

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE MARKET HOUSE, TRING ON MONDAY 2nd APRIL 2012 AT 7.50 p.m.

Present: Councillors: J. S. Allan Town Mayor (in the Chair)
Mrs R. Ransley
S. Hearn
N. Nutkins
Mrs G. Haynes

Co-opted Members: R Wallis (Tring Allotments Association)
John Savage (The Ramblers Association)

M Hicks
S Tolley

Also present: Mr K. Gray (Town Clerk)
Mr C Jones (Town Warden)
2 residents

16349 **APOLOGIES**

RESOLVED: To receive and accept apologies from Mrs Greta Brown (Chilterns Society) Mrs Bar Kazar (Tring Environmental Forum) and Karen Smith (Beekeepers Association)

16350 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.
No declarations made.

16351 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: The Minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2012 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

16352 **MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES**

Nothing to report

16353 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

RESOLVED: To suspend Standing Orders so that members of the public might speak.
No members of the public spoke

The Chairman resumed the meeting.

16354 **BEEKEEPING ON ALLOTMENT LAND**

Council were to receive a presentation and request from Karen Smith (Beekeepers Association).
RESOLVED: Due to the absence of Karen Smith this item was adjourned.
To await contact from Karen on a suitable date to attend a meeting.

16355 **BULBOURNE ALLOTMENT SITE PARKING**

The Clerk reported that the arrangements for closing and securing the gate to the car park were working well and all residents were adhering to the procedures. RESOLVED: That the current practice continues and the Clerk to notify the Committee if any problems arise.

16356 **ALLOTMENT RENT REVIEW**

RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to inform tenants of the following rent increases. Full fee for a 10 pole allotment should be £40 and 5 pole at £20. The discount for those aged 60 years and those with a Dacorum Card will be £17.50. The increase will start from 1st October, 2012.

16357 **MEMORIAL GARDEN**

The Clerk gave an update on the work taking place at the Memorial Garden in Tring. A group was being established called the Friends of Tring Memorial Garden and it was RESOLVED: That Cllr S Hearn be the Committee's representative on tis group.

16358 **VEHICLES ON ALLOTMENT LAND**

The Clerk has installed posts to stop vehicles driving on the designated footpath near Millenium Wood. Discussion took place on the reasons for this and it was RESOLVED: That the posts should remain to ensure the footpath is not damaged and for the safety of pedestrians and tenants. RESOLVED: That a working group be establised to look at the problem regarding vehicle accesss to the allotment site – members of the group will be Cllr Nutkins (To lead the group), the Town Clerk, and Mr Wallis (Allotment Assoc).

16359 **RUBBISH/WASTE BEING DUMPED ON ALLOTMENT CAR PARK AREA**

Reports have been made about tenants dumping waste and rubbish on the allotment site. RESOLVED: The Clerk to write to all tenants and remind them of the regulations and also that this may be deemed as fly-tipping. If anyone sees people doing this to report the matter to the Town Clerk.

16360 **LIVESTOCK ON ALLOTMENTS**

The Allotments Act states that chickens and rabbits are allowed on allotment land and although no requests have been made to the Town Clerk. If requests were made then the Council would also have to consider suitable sheds/hutches for housing the animals. RESOLVED: That the Clerk considers changes to the Tenancy Agreement after further checks.

16361 **WATER RESTRICTIONS**

Discussion took place on the current hosepipe ban and what, if any, impact this would have on the allotments. The Clerk advised the committee that hosepipes were not allowed on the allotment sites as part of the agreements and we also have water tanks which people use and are such that taps can't be left on so no water wastage takes place on the allotment sites. RESOLVED: To continue with the current arrangements.

16362 **PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP**

John Savage gave feedback on the planning application for land near Icknield Way The Clerk also gave feedback from discussion about the Partnership Grants to Councils and it was reported that the Town Council did not apply for the grant of £1,000 in 2010 or 2011 as it was assumed that this money was automatically given to the Council. The Clerk has discussed the matter with the relevent officers and it has been agreed that a late application would be allowed in order for the Town Council to receive the grant in 2012. RESOLVED: John Savage and the Clerk will take this forward and meet in the near future to discuss the package and proposal. RESOLVED: The grant to be applied for the signage of the main footpaths as listed in Mr Savage's letter.

16363 **PUBLIC FOOTPATH CLAIM**

Mr Savvage updated the committee on the information being collected from local users of the footpath across the field with a view to proposing that this be designated as a footpath by Herts County Council.

RESOLVED: That Mr Savage and the Town Clerk procede with gathering the information and report back to the committee when completed. The committee to consider proposing to Herts County Council that this footpath be officially recognised and desgnated according.

16364 **REPORTS FROM CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Mr Wallis requested that the notices to show allotment inspections be placed on the notice boards. Mr Wallis also reported that a tenant appeared to be storing large amounts of wood on his plot.

16365 **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Clerk handed a letter to the Chairman from a resident of Tring raising concerns about the amounts of litter and the state of cleanliness of Tring High Street. Discussion took place on who was responsible for certain areas of the High Street. Tring Town Council own and manage Church Square and Mansion Vista. Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) cleans the High Street and roads leading off the High Street. It was reported that DBC have reduced their cleaning staff and this was causing problems. It was also reported that the Town Council's member of staff is only employed to work 11 hours and this was clearly not sufficient to meet the needs of the Town Council. He also does overtime in order to ensure that maintenance work is carried out where necessary. The Town Council is responsible for the maintenance, which includes trees, vegetation, drainage, street cleaning and street furniture repair and replacement etc. for Church Square, The Market Place, 2 large Allotment sites, Old School Yard Car Park and Mansion Vista as well as any extra work required by the Council.

RESOLVED: That the Committee consider the responsibilities the Town Council has regarding maintenance and discuss as necessary.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked all the members and especially the co-opted members for the work they do and closed the meeting at 8.50pm

Chairman