GRACE & FLAVOUR DIRECTORS' MEETING 10th September 2026

Present	Beverley (Chair), Michael, Mark, Jane, John F, Helena and Stephen
Apologies	John W, Gerry, Rob, Anne and Ray
Minute Taker	John F

REF	ITEM	NOTES	ACTION
1.	**Minutes of August Directors' Meeting for approval**	Minutes formally approved.	
2.	**Matters Arising not covered elsewhere**	All actions completed including irrigation report, veg boxes to Jeremy Miles and Brian Manners, newsletter, AED 90 day battery check, provision of Klaxon with key to lock on gate from car park to Dene Place, emergency evacuation procedure, church representative for Harvest Festival (see later), film at West Horsley Village Hall went ahead (some members of G&F attended), decision about NGS (see later), Claudia (no further contact made despite best efforts) and finally both the barbecue and petrol generator are still on ebay.	All
3.	**Garden Report**	In his absence John W provided a written report: Briefly we have achieved remarkable success considering the drought, albeit with a heavy use of water. Overall the sweet corn in spite of a couple of pest attacks have produced a reasonable amount of cobs. The warmth loving crops such as tomatoes, cucumber and aubergines have been very prolific. Some crops have over produced. We shall have to consider this is in planning for next year. The melons have been enjoyed by virtually everyone who has had one. The main problems have been the impact of flea beetle destroying some whole crops e.g. pak choi and Chinese cabbages and others such as purple sprouting broccoli have taken quite a hit. Salads have been of poorer quality. Some of our autumn and winter vegetables look very promising. Leeks we will start digging in the middle of September. There is a big squash crop, and some brassicas such as cabbages, kale and Brussels sprouts look to be in good condition. The plums have been magnificent, but the apples will be very reduced in number. In spite of the conditions, the raspberries and blackberries have been fairly successful. Helena, almost single handedly continues to have lovely flowers for sale. The big challenge is to dig the potato crop!!! Addition to Garden report: Fruit tree greasing to take place on 8th October 2026	BN

4.	**Company Secretary Report**	Insurance renewal due in October. Should be straightforward but nothing heard yet. (Received 11/9)	
5.	**Finance Report**	The value of sales to members during August 2026 was £812 compared to £806 in July 2026 and compared with £923 in August 2025. Expenditure in total this August was £586, with the main items being the water utility bill at £271, cost of sales £136 (seeds and tree grease) and maintenance materials £87. The resulting net surplus of income over expenditure for August is £226 giving a current account balance on 31st August of £7,533. Due to the lag in the water billing process a significantly higher water bill is anticipated in September. This is due to the significant increase in volume of water used for irrigation during the recent record drought.	
6.	**Website & Communications**	Mark reported that there was an error message on the Grace and Flavour website. He logged on to Eco hosting and the upshot was that it was their fault as they were doing something to their whole system. They have corrected the fault and the system is now working correctly. Aubergine is the vegetable of the month (John F to send a photo of the enormous aubergine to Beverley)	
7.	**Allotments Report**	One full plot and three half plot allotments are available and all renewals are out for collection by allotment holders in the potting shed. Some have been collected and returned but many have not.	MT
8.	**Estate Management Report**	The team have been busy refurbishing the tables in the potting shed. Scalpings have been purchased for the path from the car park to the potting shed to make the repair where the bridge of rotten timbers is at the moment The team have also fixed the gate from the car park to Dene Place and repaired the fence by the daffodil bed on the way from the car park to the potting shed.	RT
9.	**Health & Safety**	Nothing to report this month	
10.	**Wildlife Report**	In his absence Gerry produced a written report: Trees: The diseased lime (No. 8 just outside Tom's Gate) now has a completely leafless crown but continues to show leafy green epicormic growth. No evidence of new fruiting fungal bodies. The large silver birch in the allotments is looking surprisingly good with mainly green leaves in spite of the prolonged	

		drought. No obvious newly dead branches. NO further news from Roman about the car park poplar that needs to be felled. Water Stations: there are four spaced around the garden. Two of these look like they are being heavily used by wildlife (see next section). I will probably reposition the other two to more open positions. Wildlife Camera: I set up my 'bush' camera facing one of the water stations and recorded a wide variety of birds and animals. I then shifted it to the outside path beyond the big ash tree near the pond. This spot was chosen because it had been used as a latrine by badger. Again quite a variety of visitors. No rats seen! Full report at the AGM. Pond Activity: Following the change in weather I have only needed to add water once or twice per week. Unfortunately the high nutrient content of tap water has caused thick, choking algal and blanket weed growth. This has required repeated skimming which inevitably has inadvertently also removed oxygenating pond weed. Hopefully this will correct itself with cooler wetter weather. On the plus side I spotted a mating couple of southern hawker dragonflies briefly as well as two other species within 5 minutes or so. So there is hope! Tim has kindly agreed to top up the pond if needed during my absence. Thank you Tim.	
	AOB	1. NGS – The deadline for entry in 2027 is 21st September 2026. At the moment we have no permission from Dene Place to use their field as a car park despite making the request. Any potential opening for NGS may therefore in any event have to be postponed to 2028. 2. Susie Gent from NGS is coming to see the Garden next Tuesday at 11.30 3. Harvest Festival 17thOctober 2026: Charlie Thompson of St Martin's will come early to have a tour of the Garden. 4. Squash lunch also 17thOctober 2026. 5. Apple pressing: Ray will bring up the equipment but suspects that there will be a severe shortage of apples this year. 6. The Walled Garden team from Hatchlands visited to see how we did things. 7. Garden Visits to come: NGS (as above mentioned)15th September, Plein Air painters 18th September but WHP proposed visit has all gone quiet. 8. AGM preparation: All those speaking should send presentations to Mark 9. Highlights of meeting to report at coffee/teatime at the Garden are: Provision of Klaxon and key to lock on Dene Place gate, Harvest Festival and Squash Lunch.	BN BN

Next Meeting: Thursday 8th October 2026 7.30pm, Wesley Rooms

Chair: Beverley Nash Minute Taker: John W