GRACE & FLAVOUR DIRECTORS' MEETING 2026 9th July 2026

Present	Beverley (chair), Ray, Michael, Rob, Helena, Stephen, Jane, Anne, John W,		
Apologies	John F, Gerry		
Minute Taker	John W		
REF	**ITEM**	**NOTES**	**ACTION**
1.	**Minutes of Last Meeting**	They were agreed	
2.	**Matters Arising not covered elsewhere**	None	
3.	**Garden Report:** The weather has been the most challenging in the garden's history. This has followed on from an incredibly hot 2025. The range of vegetables for sale has increased with the first summer vegetables becoming available, courgettes and cucumbers are already producing in large quantities. We have had a few tomatoes too. The soft fruit in the cage has suffered in the heat, ripening all together, but although not perfect we have had a reasonable / good crop. We have now started to water the raspberries and shortly the blackberries. The new irrigation has overall been a massive help. It has allowed us to spend time watering other areas of the garden. As the experiment continues and expands we will be able to decide if we increase our expenditure on irrigation, recognising there are annual costs likely to be associated with doing so. Beverley and Michael have been working extremely hard on the fruit trees. Thinning plums is a time consuming but necessary job. We shall see the quality of the crop but maybe we have to put in place some strategy to help with thinning. Helena keeps having lovely flowers available for sale. The tithe started successfully today There are some really positive points about the growth in the garden. Hopefully overall we will have an excellent year. Surrey Hills were incredibly impressed when they came to visit. We achieved 2 Golds at West Horsley in Bloom. However …. There are two big issues The number of weeds that we have in the garden, particularly thistles, fat hen (it is edible, (Cherry loves it) and the large grass which are beginning to distribute seeds all over the garden. Watering The members although still reasonable in number are finding it difficult, particularly in the heat. Are there any realistic solutions? Do we need to do anything yet or see how another year goes… ? I have some ideas to discuss, you may have more Reduce the area we grow in. Reduce some crops that are particularly labour intensive. We have reduced gradually from 5 carrot beds to 4 last year to 3 this year. We could for example not grow maincrop potatoes or reduce the amount of onions grown. Use black weed suppressant to grow a lot more crops through eg brassicas / courgettes / onions would be great as they need a lot of weeding (as can be seen in the garden) Divide the garden into about 10 areas and give someone responsibility for that section along with 1 or 2 helpers.		John

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4.	**Company Secretary Issues:** No matters	
5.	**Finance Report:** The value of sales to members during June 2026 was £810 compared with £728 last month and £897 last year in June 2025. Expenditure in total in June was £960 including £426 on water, £341 on irrigation testing equipment and £184 cost of sales (mostly seeds and compost). The higher than normal water charge was due to increased watering during May's dry weather, a leak to piping in the garden (now located and repaired) and the significant annual increase in Castle Water's tariff. July's water bill is anticipated to be circa £215 The current account balance at the month end was £7514	
6.	**Website, Communications etc.:** The vegetable of the month needs to be updated. There was a very good article in WHPC magazine. The recent newsletter was only opened by 22% rather than the normal 30% of members	John W
7.	**Allotments Report:** A number of allotments are in a poor state. Michael has sent out a small number of reminders asking people to keep their allotments in a decent condition. At least 2 have had no work done on them this year. As a result one half of an allotment has become available, as one individual is possibly moving. One has said he will try to do some work on his allotment. As there is now one vacancy but no one on the waiting list, we thought there should be an advert placed on the parish noticeboards and GF noticeboard in E. Horsley It should be included in a newsletter.	Michael Patrick Beverley
8.	**Estate Management Report:** All standpipes now have two fittings, one for the irrigation system at the top and one for normal hoses on the bottom. 2 stopcocks have been added to enable us to isolate areas of the garden's water supply if there is a leak or damage to pipework. As a result there should rarely be a need to cut off the whole water supply. A new latch has been added to the inside of the new polytunnels southern entrance. If we use this exclusively there should be no need to use the outside latch, which is not easy to get to. Dene Place have arranged a survey of the sewage pipework etc. which they feel is not fit for purpose. The sewage that caused the unpleasant smell near our garden has been removed. Progress on irrigation will in future appear in the Garden report. Overall pleased with the work Rob H and David D have done. David is in charge of the section near the NW wall. Rob is looking after the polytunnels and other areas of the garden. We will review progress in September. Rob H is to be invited to the directors meeting. Stephen suggested we need a record of all the equipment that we have bought. We should write a short manual to explain how the irrigation equipment can be used.	John W / Rob H
9.	**Health and Safety Report**: The defibrillator training will take place on Friday 17th at 2pm. At present we have 11 signed up. We can take 20. Beverley will send an email asking active members if anyone is interested in attending.	Beverley

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	The garden will pay for the training.	Stephen Gerry
10.	**Wildlife Report:** The pond is very low, we will keep topping it up	Gerry
12.	**AOB** **1) Summer Evening Social 11th July – and blitz week** Social will take place this weekend. The blitz week was not successful. It was too hot and too late. Review at next meeting when we need to decide whether we open for the NGS **2) Garden visits – Surrey Hills Society** was successful **3) West Horsley in Bloom awards** we were awarded gold in both non-residential garden and sustainability classes **4) Event for Guildford Mayor** Rob spoke to the mayor of Guildford at the West Horsley in Bloom awards. She wasn't aware of our existence, and was very interested. Through Elaine Best we will invite her to visit on either Tuesday or Thursday work mornings **5) Tom** has volunteered to show any visitors around the garden **6) John W and Gerry are attending the People Emergency meeting** film and discussion on Wednesday 15th July. Gerry will talk and John will ensure we have a small visual display of our work. **7) Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership** are starting a community garden in Guildford. They would like to arrange a meeting. We have suggested they come to the garden not a zoom meeting. 8) We should check on members who are not attending the garden, particularly for health reasons. We should offer to take some vegetables to them.	Beverley Rob Gerry and John Beverley Beverley / Rob

Next Meeting: Thursday 13th August 7.30pm, in the Potting Shed

Chairman: Beverley **Minute Taker:** Anne