

HOBBS FARM ALLOTMENTS AND GARDEN SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 1st February 2026

Minutes

- Those present:

Jan Laing, David Robinson, Alan Bone, Simon Buckleton, Tony Kerslake, Sue Ford, Ali Weller, Ali Walpole, Geoff Martin (all committee members), Barbara Bone, Tony Long, Vince Mays, Michael Givaux, Claire Belcher, John Nicol, Katrina McGrath, Will Fox, Jason Burford, Bridgette Macilwaine.

- Apologies for absence:

Adrian Goord, John Noyce, Nina Short, Laurie Beeston, Julia Challacombe, Cathy Huggett, Tricia Lemmer, Judith Martin.

- Welcome from the Chair

The Chair welcomed those who had been able to attend and wished them all a Happy New Year.

- Ratification of the Committee

The Secretary explained that Ali Walpole had been co-opted onto the Committee last year and should now be ratified as a full member. The roles of the individual members of the Committee were explained, and they were thanked for their work and contribution to the Society in the past year with particular thanks to Tony Kerslake for the amount of additional maintenance work he had undertaken. In the absence of any objection, it was agreed that the Committee will serve for another year.

- Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer explained the Society's accounts which had been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting. In brief, he stated that the Society is in a reasonably healthy financial state.

- Secretary's Report

The Secretary explained that there had been a number of changes to the membership in the past year with some original members relinquishing their plots and a few newcomers not keeping their plots for more than a few months. He reported that at present there is one vacant plot and a waiting list of six, some of whom resulted from a successful local advertising campaign. He also explained that plot inspections would continue before each of the forthcoming committee meetings.

The Secretary explained that two plots (17a and 18a) are now the Hobbs Community Garden which is being run by two Middleton on Sea parish councillors and he asked Bridgette Macilwaine, one of those councillors, to outline the project.

It was also explained that at the last committee meeting it had been agreed that a suggestions box be placed in the main shed for members to communicate with the Committee and that at the end of the season, with plot holders consent, any surplus produce will be collected and donated to local food banks.

- The Society's Rules

It was explained that the Society's Rules, which are part of the tenancy renewal document, had been amended since the last AGM and Tony Kerslake outlined the changes which were then accepted by the Meeting.

- The Society's Constitution

The Secretary explained that a member of the Society had suggested some alterations and additions were needed to the Constitution and that these had been carefully considered at the recent committee meeting. A number of amendments had duly been made and these were read out at the Meeting and accepted by the members present.

The Secretary agreed to rewrite the Constitution as necessary and circulate the revised document with the tenancy renewal paperwork in late February/early March.

- Social events – report and future dates – charity for 2026

Ali Weller commented on the success of the 2025 social events and the plans for the coming year with a Plant and Cake Sale and seed swap in April; a barbecue in August and an end of season event in November. All details will be sent to members in the next few weeks. Proceeds from these events will go to this year's chosen charity - My Sister's House.

- Questions from the floor

Most questions were dealt with during individual agenda items.

The problem of waste materials on plots taken over from previous tenants was raised with particular problems being old tyres, plastic and carpeting. It was suggested that a collection point might be set up at the end of season social event.