

(draft) 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 19th SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 8 p.m.

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

Co-opted Members: Brian Kazer (Tring Environmental Forum)
Mary Lynn Moxon (Tring Allotments Association)
John Savage (The Ramblers Association)
Greta Brown (The Chilterns Society)

Also present: Mr K. Gray (Town Clerk)
Mrs Belle Daytonn (Deputy Town Clerk)
Mr Colin Jones (Town Warden)
1 resident

- 16104 **APOLOGIES**
RESOLVED: To receive and accept apologies from Mr R Wallis Tring Allotments Association
- 16105 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
There were no declarations of interest made.
- 16106 **MINUTES**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 6th Junel 2011 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.
- 16107 **MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES**
- Duckmore Lane allotment site – wild flower area removed and plans for new notice board to be erected on this site.
 - Bulbourn allotment site – fencing work completed and strimming of site completed. Work to take place on turning over ground to make it easier for allotment plots.
 - Hastoe Hill Bench installed and resident pleased with result.
- 16108 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
RESOLVED: To suspend Standing Orders so that members of the public might speak. No questions from the public. The Chairman resumed the meeting.
- 16109 **DUCKMORE LANE ALLOTMENTS**
The Clerk gave an update on the management of the site and the Deputy Clerk presented a written report/update on the recent inspection visits. The Clerk said he was in the process of writing an article for the Tring Gazette to promote the allotment sites and the work of the Town Council in these areas. The committee were of the opinion that the allotment site is being better managed and congratulated the Clerk and Council Staff for the work they are doing.

16110 **BULBOURNE ALLOTMENTS**

The Clerk gave an update on the management of the site and the Deputy Clerk presented a written report/update on the recent inspection visits. The fencing has been completed to create further allotment plots and a decision has been made by the Clerk to make the plots smaller so that more plots can be created. The area has been strimmed and work will take place to turn over the top soil to make it easier for tenants to work the plots. Discussion took place on the security of the site and the need to curtail the parking of vehicles not associated with the allotment site. RESOLVED: That the Clerk write to all residents near to the allotment site and explain that the permission to park vehicles was to be rescinded and that the gate will be locked. To write to all allotment tenants and explain the importance of locking the gate when they are in and when they leave the site. The committee were of the opinion that the allotment site is being better managed and congratulated the Clerk and Council Staff for the work they are doing.

16111 **COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT GARDEN**

Committee were asked to consider setting land aside for the use of groups of people to manage as a community garden. The Clerk informed the committee that there were no covenants on the original land agreement that would stop the Council from creating an community garden/allotment plots. The allotments are for the Council to manage as they see fit and can give permission for various changes if wished to do so.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk also include in the newspaper article on allotments sites, a piece in the proposal to have an community garden and ask for volunteers to manage the garden. The garden to be 4 allotments plots connected and the tenancy agreement to be the same as allotment tenants.

16112 **MEMORIAL GARDEN**

The Clerk gave an update on the work taking place at the Memorial Garden in Tring. The pond is near completion and work has taken place on felling trees and removing tree stumps from previous felling. The gardens will be officially opened sometime in March 2012. Access to the gardens will be made available soon and the overall plan will be to create more flower beds and enhance the area with more planting of trees and open up the area by removing some of the overgrown bushes and trees. The Clerk has been communicating with the officers responsible for the refurbishments of the garden and the committee RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the officers and thank them for their continued communication with the Town Council.

16113 **PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP**

John Savage reported that various meetings have taken place and there was some concern about cuts to funding. There was some discussion previously on the proposal that P3 money be made available to divert and extend footpath 82 and extinguish footpath 76.

RESOLVED: The Clerk was asked to write to Clayton Rae and request the above.

16114 **TOWN COUNCIL PLAY AREAS**

The Clerk informed the committee that further vandalism had taken place at Pond Close and the council's insurance had covered the repairs. This was the second time the site had been vandalised and it was RESOLVED: That the Clerk should strongly request that the local police visit the sites more often.

16115 **REPORTS FROM CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Mr Kazar reported that Tring Environmental Forum were assisting local schools with planting various flowers and giving advice as necessary. The work was going well and appreciated by the schools. Mrs Moxon thanked the Town Council for their contribution towards the payment for the skip hire and thanked the Town Clerk for accepting an invitation to the Allotment Association AGM. Mrs Brown thanked the Town Warden for the installation of the new bench on Hastoe Lane and said it looked good. She also asked if a new, black metal, bin could be provided to match the bench. She also requested that another bench, and bin, be provided for Park Road opposite East Lodge. The Clerk would look into this and discuss with DBC about bin provision.

16116 **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

No matters to report.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm

Chairman