

Winchester New Allotment Holders Society Ltd (WNAHS)

Minutes of the Management meeting held on Wednesday, 14th January 2026

Present: Chris Pearce (Chair), Chris Moore (Treasurer), Nigel Dobbie (Edington Road), Maria Keniston (Park Road), John Ryder (Trussell Crescent), Michelle Ryder (Trussell Crescent), Chris Bullen (Paulet Place North and South, The Valley), Charlotte Williams (Secretary), Rosie Mellor (Cromwell Road), Lorène Latour (Kingsley Place), Giles Gooding (Princes Place), Bish Osbourne (Lisle Court)

- 1. Apologies:** Andrew Cable (Trading Shed), Nirina McCartney (Greenhill Avenue), Mike Moore (Membership Secretary), Janet Haughton (Website), Emma McMullan (Publicity and Newsletter) and Manorma Ward (Deputy Membership Secretary)
- 2. Approval of the Minutes:** the Minutes of the meeting, dated 15th October 2025, were approved
- 3. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM:** the Minutes of the AGM, dated 20th November 2025 were approved and will now be uploaded in draft format on the website.

4. Reports:

Membership:

- Chris M provided an update on Mike's behalf. Updated lists have been distributed. If convenors are aware of any issues, they were asked to inform the Membership Secretary.
- Support is required to manage a new plot holder who has not paid at Kinglsey Place.

Treasurer:

- Public liability insurance has been renewed and updated notices are required to be displayed at each site.
- It was noted that WNAHS's insurance requirements has become more onerous, and the list of exemptions increasing. These exemptions will be communicated with the insurer.
- There is still an on-going requirement for the Treasurer to receive meter readings, with photographic evidence.

- The annual paperwork has been prepared for the Financial Conduct Authority, to be submitted.

Publicity & Newsletters:

- Dates for when the next newsletter submissions are required, and publication dates are to be shared.

Trading Shed

- No matters to report

5. Site Reports:

- **Park Road:** No matters to report
- **Edington Road:** No matters to report
- **Trussell Crescent:** No matters to report
- **Greenhill Ave:**
 - Winchester City Council advised by the Chair of some hazardous waste having being thrown on to the allotment site. They were (again) requested to stop the area between the boundary of our allotment and the path behind the houses on Greenhill Road from becoming so overgrown.
- **PPN, PPS & The Valley:**
 - A tree removal on PPN is desired. Under the terms of our lease, a consultation with the Council has been requested.
- **Cromwell Road:**
 - Servicing of community lawn mower required, to be paid for by WNAHS
- **Princes Place:** No matters to report
- **Lisle Court:**
 - Support is needed to resolve an issue with a plothead.
- **Kingsley Place:**
 - It was shared that there has been greater plot turnover recently and the convenor is reaching out to the remainder of the list, with a push before the start of the season. Review of waiting lists from nearby plots to take place.
- **Firmstone Road:** No matters to report

6. Site lease renewal:

- A chaser e-mail was sent 1st week of 2026. Previous council contact has left with a new person now taken over.

9. Vacancies & Succession Planning:

- Vacancy for vice chair still outstanding, nominees to discuss with the Chair.
- Current Chair is looking to retire at the end of September and is seeking replacement nominees.

10. Water usage advice

- It was discussed that another hose pipe ban might be introduced by Southern Water at some point in 2026 and therefore WNAHS need a proactive plan to reduce water consumption.
- Water usage at the Park Road site was shared with attendees, illustrating a significant amount of water being used, which has increased year on year.
- Advice to be shared with all ploholders to encourage behavioural change. A small group of the management committee will develop a communication plan. Ideas included an article in the Spring newsletter, notice board communications, reminders at each tap, education morning with refreshments to be held in the Trading Shed and potential discounts on mulch.

11. Changes to Constitution, Byelaws & membership paperwork (Chris P)

- A comparison of the current WNAHS Constitution and Byelaws with the latest draft recommended by the National Allotment Society will be undertaken over the next few months.
- It was noted that our current 3.3 letters need to be updated, so that any remedial action needs to be the responsibility of the plot holder. Draft to be circulated to convenors for review.
- The ambition remains for annual renewal letters to be sent by email due to the potential time and postage cost savings, though it was recognised that this may not be achievable this year. The first step is to ensure that the current software that sends emails is working and the distribution list is accurate. Support to be provided by current IT provider, Gordon Associates.

12. Planned site, Trading Shed and other improvements (Chris P)

- Notice boards were previously communicated as something all sites would like to establish. Update pending.
- Quotes were to be gathered for a compost toilet at Eddington Road but this site improvement has been superseded by a need to resolve a drainage problem at the entrance. Eddington Road experiences rainwater run-off from the private road that approaches the site. Third party provider to be sought to review and advise.
- Kinglsey Place tree maintenance is required.

- A quote has been provided by a reputable local organisation for the installation of a concrete plinth outside the Trading Shed. Dimensions could be revised to lower costs, but it is still considered to be expensive therefore another quote will be sought.
- Lisle Court needs a new gate and a quote is required.

13. Date and ideas for guest speaker for 2026 AGM (Chris P)

- Proposed (and agreed) that the date will be similar to prior years, 19th Nov 2026, at the same location. Venue to be booked.
- An invitation would ideally be sent to proposed speaker at the end of February.
- A number of suggestions were raised to be reviewed and pursued.

14. Any other business (All)

- It was requested that another location is sought for future committee meetings, however it was communicated that the hire of the room has been paid for the remainder of the 2026 meeting schedule. Secretary to investigate shared concerns with the room administrator.