

**MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF THE
TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MARKET HOUSE, TRING
ON MONDAY 6th APRIL 2009 AT 8.08 p.m.**

- Present:**
- Councillors: Mrs R. L. Ransley (Chairman)
J. S. Allan (sub. for L. J. Harris)
W. D. Berdinner
Mrs M.V. Booth
M. J. James
- Co-opted: Barbara Kazer (Tring Environmental Forum)
Mary Lynn Moxon (Tring Allotments Association)
- Also present:**
- Councillor: Mrs D. M. Rance
- Mrs S. Johnson, Clerk of the Council
Shelley Savage, Chairman, DBC Standards Committee
C. J. Jones, Town Warden
2 members of the public

14945. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Harris (substitute Councillor Allan), Councillor Mrs Hearn, John Savage (Ramblers Association) and Chris Gray.

14946. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chairman and Councillor James both declared a personal interest in item 6(ii) as the applicant was a friend. Councillor Allan declared a personal interest in item 6(ii) as he was Secretary of Tring in Transition. Barbara Kazer declared a personal interest in item 6(ii) as she was on the steering group of Tring in Transition.

14947. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Allotments & Environment Committee meeting held on 12th January 2009 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

14948. **MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES**

There were none.

14949. **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. No members of the public present wished to speak.

14950. **MEMORIAL GARDEN BEDDING PLANTS**

- (i) The Committee noted the completion of the Licence to Plant (six beds around the pond) with Dacorum Borough Council. The Licence was initially for a year, with the option to continue thereafter, until determined by six months' written notice by either party. Tring TC was required to prepare and provide a schedule of planting and maintenance for DBC's prior approval.
- (ii) Tring in Transition Food Group had requested permission to take over one of the Memorial Garden beds to grow herbs to encourage the public to grow their own food; and to serve as a reminder of the 'Dig for Victory' campaign in WWII. The scheme would also dovetail with the offer from the Tring ATC to help occasionally with maintaining the MG beds; and the Clerk would put the organisations in touch with one another. The Committee **RESOLVED** to allocate one of the six MG beds to the care of Tring in Transition; and to negotiate the terms of any contract for care of the other five beds accordingly. The bed allocated to TinT would be identified at a later date.

14950. **MEMORIAL GARDEN BEDDING PLANTS/Contd.**

- (iii) The Committee considered two indicative quotations for maintaining the beds: one based on bedding plants planted twice a year; the other on a core planting of perennial shrubs accompanied by a border of twice-yearly planting of seasonal flowers. The Committee **RESOLVED** to adopt the latter scheme of planting; and to authorise the Clerk, in association with the Chairman, to decide upon a contractor between meetings. The Clerk would obtain two quotations, based on this scheme, for five beds.

14951. **HIGH STREET PLANTING REVIEW**

- (i) The Committee noted the agreement with DBC regarding the apportionment of the provision of town centre hanging baskets 2009/10. The Committee was disappointed that neither Council could provide baskets for the Miswell Lane area this year. Barbara Kazer undertook to investigate 'dry' hanging baskets for that end of town, to obviate the need for watering which this Council was unable to provide there.
- (ii) The Committee considered two quotations for the supply of 14 hanging baskets (7 pairs) at the Robin Hood end of the High Street; and **RESOLVED** to accept that from Cheddington Garden Centre in the sum of £196 excluding VAT.

14952. **POND CLOSE PLAY AREA**

The Committee considered two quotations for the planned work to the safety surfacing under the cradle swings and slide. The quotation from the favoured contractor exceeded the budget; but there was some scope for a reduction if both surfaces were renewed simultaneously. The Clerk, in association with the Chairman, was authorised to negotiate; and agree a figure for the work between meetings.

