Humber Avenue Community Allotments Community Interest Company

Committee Meeting

Monday 1st September 2025 6.30pm – 8pm

(6.30 – 7pm Open Meeting)

HACA Social Hub

Present:

Peter Davey (PD) Acting Chair

Christine Busfield (CB)

Malcolm Hedger (MH)

Linda Head (LH)

Emma Wood (EW)

Anne Garbutt (AG)

Ian Hamilton (IH)

Ros Knight (RK)

Apologies:

Terry Smith (TS)

Lynne Rosthorn (LR)

Open Meeting 6.30 – 7pm

Prior to the committee meeting, all plot holders had been invited by email to attend an open meeting in light of the Chair's recent resignation. Approximately 30 plot holders attended to share their views on this and the way forward for the committee.

MINUTES

1. Resignation of Chairman

The committee are grateful to all those who attended the open meeting tonight as well as those who have sent emails or spoken to committee members over the last few weeks and your support is much appreciated.

2. Welcome and Apologies

PD welcomed the committee to the meeting and apologies were noted as above.

3. Minutes from the last meeting

The minutes from the AGM on 30th June were approved as an accurate reflection of the meeting, proposed by LH and seconded by AG.

4. Matters arising from the last meeting not covered by the agenda

EW informed the committee that she had looked into using the Dropbox facility for sharing documents but this is limited to personal emails only and can only accommodate a few documents. In light of the Chair's resignation, the committee agreed to put this on hold for the time being.

5. Reports

5.2 Treasurer's Report

PD handed out the current financial statement. He explained that £1159.82 had been received in plot fees to date adding that although these were still coming in, it was likely that HACA will show a loss this year due to the water bill. He highlighted the expenditure to date of £24,125.30 and Income to date of £24,357.34.

PD explained that the social room now has power and lighting and the bill is awaited for this. With the donation of the generator, there is no urgency for funding for the solar panels.

There were no questions on the Treasurer's report. PD will finalise the accounts and pass to CB for the accountant to review.

5.3 Membership Secretary's Report

CB reported that since the last meeting, the tenant of Plot 93 had been evicted and new tenants had taken over the plot and had made good progress on tidying it up. She explained that Plot 85 had relinquished their plot and a new tenant will be taking over.

Regarding the waiting list, CB updating the committee that there had been one new application since the last meeting, so the waiting list remains static at 86.

5.4 Company Secretary's Report

RK informed the committee that there had been two further plot inspections since the last meeting, with one non cultivation notice issued in August, following no evidence of work being done on the plot at the June and July plot inspections and no reply to emails sent.

RK explained that the HACA Terms and Conditions required updating but in light of the Chair's resignation, this is currently on hold.

RK asked the committee to consider producing an Unacceptable Behaviour policy in light of recent events and she will look into this and bring a draft to the next meeting. **ACTION RK.**

6. Projects

MH informed the committee that a new gas stove is now operational in the old social room. He added that phase 1 of the electrics in the social room had now been completed. As the generator is up and running, there is no great urgency to obtain funding for the solar panels but once these are installed there is still the option to switch to the generator if there is not enough sun.

MH explained that new locks had been purchased and confirmed that keys will not need to be changed, however how to fit the chain is being looked into but this should be sorted out soon.

MH updated the committee on the progress of the new plots, with work now up to the fence, with a completion date of November but this is in the hands of the developers and the council.

EW informed the committee that she had received correspondence confirming the end of November as a completion date and PD added that the handover to HACA is due in the first few weeks of December and is hopeful it will all be finalised by Christmas Eve.

The committee discussed allocation of plots to prospective tenants on the new estate and CB will email those on the waiting list to find out whether they would like a small or large plot, or require an accessible plot, to help with allocation.

7. Website and Facebook

EW informed the committee that Facebook had been fairly quiet so she is considering ideas such as a monthly blog to get more interest. Since the last meeting 2 new plot holders have joined Facebook.

She explained there had been 98 visits to the website in the last month, adding that the mobile version of the website was not as user friendly but she is working on this.

EW explained that she would like to update the Facebook group membership and will liaise with CB who holds the list of current plot holders. **ACTION EW and CB.**

EW explained that plot holders are required to answer three questions to sign up to Facebook.

She added that she is looking at an Instagram account for HACA.

EW informed the committee that one of the plot holders with mobility issues had raised concerns about access around the outside of the social hub and asked whether the water butts could be moved and the committee will look into this. **ACTION MH.**

8. Newsletter

RK explained she had just produced a newsletter for August and planned to produce a further one in October and December.

9. Health and Safety

LH informed the committee that she is due to complete a Health and Safety inspection this month and will ask a member of the committee to accompany her. MH added that the electrics are all now fused and he checked on this a few weeks ago but will check again tomorrow.

LH added that she will be unavailable for a few months from the end of September due to forthcoming surgery.

10. Environment and Biodiversity

Neither AS or LR were present so there was no update.

11. Sharing Documents

This was discussed under Item 4.

12. Any Other Business

AG commented that she hadn't had many enquiries to use the social room and MH thought this may be due to lack of access to kettle.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 7.30pm.

13. Date of next meeting

Monday 20th October 2025.