

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
OF TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE MARKET
HOUSE, TRING ON MONDAY 8th APRIL 2013 AT 8.21 p.m.**

Present: Councillors: N. Hollinghurst (ex officio), in the Chair
S. Hearn
N. Nutkins
S. Tolley

Co-opted Members: Mrs M. L. Moxon (Tring Allotments Association)
J. Savage (The Ramblers Association)
B. Kazer (Tring Environmental Forum/Tring in Transition)

Also present: Councillors: J. Allan
M. Hicks

Mr M. Curry, Town Clerk
Mr C. Jones, Town Warden

No members of the public

16788. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the Chairman, Councillor Mrs G. Haynes, Councillor Mrs R. Ransley and Mrs G. Brown (The Chiltern Society). The Mayor took the Chair in the absence of Councillor Mrs G. Haynes.

16789. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

16790. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2012 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

16791. MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES

None

16792. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

Various publications were available on the table. The Chairman was pleased to announce that Mrs Pauline Walker had joined the Council as Deputy Clerk.

16793. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

16794. REPORTS FROM CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Mrs Moxon (Tring Allotments Association):

- A 'community' compost purchase is imminent
- The Allotments Association in conjunction with Tring in Transition are organising a gardeners' question time in October dealing with difficult weather chaired by Councillor John Allan
- Requested that the availability of plots was advertised

B. Kazer (Tring Environmental Forum/Tring in Transition):

- Thanked the Town Council for the recently awarded grant
- The first full season of thermal imaging has been completed. Those availing themselves to the scheme were not dominated by those with previously strong 'green credentials'
- There have been no further requests for planting meadow flowers

John Savage (The Ramblers Association):

- Rights of Way across Canal Field – a decision has been made by Hertfordshire County Council details of which should be published shortly. Councillor Hollinghurst will seek the information
- The P3 applications for 2012/3 and 2013/4 were discussed
- Noted action had been taken to inform Environmental Health on the state of the former utility site on the Icknield Way. Planning enforcement will also be informed

Actions:

1. Clerk to advertise the availability of plots on Duckmore Lane
2. Councillor Hollinghurst to seek outcome of HCC consideration of the Rights of Way across Canal Field

16795. ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT:

- To receive a report from the Deputy Town Clerk on allotment lettings*
The report was noted, especially the lack of a waiting list. Councillor Allan asked the Clerk to investigate use of the quarter plots.
- To consider the provision of additional hard standing at Duckmore Lane*
The Clerk and Councillor Nutkins briefed the Committee on a proposal to provide additional hard standing – the provision would require planning permission. The Committee considered that at present there was insufficient evidence of demand for additional spaces
- To receive a verbal report from the Town Warden on the condition of the boundary hedge of Duckmore Lane*
The Town Warden reported on the poor state of the hedge on the Aylesbury Road side between Longfield Road and Duckmore Lane. It was agreed that extreme measures were needed to bring about a solution – identifying a suitable species, providing a proper growing medium, and fencing where necessary. A budget existed – Allotment Development - for such a purpose. In addition responsibility for the land between the hedge and pavement needed to be clarified.

The hedge along Duckmore Lane was in reasonable condition, suitable for laying at the appropriate time of year.

Actions:

3. Clerk to investigate use of the quarter plots.

Resolution:

- (i) To monitor capacity of existing hard standing at Duckmore Lane
- (ii) To allocate funds in the Allotment Development budget to improving the boundary hedge along the Aylesbury Road

The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.

Chairman