

**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 SEPTEMBER 2013 AT 8.40 p.m.**

Present: Councillors: Mrs R. Ransley, in the Chair
M. Hicks
N. Nutkins
B Batchelor

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

Also present: Mr M. Curry, Town Clerk
Mrs P. Walker, Deputy Town Clerk
Mr C. Jones, Town Warden

No members of the public
1 Member of the press

16934. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from the Councillor J. Allen - (Holiday), Councillor Mrs G. Haynes – (family circumstances), Mr R. Wallis - (Tring Allotments Association - unwell), and Ms G. Brown (Chiltern Society – Holiday).

16935. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

16936. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2013 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

16937. MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES

Item 16862 - Ms G. Brown (The Chiltern Society) responded on the Committee's behalf to the Chilterns AONB Management Plan 2014-19 – Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report Draft.

16938. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

Details of the 11th Annual Chilterns AONB Planning Conference have been received and are available from the Clerk.

16939. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

16940. REPORTS FROM CO-OPTED MEMBERS (not covered elsewhere)

Ms. M. Moxon (Tring Allotments Association):

- The plant sale raised £180 and received good feedback.
- Expressed gratitude that leak on the Duckmore Lane allotments was repaired so quickly.
- Provided literature and requested it be given to new tenants together with an introductory letter to the Allotment Association (Rupert Wallis to provide): 'First Steps

to Allotment Gardening’, ‘Clearing an Overgrown Plot’ and ‘Composting and Recycling’

- Provided a flyer for an event being held on Tuesday 8th October by Tring in Transition called ‘Gardening in Tricky Weather’ and asked it to be distributed to all allotment holders when they make their annual payment
- Noted that there had been two incidents at the allotments – one theft of produce and the other uprooting produce. She added that such incidents were extremely rare

Action: The Clerk to inform the local PCSO and ask that a watch be kept at the allotments

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

- The trust of current projects is educational – composing, bee friendly planting, sourcing local food
- The availability of the thermal camera will be publicised as the seasons progress. The camera is available for the Council to use

16941. ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT:

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

The seemingly rapid change from a waiting list to plots vacant was highlighted. Possible contributory factors were less prominence of gardening programmes, two poor growing seasons, and rigorous enforcement of regulations. In addition the poor condition of plots on handover dissuaded some applicants – this is being addressed by strimming plots when they are relinquished.

(ii) *To receive a verbal report from the Town Warden on work done on the allotments*

The Town Warden reported on the work done installing notices, notice board, posts, and strimming vacant plots. The Town Warden and Philip Cartwright were thanked for their work on the allotments.

(iii) *To consider the introduction of allotment deposit, returnable on vacating the plot in a good condition.*

The expense incurred clearing plots for new tenants was noted.

Resolution: (i) To charge a £25 deposit, returnable on vacating the plot in a good condition, on plots let henceforth

16942. BULBOURNE ALLOTMENTS: THE VIABILITY OF THE RECENTLY ADDED PLOTS

The Town Warden outlined the poor quality of the new plots and their unworkable nature. The Deputy Clerk reported that applicants were put off when they saw the site and that only one of the new plots was under cultivation.

To make better use of the unused land it was proposed to approach the Dacorum Local Food Initiative to develop a community growing scheme. The Clerk has previously made contact and established their interest in such an undertaking.

Resolution: The Clerk to approach Dacorum Local Food Initiative to explore potential schemes using land at Bulbourne Allotments

16943. MANAGEMENT OF THE MILLENNIUM WOOD

The Town Warden reported the conservation work currently being done by the Council's contractor e.g. thinning and removing fallen wood. Cllr. Hearn praised the work done to date, but felt that there needs to be a management plan in place which also covers the boundary hedge. He would approach a contractor.

Action: Cllr. Hearn to approach a contractor in reference to the management of the Millennium Wood

16944. WOODLAND TRUST FREE TREE PACKS

The Committee considered the papers previously circulated concerning the Woodland Trust's free tree offer. Cllr S. Hearn recommended the Wild Harvest and Wildlife packs as suitable for the soil round the boundary hedge of the Millenium Wood/Allotments. Mrs B. Kaiser will liaise with the Clerk with regard to separate bids by Tring in Transition.

Resolution: The Clerk to apply to the Woodland Trust free tree offer

16945. FOOTPATHS 87 & 88 NEAR THE ICKNIELD WAY IN TRING

The Committee noted the information with regard to the process of determination of the order to record routes 87 & 88 as public footpaths, now the matter has been referred to the Planning Inspectorate.

16946. PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP GRANT 2013

The Committee welcomed the successful application for a grant of £300 from the Parish Paths Partnership.

16947. TRING TOWN PLAN

The Clerk gave an update to the Committee on the progress of the Town Plan and the creation of a sub-group to look at ways of enhancing the town environment, which would have close links to the Allotment and Environment Committee. The first meeting of the sub-group will be called shortly.

16948. DEALING WITH ILLEGAL AND UNAUTHORISED ENCAMPMENTS' AUGUST 2013 DCLG

The Department of Community and Local Government has published the above guidance as a summary of the available powers to deal with such. The Committee noted the publication, especially the changes to the use of Temporary Stop Notices.

The meeting closed at 9:17 p.m.

Chairman