

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS & ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE OF TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
THE MARKET HOUSE, TRING ON MONDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 8.43 p.m.**

Present: Councillors: Mrs R. Ransley, in the Chair
J. Allan
M. Hicks
N. Nutkins
S. Hearn

Co-opted members Mrs G. Brown
Mr B. Kazer
Ms M-L. Moxon

Also present: Mr M. Curry, Town Clerk
1 member of the public

17473. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the Councillors B. Batchelor (Business commitment), Ms G. Roberts (Family circumstances) and Mr J. Savage (Prior Commitment)

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

17474. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

17475. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June 2014 were agreed as a true record subject to an amendment that the co-opted members were not present because they did not receive notification of the meeting. The minutes were signed by the Chairman.

17476. MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES

The Clerk reported that he will be meeting with Cllr S. Hearn to progress the idea of a 'Friends of Millennium Wood' group.

17477. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

Attention was drawn to the following items of correspondence:

- CPRE – newsletters
- Chiltern Society – details of the new North Trail

17478. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

17479. REPORTS FROM CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Greta Brown: Continuing problems with blocked drains at the junction of Hastoe Lane and Park Road, despite repeated complaints to Herts County Council. Overhanging branches from a tree obstructing the footpath in Park Street

M Moxon: The association's AGM will be held shortly, where the bonfire ban will be raised. The need to attract new plot holders was stressed – measures suggested included use of social media aimed at a younger audience, press release, and measures to make it easier for new plot holders e.g. covering the vacant plots with weed inhibitor

Brian Kazer: Tring Community Energy is soon to be incorporated and its first project will be with Tring School

The Clerk drew members' attention to an update he had received from John Savage concerning footpaths in Tring. [Post Meeting note: The Clerk received notification from the Planning Inspectorate of their intention to hold a local enquiry into Tring Town 87 & 88 Modification Order 2013]

17480. ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT:

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

Resolved:

- (i) To note the report
- (ii) To join the NSALG
- (iii) That the Duckmore Lane hedge be trimmed each year

(ii) *To consider increasing allotment rents for 2015/16*

Members considered the Clerk's paper with regard to the costs of supporting the allotments and following discussion the resolutions below were made.

Cllr Allan highlighted the need to budget for investments such as replacing the water system with an allocation to an earmarked reserve each year.

Resolved:

- (i) To give notice of an increase in allotment rents in October 2015
- (ii) For the increase to be 10% and that there to be a further similar increase in the following four years
- (iii) When notification is given include details behind the decision

(iii) *To receive a verbal report on the work of the Town Warden*

The Clerk outlined the work the Warden had been doing in addition to regular maintenance on the allotments. This included the audit of the High Street (see item 17481); co-ordinating the removal of the tree in Church Square and trimming of trees in Chapel Meadow; and an audit of the Christmas lighting infrastructure with the contractor

The overgrown state of the canal feeder on Chapel Meadow and the need to notify CART was noted, given the area is in the flood area.

17481. IMPROVING THE TOWN CENTRE ENVIRONMENT

The members thanked the Clerk for his work in collating the information contained in his report. Cllr Ransley briefed members on the intention to meet with Hertfordshire County Council and Dacorum Borough Council to press the case for improvements.

The Clerk outlined the problems encountered when removing the dead tree in Church Square. Tring in Transition were asked to investigate suitable species for the bed's replanting.

The possibility of relocating the water fountain in Mansion Vista was raised. Standing Orders were suspended **by resolution** at 9:35 pm so that Mr T. Amsden might speak, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 65a.

Mr Amsden outlined the history of the fountain and how it had been moved from the National School. It was a deliberate choice not to have water when moved to Mansion Vista. The Committee decided that it was appropriately placed and should not be moved.

Standing Orders were restored by resolution at 9:37 pm

17482. DACORUM LOCAL FOOD INITIATIVE – BULBOURNE COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

The Clerk gave an update on the recent meeting with the Group and the plans to start small with a launch of the first element in a modular design next Spring. As engagement spreads modules can be added – this is in keeping with the Council's desired evolutionary approach.

17483. LAND BETWEEN DUNDALE ROAD, ICKNIELD WAY AND EGGLETON (KNOWN AS JOE'S WOOD)

The members recognised the potential of the site and agreed that the Clerk approach Dacorum Borough Council about their plans for the area, if any.

17484. BUDGET 2015/16

The Committee reviewed the income and expenditure related to the Committee's activities. Cllr Allan's observation with regard to allocations to earmarked reserves (see item 17480(ii) above)

Resolved: That members give Cllrs Allan & Ransley details of any expenditure for consideration in the forthcoming budgeting round by Friday 10th October for collation and input into the Finance & Policy meeting to be held on Monday 3rd November

17485. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS

That under section I of the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded during the Items in Part II of the agenda for this meeting, because it is likely that publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business or for other special reasons stated in the resolution, arising from the nature of the business or proceedings

RESOLVED: To support the resolution as given to exclude the public & press

17486. REVIEW THE USE OF THE COUNCIL'S HOLDINGS AT BULBOURNE

Resolved: To begin its review of the benefits derived from its holdings at Bulbourne by minimising existing commitments (excluding the Community Garden)

The meeting closed at 10:20 p.m.

Chairman