

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS & ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE OF TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
THE MARKET HOUSE, TRING ON MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 8.35 p.m.**

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

Co-opted members Mr J. Savage  
Mrs B. Kazer  
Mr I. Brownell

**Also present:** Cllr Mrs P. Hearn  
Mr M. Curry, Town Clerk  
Mr C. Jones, Town Warden

**17907. APOLOGIES**

Cllr N. Nutkins (work commitments)

**RESOLVED:** To accept the apologies for the reason given

**17908. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**17909. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
8<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2015**

**RESOLVED:** To accept the Minutes and for the Chairman to sign them.

**17910. MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES**

The Clerk updated members on the progress of the following resolutions:

- The Probation Service have been contacted and will be coming to the Duckmore Lane Allotment site to look at the proposed tasks – a date for the visit is awaited
- Cllr S. Hearn is getting a price to ‘scrape’ the site prior to manual clearing by the Community Payback Team
- The windsock & pole – will cost £600 plus VAT and plus fixing (estimated at £500). The need for planning permission is being determined
- Vacant Plots – The alternative to manual strimming of the vacant plots is to invest in a small tractor and associated equipment estimate £3,000 plus training costs.
- The banners on Pound Meadow railings have been removed. As trimming the hedge involves working in the road this will have to be done by Hertfordshire County Council

**17911. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Cllr O. Conway congratulated Mr. J Savage on winner the Dacorum Borough Council Community Champion Award; it was fully deserved.

Communication has been received with regard to disabled access for a family member following the installation of the posts preventing vehicles to go from the car park up the footpath into the open area.

Access could be provided by giving a key to the one post still hinged, but because it is considered an unsafe practice this would be subject to a disclaimer. Alternatively consideration to establishing disabled plots on the cleared plot 54 could be discussed under the allotment agenda items.

**17912. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public wishing to speak at this time.

***Part 1 Allotments***

**17913. ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT**

The Deputy Clerk's report was circulated prior to the meeting. The reduction in vacant plots was noted. There is still a need to keep the vacant plots under control. Further details were needed on the options to purchase mechanical equipment. Using community payback was identified as another option.

The initial 'windsock' option was too expensive; cheaper options should be explored.

**RESOLVED:** (i) The Clerk to investigate the potential payback from an investment in maintenance equipment

**17914. TOWN WARDEN'S REPORT**

The Town Warden reported that vacant plots are strimmed and the paths are receiving their regular monthly cut.

The most pressing issue is the dumping of material on Plot 54, the vast majority of it being inappropriate i.e. it could be composted or it is non-organic and is the plot holder's responsibility to remove from the site. It will take approx. £1,500 – £2,000 to clear the site.

It was agreed to close the collection point and there was a discussion of the potential use of the area released. A suggestion for an 'amenity shed' was rejected by the Allotment Association. It was decided that the area be returned to plots. It was noted that their location would be suitable for disabled access.

**RESOLVED:** (i) To remove the collection point at Plot 54  
(ii) To return the whole area back to allotment plots  
(iii) To give a reminder to plot holders of their responsibilities when they renew their agreement

**17915. ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION'S REPORT**

The Allotment Association are holding a Summer Social, open to all, on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015 between 3:00 – 4:00pm. The Association's AGM will be held in the second half of October. The current Chairman, Rupert Wallis, is not standing for re-election.

In light of the Allotment Association's report the following were passed:

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) That Cllr Wilkins (or another Councillor, if unavailable) and a member of the Allotment Association to be involved in the inspections
  - (ii) That the date of the inspections to be advertised
  - (iii) That the initial warning letter is softened and the grace period extended
  - (iv) That new plot holders be asked their level of experience of allotments

***Part 2 Environment***

**17916. TOWN WARDEN'S REPORT**

Efforts have been concentrated on improving the High Street, painting and repairs. A new finger post has been installed on the edge of Church Square. Cllr S. Hearn asked to be involved in the inspection of trees on the Council properties.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) To remove the grasses in the flower bed on Church Square. Replace with winter flowering plants.
  - (ii) That the Town Warden repairs the bench on Mortimer Hill

**17917. RIGHTS OF WAY**

Mr Savage reported a productive meeting with the Access Officer on outstanding work.

He highlighted potential issues with footpath 58 at the junction with the Bulbourne Road, where the point of access is not on the definitive map.

He would liaise with the Clerk to resubmit the 3P application.

**17918. TRING IN TRANSITION'S REPORT**

Mrs Kazer reported a fruitful year working towards their goal of reducing the carbon footprint and promoting sustainable living. The Energy Group (TriCE) is working with Tring Cricket Club to install solar panels on the club's roof funded by a community share offering. Talks are going on with other organisations about similar projects.

The Eco-fayre was a success and will be repeated (25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2016) and the Group will be taking part in the Apple Fayre on the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

The Permaculture Group is progressing the mulching of the ground at Bulbourne and it will soon be ready for tree planting. The Group was asked to

liaise with the Town Plan Committee Chairman before proceeding.

The Group was commended for the wildflower planting in the Memorial Gardens and the Church yard. The roundabouts on the A41 were remarked upon as being ideal sites, but an approach to Dacorum Borough Council was declined. The Chairman will ask again on behalf of Tring in Transition.

**17919. DACORUM ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Dacorum Environmental Forum were circulated prior to the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** To note the minutes of the Dacorum Environmental Forum

**17920. COMMUNICATIONS FROM ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATIONS**

The Clerk drew members' attention to the publications received on a regular basis from environmental organisations

**17921. THE WOODLAND TRUST: MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR TRING PARK 2011-2016**

The Woodland Trust's Management Plan for Tring Park for the period 2011-2016 was circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr S. Hearn reported the poor state of the Parkland and felt that the Woodland Trust's management of the woodland was excellent, but it was falling short with regard to an environment with which they were less familiar. Greater active management was required.

**RESOLVED:** That the Clerk write to the Woodland Trust bringing the Council's concerns to their attention and offering assistance in the preparation of the next five year plan.

**17922. PROVISION OF CYCLE STANDS BY HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Proposals from Hertfordshire County Council to site cycle stands procured through Section 106 funds in Tring to promote healthy living were circulated prior to the meeting.

The proposals were discussed and the sites agreed, but it was agreed that the existing stands were underutilised and that, whilst the reason for the allocation of funds for this purpose was understood, it was felt the funds could have been better spent.

**RESOLVED:** To accept the proposals

The meeting closed at 9:47 p.m.

Chairman