

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF THE TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MARKET HOUSE, TRING, ON MONDAY 12th MARCH 2007
AT 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors: L. J. Harris (in the Chair)
J. S. Allan
Mrs O.M. Conway
Mrs P.J. Hearn
N.A. Hollinghurst (ex officio)
M.J. James

Co-opted: C. Gray (Tring Safety Group)
B. Kazer (Tring Environmental Forum)

Also present: Councillor: P. Coneron

Ms J. Thurley, Assistant to the Clerk of the Council
2 members of the public

13860. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Batchelor, Mrs G. Brown and J. Savage (The Chiltern Society).

13861. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

13862. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27th November 2006 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

13863. **MATTERS ARISING**

Arising from Minute 13690 (ii), a response from Herts Highways on policy regarding installation of crossings had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Committee agreed that whilst the Safer Routes to School programme should be supported, they still felt there was a need to press for a school crossing attendant in Christchurch Road. The Assistant to the Clerk was asked to reply to Herts Highways expressing the Committee's disappointment at HCC's decision not to install a pedestrian crossing, and to continue to lobby for an attendant.

Arising from Minute 13692 (i), a bench for Chapel Meadow had now been ordered and would shortly be installed.

Arising from Minute 13692 (ii), Herts County Council had not completed the installation of the finger post. The Assistant to the Clerk would pursue the matter.

Arising from Minute 13692 (iii), Tring Together had confirmed it was willing to take over planting up the planters in the High Street.

Arising from Minute 13693 (i), Tring Environmental Forum confirmed hedgelaying had commenced at the Duckmore Lane allotment site.

Arising from Minute 13693 (ii), the Assistant to the Clerk confirmed that the hedges around the Duckmore Lane allotment site had now been cut.

13864. **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS TO ALLOW PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was **RESOLVED** that Standing Orders be suspended in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 67 so that members of the public might speak.

Councillor Derek Townsend urged the Committee to continue with their request for a pedestrian crossing in Christchurch Road. On behalf of Tring Together Limited, he confirmed his willingness to take over the planters in the High Street provided he was given help with watering. A proposed watering system was considered and thought to be appropriate. The Assistant to the Clerk was asked to contact Dacorum Borough Council with a request for funding towards its purchase.

John Bowden offered to give Councillors any information on lighting with regard to the proposal to upgrade the Kickabout area in Brook Street.

13865. **PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP (P3)**

Regarding work for 2006/07, the Chairman confirmed that a quotation from Mr P. Misselbrook in the sum of £300 had been obtained and accepted. The work had now been put in hand and the surfacing would be completed by 31st March 2007.

The Chairman confirmed that the P3 Working Party had met on 5th March 2007 and recommended the following projects for consideration:

Bench on FP26

4 stiles to be replaced by gates/kissing gates on FP5 in the vicinity of Purple Heather Farm.

The Committee agreed that for 2007/08, the request for funding should include all these projects with the choice of equipment being delegated to the Working Party.

13866. **WORKS TO TREES IN THE COUNCIL'S OWNERSHIP**

One verbal and one written quotation for works to trees at Pond Close had been obtained. After discussion it was **RESOLVED:** That the quotation from B&N Tree Care Arborist Ltd in the total sum of £700 be accepted. The Assistant to the Clerk would put the work in hand.

13867. **DUCKMORE LANE – FOOTPATH 33**

In view of the proposal to improve the vehicular track around the Duckmore Lane allotment site, the Committee agreed to defer making a decision about the installation of a new gate until a later date.

13868. **DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE BROOK STREET KICKABOUT AREA**

A letter from Dacorum Borough Council dated 28th February 2007 had been received and circulated prior to the meeting. The Committee agreed that the area was in need of improvement and was delighted that the Borough Council intended to carry out this work and responded to the letter as follows:

1. Does Tring Town Council support the refurbishment and improvement of this area?

Yes

2. Does Tring Town Council support the following elements of the proposed Project:

- renewing the surface? Yes

- replacing the fencing? Yes

- installing low intensity, time-controlled floodlighting, subject to Planning Permission? Yes

- improvement to nearby street lighting on the footpath? Yes

- the timetable to undertake the work later in the year? Yes

3. Does Tring Town Council have a view on the time the floodlighting should be operated?

No later than 10 p.m.

4. Does Tring Town Council wish to work in partnership with the Borough Council and any other partners on this project?

Yes

5. Would Tring Town Council be in a position to make a contribution towards the project costs?

No. However, the Council may contribute towards a specific aspect of the project.

13869. **TRING TRANSPORT PLAN**

Councillor Hollinghurst noted that a meeting of the local Transport Steering Group had met on 7th March 2007 and that Trevor Land, Herts Highways had updated the Group on the proposed work scheduled for the High Street in Tring later this year. The draft Transport Plan was almost complete which would highlight particular problem areas in Tring. It was hoped that the County Council would still continue with the local steering group meetings in Tring and would include the outlying villages.

The Chairman noted the minutes of the Grove Road Primary School Safer Routes to Schools Forum 4 meeting held on 5th March 2007.

13870. **REPORTS FROM CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Brian Kazer, Tring Environmental Forum, confirmed they were working with Tring Allotments Association to obtain a grant for the provision of wildflowers to be planted near the entrance to Duckmore Lane allotment site.

Chris Gray, Tring Safety Group, reported that lack of attendees at their meetings was giving concern. Councillors were invited to join the Group and the Chairman invited the Tring Safety Group to write to Tring Town Council requesting it send a representative.

13871. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Committee noted the following communications:

- (i) Copies of reports of problems affecting Rights of Way. The Chairman updated the Committee on the status of the outstanding issues
- (ii) Letter from WasteAware regarding a public consultation on the new Waste Management Strategy for Hertfordshire
- (iii) Minutes from the Safer Routes to School Grove Road Primary School Forum 3 held on 18th January 2007.

The following brochures/papers were available for perusal in the Clerk's office:

- (i) Chilterns News
- (ii) CMS News
- (iii) Community Development Agency 2005/2006 Annual Review
- (iv) Countryside Voice
- (v) CPRE (Hertfordshire Society) – newsletter
- (vi) CPRE Fieldwork for December 2006 and March 2007
- (vii) Groundwork Hertfordshire – 2006 Yearbook
- (viii) Open Space

The meeting ended at 8.42 p.m.

Chairman