

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE MARKET
HOUSE, TRING ON MONDAY 2nd JUNE 2014 AT 8.10 p.m.**

Present: Councillors: Mrs R. Ransley, in the Chair
M. Hicks
N. Nutkins
Ms G. Roberts

Also present: Mr M. Curry, Town Clerk
Ms C. Hill, Deputy Clerk
4 members of the public

17389. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the Councillors J. Allan (Holiday), B. Batchelor (Prior commitment), and S. Hearn (Family circumstances)

Resolved: That the Committee accept the apologies for the reasons given

17390. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

17391. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7th April 2014 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

17392. MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES

17327 – Allotment Management

- Allotment holders notified of the bonfire ban

17328 – Security

- Padlocks installed
- Newsletter issued

All other items covered by items on the agenda

17393. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

Attention was drawn to the following items of correspondence:

- Swarm Brochure from Mid Bucks Beekeepers Association
- Details of the Chilterns Access Conference 19th June 2014
- Possible residents parking in Park Road; siting a bench on footpath 48; and trimming the verge on Hastoe Lane
- Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust newsletter
- Overhanging trees on Chapel Meadow

Resolved: (i) That Mr J. Savage be consulted on footpath 48
(ii) The Town Warden and Cllr Nutkins inspect the Chapel Meadow trees to assess the appropriate course of action

17394. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

17395. REPORTS FROM CO-OPTED MEMBERS

No co-opted members present

17396. ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT:

(i) *To receive a report from the Deputy Town Clerk on allotment lettings*

The Deputy Clerk reported the outcome of the latest inspection and noted the number of vacant plots. It was agreed that there should be more publicity of the fact that there currently is no waiting list. There is no discernable pattern for those relinquishing plots, rather a lack of demand for plots when they become vacant.

At 8:22 Standing Orders were suspended by **resolution** to allow members of the public to speak

Mr Fraser-Smith briefed the members on a proposal to keep bees on site, possibly on a vacant plot. He outlined the measures he felt necessary to keep bees successfully and safely, and the benefits the project would generate.

The Committee was sympathetic to the proposal and welcomed the measured approach adopted by Mr Fraser-Smith. The Council would, however, require certain safeguards in place before allowing the project to proceed.

At 8:35 Standing Orders were restored by **resolution**

Resolved: (i) To agree in principle the keeping of bees on the allotment site by a nominated individual or group of individuals, subject to appropriate safeguards
(ii) That the Committee would welcome a progress report from Mr Fraser-Smith on his project research, including the identification of a suitable location following expert advice

(ii) *To receive a verbal report from the Town Warden*

The Clerk reported on the work that the Town Warden had completed since the last meeting:

- Repairs have been carried out to the gate a Bulbourne
- The barrel of the lock for the gate replaced and more keys obtained
- An additional private property sign and post for Duckmore Lane has been procured
- Flowers have been planted in the hanging baskets and troughs. Two additional troughs are to be sourced for the Robin Hood roundabout now that the Ringway barriers have been removed
- Discussions with Hertfordshire County Council have been opened on painting the street furniture in the High Street
- The Church Square flower bed has been cleared

(iii) *Waste Disposal Arrangements*

The Clerk outlined the responsibilities of plot holders to compost organic matter on their plot and to dispose of anything else they bring onto the site e.g. carpet and wood. The Town Council is looking for an area as near as possible to the car park and with suitable access to collect organic matter not suitable for composting. The cost of a skip is £195 plus vat and grab lorry £470 plus vat.

Resolved: To refer the matter to the Council

17397. DACORUM LOCAL FOOD INITIATIVE – PRESENTATION ON THE POSSIBLE USE OF VACANT BULBOURNE ALLOTMENT SPACE

The Committee received a presentation from Tring Permaculture Group following an introduction by Nicole Jackson Local Food Coordinator – Dacorum Local Food Initiative.

Members were impressed by the vision, and project principles outlined in the presentation. Five aspects were identified as requiring development: access, including parking; re-designating allotment land, community engagement; marketing the scheme; and annual base costs

Resolved: That the project be referred to Council

The meeting closed at 9:35 p.m.

Chairman