

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS & ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE OF TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
THE MARKET HOUSE, TRING ON MONDAY 28th NOVEMBER 2016 AT 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors: G. Wilkins, in the Chair
Mrs O. Conway
S. Hearn
M. Hicks (ex officio)
P. Hills
N. Nutkins
Mrs R. Ransley

Co-opted members Mr I. Brownell (Allotment Association)
Mrs B. Kazer (Tring in Transition)

Also present: Cllr Mrs P. Hearn
Cllr J. Bowden
Mr Michael Curry, Town Clerk
Mrs Dawn Slade, Deputy Town Clerk

1 member of the public

18530. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Nutkins, Mrs G. Brown, and Mr J. Savage (prior engagements).

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies for the reasons given

18531. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

**18532. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
ON 3th SEPTEMBER 2016**

RESOLVED: To accept the Minutes as circulated

18533. MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES

None.

18534. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Clerk advised Members that the Deregulation Act will shortly be coming into force. The Act changes the procedure for adding paths to the definitive map adding costs to the process. Councils are advised to progress any outstanding cases before the Act comes into force.

18535. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Standing Orders were suspended **by resolution** at 8:06pm.

A Duckmore Lane plot holder asked that the tree stump on the Communal Garden be removed as it was encroaching on his plot and the border of his plot reinstated. He also asked that the path from the gate to the plots nearest to Aylesbury Road be widened to facilitate the delivery of manure.

Standing Orders were resumed **by resolution** at 8:09pm.

Part 1 Allotments

18536. ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

The Deputy Clerk's report was circulated prior to the meeting. Of the vacant plots three have been worked recently.

No complaints about bonfires have been received, but there have been instances when the level of smoke has been excessive.

18537. THE TOWN WARDEN'S REPORT

The report incorporated detailing the work done by the Town Warden was circulated prior to the meeting. Hedge plants had been ordered. The Beech hedge was growing well.

Maintenance of the hedge around Duckmore Lane: – contractors will cut the external side whilst the Town Warden and Assistant will deal with the interior. The ideal frequency would be for half to be done each year, but the duty to keep the highway verges clear may require an annual trim. Where practical, 'A Line' cutting will be followed.

18538. ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION'S REPORT

Mr Brownell briefed Members on the following:

- At the AGM the committee had been re-elected with two new additional members; there was no change to the officers
- He had been asked to raise the possibility of gates to the allotment site being installed. The Committee recognised the potential risk of there being open access but declined the suggestion on the grounds of safety turning into the site when the gate was closed and the cost and management of providing keys
- A request to extend the period for bonfires by a month each end will be made in the future

Part 2 Environment

18539. TOWN WARDEN'S REPORT

The Town Warden's report was circulated prior to the meeting. Costings to establish a Friends of Millennium Wood have been received. Exploiting the educational potential of the Millennium Wood and the Community Garden was seen as a priority.

RESOLVED: To recommend the inclusion of the costs of establishing the

Friends of Millennium Wood in the Council's 2016/17 budget
and the necessary ongoing costs in future budgets

18540. RIGHTS OF WAY INCLUDING FOOTPATH 41

The Mr Savage in a written report to the Deputy Clerk, had nothing to report on footpaths 58 & 76, the new signs from the 3P funding last year had arrived and awaited installation, and had provided three walks to the Deputy Clerk for the proposed leaflet financed by next year's 3P allocation.

Cllr S. Hearn and Cllr Wilkins reported on the clearance of the land adjacent to Footpath 41, the plans for replanting, and the proposed measures to improve the ecology. The cost of an alternative to having the streamside work done by the Canal & River Trust is to be confirmed.

The need to clear the ash trees to enable Hertfordshire County Council to repair the footpath was noted. Cllr Wilkins will meet Mr Bradford to discuss the footpath. Councillor Hollinghurst, in his role as County Councillor, is to be asked to help facilitate the work on the footpath. Cllrs Hills and Bowden raised the need for additional lighting along the footpath.

18541. TRING IN TRANSITION'S REPORT

Mrs Kazer reported that the Community Garden was progressing well with 8-9 volunteers, four of whom are new, regularly attending the work sessions. A newly formed oversight group is tasking the sessions. Replanting from Bulbourne is planned together with the installation of a potting table and wild flower border.

Mrs Kazer commented on the Tree Management report circulated to Members, in particular the need to include a statement on the replacement of trees to avoid a decline in the tree population in Tring. It was agreed that there should be an emphasis on keeping existing trees whenever possible as long as they did not compromise the health of others and to replace trees that have to be removed with a suitable native species (The latter not necessarily in the same location).

18542. DACORUM ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Minutes of the latest meeting were circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Hills drew Members attention to the new website to be launched shortly and the transport consultation.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

Chairman