<br>Expenditure this April was £68 the largest item being a fee of £34 paid to Companies House on filing our annual confirmation statement. The resulting net surplus for the month of £377 increased our current account balance to £6,480 at the end of April 2025.<br>**Finance Report- month ending 31st May 2025**<br>The value of sales to members during May 2025 was £559 compared with £440 in April 2024. In addition we had a donation of £100 arising from sale of old rotavator.<br>Expenditure in total this May was £1,028. The largest expenditure category was £717 on plant and equipment including tank covers for the allotments and veggie mesh for the garden. The resulting net deficit for the month of £369 reduced our current account balance to £6,111 at the end of May 2025.<br>It is noted that the combination of recent dry weather and increased water prices will increase water costs billed next month to £145 and this situation could prevail through the summer.<br>The finance tables for April and May provide by the treasurer were not reviewed.<br>RB reported receiving a donation from Jeremy Miles towards the garden's ground rent.<br>**HSM to arrange veg box for Mr Miles as a 'thank you'.** | **HSM** |
| **6.** | **Website:**<br>**MB:** Nothing new to report on the website.<br>GR had received an email from a member on behalf of a potential new member who had tried several times to join online with no success. A test application subsequently confirmed the website was working,<br>**BN to investigate further with new member when they come to the garden.**<br><br>**Communications**<br>**GR:** Items about G+F had been supplied for West Horsley Info, The Horsley Directory, and Vantagepoint (to appear in July edition). The latter's online calendar did not seem to be working correctly.<br>Carolyn Whitfield suggested we might offer an article on G+F for the Surrey Hills Enterprises (SHE) magazine but on enquiry only SHE member organisations/ companies are featured. It was agreed G+F would not pursue becoming a SHE affiliate at present.<br>A newsletter will be circulated soon about the **summer social evening on Saturday 5th July.** | **BN**<br><br>**GR** |
| **7.** | **Allotments Report:** Diptank covers are in use. Waiting list now up to 5. Satisfactory mowing rota in place. | |
| **8.** | **Building Team Report:** (message from RT)<br>Need for electric fence around sweetcorn. Bob Spackman leading on this. Safety warning signs being considered. Fence will be switched on each evening and off each morning so the risk of electric shock to members should be minimised.<br>Pond bridge basic frame in place. Work to continue, weather permitting. | |
| **9.** | **Wildlife Report**: Nest boxes checked twice approximately one month apart so far and show approximately 50% occupancy for both small and large boxes. One box has both stock dove and mallard eggs! | |
| **10.** | **Health & Safety:** see item 8. | |

## GRACE & FLAVOUR DIRECTORS' MEETING 12th June 2025

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **11.** | **NGS Open Day:**<br>Beverley's group to meet again on 26th June. Plants for sale are accumulating at G+F. Timothy Matthews, producer from Radio Woking (RW) has visited garden and plans to send a reporter to come on the Open Day.<br>**Action:** Need to check if RW want information notice at entrance to let visitors know they may be interviewed. | **BN** |
| **AOB** | 1. MT asked what plans were for rough cutting the ground under the limes trees ? to be an annual event. Needs discussion with RT.<br>2. MT Car Park rutting is increasing. Do we need to renew the gravel grid at entrance where worn away. Needs discussion with RT.<br>3. BN attended U3A CPR training session and was able to discuss our AED battery with Fran King who raised the possibility of a grant from WHPC towards replacement (probably due in Oct 2026). SSM to be alerted.<br>4. BN had reviewed our compliance with GDPR regulations and did not think further action was required as G+F current records are appropriate, up to date, and kept securely. (Note added after meeting: GR has confirmed that our Privacy Policy states that members may review information about them and request for it to be amended or deleted.<br>5. RT had suggested G+F have an Equal Opportunities policy. A draft had been circulated. Further discussion to be deferred to a later meeting.<br>6. Re dogs in the garden. it was agreed that it would not be helpful to put a sign at the entrance as the rules for the allotment area and main garden were different. No further action.<br>7. RAC group to visit G+F on 22nd July 2pm. Up to 20 visitors with donation of up to £10 per head expected. JW to lead the tour. Refreshments and cakes requested. Members to be asked to help.<br>8. GR: NT inspection led by Suzanne Harrald this morning billed as inspection of 'Dene Place Allotments' but was of entire site, mainly focussing on safety of the walls. G+F thanked for clearing the scrub weeds against the walls and maintaining the supports. **Outcome: Visit by NT structural engineer to follow. G+F advised to clear the rest of outside face of the north wall. Hatchlands team to be asked by SH to re-check the large birch tree and car park black poplar which is leaning over entrance.** | **RT**<br>**RT**<br>**BN**<br>**GR**<br>**RT** |

**Next Directors' Meeting**: Thursday 10 July 2025 7.30pm, Potting Shed

**Chairman:** Gerry Robbins **Minute Taker:** John W