14953. **DUCKMORE LANE ALLOTMENTS**

There were currently 30 on the waiting list for an allotment, 23 from 2008 and 7 registered in 2009. The six newly-provided allotments were now tenanted. The Town Warden had cleared the rubbish from the site and the car park, and disposed of it in a skip. The new water tank on plot 76 had been installed, but this had thrown up another problem. The movement of the soil had revealed the fragility of the old pipework, which was steel and corroded. The Warden was working on repairing it, but it might be that the whole run to the meter would have to be replaced at a heavy cost, as yet unascertained. The Committee noted the probable expenditure, which would have to be found out of Reserves. Mainly due to vandalism, notices on site needed replacing; they would cover dog-walking, rights of way, and dumping. Allotment holders would also be reminded of keeping vehicles on site to a minimum. The Town Warden and the Clerk's Assistant would inspect the site after Easter to decide who, if anyone, should be reminded of their obligations to keep a tidy allotment. On behalf of the Allotments Association, Mary Lynn Moxon thanked the Council for clearing the rubbish. She hoped that plots would not be routinely divided as it was important to preserve some full-size ones. She mentioned the 'Allotment Regeneration Initiative' which offered grants to increase numbers of plots. The Clerk agreed to look into applying. Finally she thanked the Council for agreeing to distribute a letter, at the Association's expense, to all plot holders exhorting them to join. She provided copies to the Committee.

14954. **PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP (P3)**

The bench on F26 had been installed, thanks to help from the DBC Rights of Way Officer. The Council awaited a decision on its bid for 2009/10, which was for kissing gates on F56.

14955. **MILLENNIUM WOODLAND**

Work had been done on the Woodland in 2008/09 by the Council's regular contractor. His quotation had been received for brushcutting, topping and spraying in 2009, which was well within budget. The Committee **RESOLVED** to accept the quotation in the sum of £850, in view of his excellent work so far.

14956. **REPORTS FROM CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

There was nothing further any co-opted member wished to add.

14957. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Committee noted the following communications:

- (i) The DBC Clean, Safe & Green Roadshow would be coming to Tesco's car park, London Road on Friday 15th May 2009 from noon till 4 p.m.
- (ii) Hertfordshire Trading Standards had reminded parish councils that the Weights & Measures Act 1985 and EC Directive 80/181/EEC concerning Units of Measurement required allotment plot sizes to be defined in square metres rather than poles, although definition by plot was still permissible. As the Council's allotment plots were mostly uniform in size, the Committee agreed to add a definition of 'one pole = 25 sq m' on its agreements and on its website, which it understood would satisfy the law.
- (iii) The list of The Chiltern Society's Wendover Woods Conservation Group Tuesday Sessions April to December 2009 was available.
- (iv) The Committee noted the Council's support for diversion of Footpaths Tring Rural 46 & Tring Rural 48/Tring Town 50 in support of the work of the Wendover Arm Trust. The diversions were also supported by The Ramblers' Association Herts & North Middlesex Area, in the person of John Savage.
- (v) Councillor Mrs Rance requested the Committee consider installing a litter bin in the Chapel Meadow Play Area. The Town Warden said installation would cost several hundred pounds, but the difficulty would be emptying it on a regular basis. The Clerk undertook to discuss the matter with DBC, and then bring a recommendation and any quotations to a forthcoming meeting of the Committee.

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

- (i) Allotments Regeneration Initiative Newsletter Spring 2009
- (ii) CPRE: The Hertfordshire Society Newsletter February 2009; Countryside Voice Spring 2009; Fieldwork March 2009
- (iii) Chiltern News March 2009
- (iv) Chilterns Conservation Board: Chalk and Trees Spring/Summer 2009; What's On in the Chilterns April – September 2009; Chilterns Woodland Project News of the Woods Spring 2009; Chilternsaetna Spring 2009
- (v) CDA for Herts: Newsletter January 2009
- (vi) The CTC Trust: Cycle Digest, issue no. 57 of 2009
- (vii) The Open Spaces Society: Open Space Spring 2009

The meeting ended at 9.15 p.m.

Chairman