GRACE & FLAVOUR DIRECTORS' MEETING 2026 13th August 2026

Present	Beverley (chair), Ray, Michael, Rob, Helena, Stephen, Anne, JohnF, Mark, Gerry		
Apologies	John W, Jane		
Minute Taker	Anne		
REF	**ITEM**	**NOTES**	**ACTION**
1.	**Minutes of Last Meeting**	They were agreed	
2.	**Matters Arising not covered elsewhere**	None	
3.	**Garden Report** It has been hot!!!!but considering the temperatures we have still been able to have some good crops. Yields are down for potatoes, brassicas, raspberries and runner beans so far but up for aubergines, plums, Padron peppers, cucumbers and dwarf French beans. Unfortunately, salad crops are bolting more quickly than normal. We have a massive crop of onions. Sweet corn is really disappointing with enormous damage from birds and rats, we think, and brassicas have been heavily impacted by flea beetle (a national problem this year in hot dry weather) The melons have been an interesting experiment and are looking good for a first year. Although there are still issues to iron out, the irrigation system has been invaluable this year. Thanks to Rob and David. There is a great deal of research being completed to look at the distribution of water. David and John are actively monitoring crops and experimenting with timers and flows. The irrigation team have agreed to provide a written report to Beverley for the AGM with a review presentation to the Directors at our November meeting. Carolyn's Wednesday Weeders have a great impact every week. John may not be present in the garden for much of September but planting e.g. spring cabbage and autumn sown onions will continue. Towards the end of the month the polytunnels will need to be replanted, until then tasks are mainly cropping and maintaining the garden		Rob & David
4.	**Company Secretary Issues:** No matters		
5.	**Finance Report:** The value of sales to members during July 2026 was £808 compared to £810 last month and £1080 July 2025. This difference is in part due to a boost from the NGS day last year. Expenditure in total in June was £1150 including £117 on water, £729 on Phase 1B irrigation equipment, £166 on safety related services with the balance on cost of sales, a gas bottle and general repairs. We received £195 this month. Our thanks go to the following organisations and individuals for their generous donations and grant: -		

	Surrey Hills following their visit to the garden and talk by John Whitlock Probus Club of the Horsleys following a talk given by Bob Spackman Jeremy Miles gave a grant towards annual rent (Thank you letter and veg box to be sent) The current account balance at the month end was £7307 Water bills are expected to be significantly higher this year due to the prolonged hot weather; we are budgeted to spend £810 but now estimate to be *circa* £2400 with approximately £1700 to be paid this financial year.	BN/ HSM
6.	**Website, Communications etc.:** The vegetable of the month (French Beans) has been published. The next newsletter was discussed. It will include notice of the AGM, apple pressing, the availability of a half plot allotment and something on the crops in the new polytunnel. There were discussions on published Director's meeting minutes in a timely manner. It was agreed that minutes can be published on the website when we have an 'agreed draft', to be followed by formal approval at the next meeting.	BN AB/MB
7.	**Allotments Report:** The gate code and phone number have now been changed and notification sent to allotment holders and members. There is one person on the waiting list. One half allotment available with a second half probably becoming vacant at renewal. Patrick has advertised this on the Horsley notice board. Renewal notices will be sent out early September.	
8.	**Estate Management Report:** The area by the patio has been cleared and dug over. There are plans in hand for replanting with lavender, roses and herbs. The Estate Management team are currently refurbishing the potting shed tables. A lock has been installed on the toilet. Allotment holders and members have been advised of the code. The facility will be left unlocked on work mornings – but will need someone to remember to lock it at the end of the session! An 'End of grant monitoring form' for the Poly Tunnel Project will be sent to Surrey Community Fund (who paid the grant). This must be done by the end of January 2027. A thank you letter has already been sent (Dec 2025).	RT/SSM/JW
9.	**Health and Safety Report**: The defibrillator training took place and was felt to be very successful with enthusiastic audience participation. We have been advised that the functioning of the AED battery should be checked every 90 days. Due to the current fire risk, it was agreed that a claxon (£20 approx.) should be bought and used to alert members to evacuate the site. The installation of a code-padlock on the gate to Dene Place was discussed to allow a secondary exit from the car park but this depends in part on who owns the gate. MT to see if we have an old padlock we can use, if required. Gerry has produced a sign showing the What3Words location of the site for the emergency services. An emergency evacuation procedure will be written.	GR/BN RT MT RT
10.	**Wildlife Report:** The temperature in the pond is felt to be very high due to the low water level and black liner. Gerry has been topping it up regularly and has spotted 3 species of dragonfly still interested (and a dead young fox).	GR

	Water stations have been installed around the site to allow wildlife access to a drink.	
12.	**AOB** 1) Summer Evening Social in July was held on a lovely summer's evening, on the patio and was felt to be a success. 2) Harvest Festival (October). Discussions on which church we should approach to lead the celebration. 3) Apple Pressing – Ray will make the press available from the 2nd week in September but there is a shortage of apples this year. 4) CAN Meeting 27th July attended by Beverley. The main topic was the climate action film. A showing of the film was suggested for 28th August at WHVH. Beverley to check if it is going ahead. 5) NGS 2027. Could only go ahead if we can use Dene Place field for parking again. Project leader required. 6) Surrey Lifelong Learning Partnership visited in July 7) Hatchlands walled garden team visiting on 28th August. 8) 'Garden Shed' group visit postponed until 2028. 9) Claudia painting group visit postponed until we have more information. Beverley to contact Claudia & talk to John W/Lynn 10) The suggestions for future organization/planning for the garden were looked at. Some are already actioned while some need more thought. Beverley has grouped the ideas which will be displayed with the minutes in the Potting Shed. 11) The BBQ released from the undergrowth on the patio is on eBay 12) Rubbish in the corner of the car park will be removed.	 BN BN BN BN RT MT, SSM

Next Meeting: Thursday 10th September 7.30pm WHVH

Chairperson: Beverley **Minute Taker:** John F