GRACE & FLAVOUR DIRECTORS' MEETING 11th September 2025

Present	Gerry (Chair), Beverley, Ray, Helena, Stephen, Mark, John W		
Apologies	John F, Jane, Anne, Rob, Michael T		
Minute Taker	John W		
REF	**ITEM**	**NOTES**	**ACTION**
1.	**Minutes of Last Meeting**	They were agreed with one change. Mark is not a director and does not need to register with govuk.	
2.	**Matters Arising not covered elsewhere**	1. Beverley and Gerry have met in order for Beverley to learn how to use Mailchimp. She will be able to take over when the timing is appropriate. Unfortunately, only one email address can be associated with the account. 2. The price list has been updated. However, with the present display board it is a difficult task. We have agreed to go back to a printed list, Rob and Gerry will agree the format	GR, RT
3.	**Garden Report:** We have survived the drought. There have been some causalities, but overall, the summer has been successful. High summer crops such as tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, and sweet corn have been very good. The main issues have been with scab on the potatoes and lack of sprouting broccoli. The fruit has been magnificent and we have had an abundance of flowers. We need more mesh, there are too many have holes in them, and not enough wide mesh. We are having to cover more crops because of bird damage on salad and other leafy crops. It was agreed John could spend £250 pounds immediately on netting or mesh. We need to use the covers we have more effectively, ensuring no gaps are left. The other issue is over cropping?		JW
4.	**Company Secretary Issues:** All replies have been received for the insurer's questionnaire. The submission has been sent to the insurers. A reply is awaited. Michael will try registering on the gov.uk website, and report back. All directors will need to register.		
5.	**Finance Report:** The value of sales to members during August 2025 was £923 compared to £1081 in July 2025 and compared with £1016 in August 2024. Expenditure in total this August was £700 with water and paving / maintenance materials being the main items. The resulting net surplus of income over expenditure for August was £223. In addition, allotment fees of £260 were received in advance for the 2025-2026 year. The current account balance therefore increased by £493 to £8026.99.		
6.	**Website, Communications etc.:** One recipe has been added. Mark puts the content on the website that he receives.		

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7.	**Allotments Report:** The agreement renewals have been sent out. Some returns have been received, as well as some payments into the account. One person on the waiting list has not responded and been removed from the list. One person with half a plot has been advised they have not used it sufficiently this year and have been asked to relinquish it. The first on the waiting list has been offered a full plot and has taken it. The next three can be offered a half plot. Another half plot may be given up as someone is likely to move away from the village. The mulberry tree is dead and could be felled the next time we have tree surgeons on site. One apple tree looks very unhealthy and needs investigating. Gerry reported a wasps nest under the birch, possibly eaten in part by badgers. The seat has been put back under the old birch tree with its dying branches. It was agreed to move the bench again and request that Michael includes the issue in an e mail to allotment holders.	RB and MT
8.	**Building Team Report:** There was no report.	
9.	**Wildlife Report**: See reference to wasps in allotment report. David Payne will help with clearing the pond. There are quite few hornets in the garden, but it has been a poor year for dragonflies. A new system will be trialed using a water butt to fill the pond. We need to empty the weed bins by the compost area. A range of possibilities for it use was discussed	
10.	**Open Day:** There were no volunteers to organize a NGS Open Day in 2026. Also, there has been no reply from the owners of Dene Place about whether we could have used their field as a car park. Gerry has phoned Claire Bevan to say that we will not be opening for the NGS in 2026 but we have not discounted the idea for 2027. Beverley will enquire with Dene Place if we had an Open Day in 2027 whether their field would be available The Isaacs have been given a vegetable box from the garden. Beverley, Stephen and Helena are attending the Cherry Trees 45 Years Celebration. Cherry Trees visited the garden today (September 11th) to photograph the handing over of their cheque. They were also told we would not be holding an NGS Open Day next year.	
11.	**Health & Safety:** See reference to bench in allotments	GR
12.	**AOB** **1.** Apple pressing begins this Saturday. **2.** AGM. Gerry will produce a draft agenda with timings. John W and Beverley will need to be re-elected. Beverley will become the new chairman / chairperson. **3.** Shed Clearance. It was agreed that during the winter we need to sort the two sheds by the south west gate. **4.** John W sent his apologies for the meeting in October	

Next Meeting: Thursday 9th October 2025 7.30pm, Wesley Room, Methodist Hall, WH

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