GRACE & FLAVOUR DIRECTORS' MEETING 8th October 2026

Present	Beverley (Chair), Michael, Mark, John W, Anne, Rob T, John F, Gerry, Helena, Stephen, Rob Harris		
Apologies	Jane and Ray		
Minute Taker	Mark		
REF	**ITEM**	**NOTES**	**ACTION**
1.	**Minutes of August Directors' Meeting for approval**	Minutes formally approved.	
2.	**Matters Arising not covered elsewhere**	Fruit Trees greasing completed	
3	**Irrigation**	Slides and description by Rob Harris. Work done by Rob and Dave. *No drop in gross sales this year compared with last year even with drought.* The advantages are that it can save 80% of water on like for like basis (particularly since watering overnight 6pm-9am) and watering is less labour intensive. However there is a high initial cost and some ongoing costs. T tape. T stands for turbulent. Flexible and lightweight. 14 standpipes, 8 added, originally had 6. Over the summer number of T tapes on beds adjusted as standpipes were a limiting factor. Most beds adequately watered with two tapes. Some vegetables like lettuce need more tapes, probably 4, as roots are shallower. Some tape has 8 inches between emitters; others have 4 inches. Run 20 tapes with 8-inch emitters and 10 tapes with 4-inch emitters, this is from one standpipe. Trying to achieve more standardization of bed lengths to allow use of same length T tapes. As yet T tape life not known, indicated to be 3 years. T tapes will be stored over winter. Need to monitor to check for damage, either freezing or rodent attack. Need to have a working group to manage irrigation. Evaluate where and when to put tapes next year. Measure rainfall, evaporation and soil with hygrometers to aid planning. Still considering other options. Want to evaluate putting T tape everywhere in the garden that needs it. Total cost would be between £2500-£3500. £1000 in the budget for next year. Have a shorter, top line presentation for the AGM Consider a grant application from the Parish Council for funds. Discuss with Tony Rogers, Parish Councilor.	Dave/Rob JW

4.	**Garden Report**	The very mild weather has enabled many of the summer crops to be still producing at the beginning of October, for example tomatoes, French beans, aubergines, Padron peppers, courgettes and red peppers. However the runner beans finished early and cucumbers have just had their final pick. Also the sweet corn was impacted by magpies, which was disappointing as they had been so good. The irrigation system has enabled us to produce some good late summer / early autumn brassicas such as cabbages, kale, Romanesco and calabrese. Fortunately, although hit badly by flea beetle the purple sprouting broccoli looks to have recovered well. Overall I think we can be pleased with what has been produced in the hottest and driest summer we have experienced. The polytunnels are being planted with their over wintering crops, salads, kale, chard, fennel, garlic and carrots so far. *Anne is collecting seeds from a number of our vegetables including tomatoes and beans.* I would like to thank the watering team, Michael, John F, Tim, David D, Trevor, Ray and Ashley for all their hard work ensuring our polytunnels have been so productive this year. When someone has asked for cover the response has always been very quick, and often people are almost fighting over who will help. Beverley and her team have greased the fruit trees. We are looking forward to some quinces shortly. *Helena still has lovely flowers. We have been supplying St. Mary's church with flowers for their displays over the last 5/6 weeks. Some income from this.* *The first delivery of manure will take place in the next few weeks.*	
5.	**Company Secretary Report**	Insurance renewed for the coming year and certificate is in the potting shed.	
6.	**Finance Report**	Member Sales totaled £1,051 for September 2026, compared to £1304 for September 2025 and £862 for August 2026. Crop yields are starting to recover from the very dry weather this summer. Expenditure during last month was £2,280 which included cost of sales of £98, and £458 for the annual insurance premium, £1,084 to cover our water usage through August and September, £161 on ground repairs at car park and £278 for a roll of vegiemesh netting. Other operating and maintenance costs totalled £201.	

		New Fruit cage supports were kindly donated by Bob Spackman to value. Our current account balance was £7,089 on 30th September and we have £11,353 operating contingency held on deposit. During September £750 allotment fees were received in advance, being all payments due from current plot holders. The associated income will be recognized in October's accounts. Draft annual accounts for the financial year ending 30th September2026 will be presented at the forthcoming AGM in November. The Directors discussed the proposed forecast income and expenditure budget slide for the coming year to be presented at AGM. It was proposed to plan for a net cash surplus of £400 (income less expenditure), based on a forecast total income of £10,000.	SSM
7.	**Website & Communications**	The website is up to date. The latest item added was the vegetable of the month. September Newsletter is out. There will be an October newsletter, promoting the AGM, following the harvest festival.	
8.	**Allotments Report**	Renewals now completed. One full and two half plots are vacant. One lady taking a half plot No waiting list. Email report sent on occupation of the allotments to the Parish Council. Trees in allotments all greased by Nikki. Discussion on changing the Terms of Agreement related to two copies being required when renewed. The initial agreement has to be witnessed. The Agreements are for one year. Agreed that Michael, John F and Stephen review the issue outside the meeting.	MT/JF/SSM
9.	**Estate Management Report**	Repairs made to Dene Place Gate, so it can be used an emergency exit. Access bridge over the rainwater sewer has been completed. The new Polytunnel is being attacked by birds. Possibly attracted to insects inside the skin or water condensation on the inside. It was agreed that a camera should be put up to investigate. Possibly put something up to deter the birds, eg bunting. Proposal to pave the area between two polytunnels. Dene Place cesspit appears to have been repaired. Need to keep an eye on it.	GR

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10.	**Health & Safety**	Defibrillator, next check is due on 8th November	GR
11.	**Wildlife Report**	Nothing to report this month	
	AOB	1. Many thanks were conveyed to the Directors of Grace and Flavour from Jeremy Miles and Brian Manners for the seasonal vegetable boxes received 2. AGM: Presentations for AGM are required to be sent to MB electronically 1 week before the AGM. Written reports to be sent to Anne who is minute taker. 3. 29th October there will be a visit by Wet Horsley Place. Anne and Michael will be there to show them round. 4. NGS Open day. There will not be an NGS open day next year. Possibly have a "Pop Up" in July.	All

AGM: 12th November 7.30pm, West Horsley Village Hall. Scribe: Anne

Next Directors Meeting: Thursday 19th November 2026 7.30pm, Wesley Room
Chair: Beverley Nash Minute Taker: Mark