

**MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF THE
TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MARKET HOUSE, TRING
ON MONDAY 11th JANUARY 2010 at 8.25 p.m.**

Present: Councillors: Mrs R. L. Ransley (in the Chair)
W. D. Berdinner
Mrs M.V. Booth
L. J. Harris
M. J. James

Co-opted: Mary Lynn Moxon (Tring Allotments Association)
John Savage (Ramblers Association)
Rupert Wallis (Tring Allotments Association)

Also present: Mrs S. Johnson, Clerk of the Council
David Metcalfe
2 members of the public

15291. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor; and Greta Brown (The Chiltern Society) and Brian Kazer (Tring Environmental Forum).

15292. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

15293. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Allotments & Environment Committee meeting held on 21st September 2009 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

15294. **MOST IMPROVED ALLOTMENT 2009**

The Chairman congratulated Diane Ivory and presented her with the certificate for the Most Improved Allotment 2009 for her Duckmore Lane plot 77A. David Metcalfe presented her with prize vouchers to spend in his shop. He pledged also to support the award next year. The Committee thanked him for his continuing support of the competition.

15295. **MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES**

Arising from Minute 15162, DBC had decided to award the Playbuilder Development money to Mortimer Hill play area, following a recommendation from this Council and Tring Youth Town Council.

Arising from Minute 15165, no further funding had yet been identified to expand the number of allotment plots. On 12th October 2009 (Minute 15207) Buildings & Assets Committee had considered the release of some of the Council's current grasskeep, but for various reasons had decided against it for the time being. B&A Committee would revisit the matter in October 2010.

15296. **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.

Stewart Ivory of Chapel Street asked whether there had been any discussions with a local landowner over provision of extra allotment land. The Clerk said that there had not.

15297. **ALLOTMENTS LETTING PROTOCOL**

As promised at the meeting on 21st September 2010 Minute 15164, the Clerk had circulated with the agenda a draft Allotments Letting Protocol which encapsulated all the decisions which had been made by the Committee over the last few years, and clarified some other issues arising recently. The Committee broadly welcomed the document and discussed some specific clauses. The Committee agreed the following amendments: to 3a), additional sentences putting the responsibility on the tenant to inform the Council if they moved out of the parish, and a retrospectively-applied year's notice to quit if they failed to do so; to 4d), to clarify that the charge for 'work' related to administrative costs incurred by the Council during the letting of a plot which were over and above normal expenses; and to 5a), to clarify that no plot might be held for the specific purpose of growing for *personal* profit, but that any surplus produce might be sold provided the proceeds went to the Allotments Association or other charitable or non profit-making organisation. With these amendments, the document was approved. The Clerk pledged to circulate the revised Protocol to Committee members prior to its issue to new tenants and putting it up on the Council's website. The Committee then discussed an appeal by the holder of a plot who had moved out of the parish and county, and had thus been given a year's notice to quit. She had been a good plot holder for some 10 years and wished to stay. In view of her long, successful cultivation of her plot, and the fact that clause 3a) of the Protocol had only now been approved, it was decided to allow her 2 years' notice to quit her allotment, i.e. to September 2011; and to encourage her to register for a plot in her new place of residence. Two years was also seen as long enough to allow her to move back into the parish, should she wish to do so. If she did, she would then be allowed to keep the plot without going back onto the waiting list.

15298. **REPORTS FROM CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

John Savage (Ramblers Association) gave an update on footpaths. DBC had improvements to F56 in hand; the surface improvements to F12, Kiln Lane to Browns Lane, had been completed; and surfacing improvements to F27, 36, 74 and 75 had been put forward to HCC to be paid from the P3 budget. F76 and part of F82 in Stubbings Wood were not visible on the ground, and the DBC Rights of Way Officer had agreed to look into reinstating them. As the land was owned by DBC there should be no problem. The Clerk was asked to write to Clayton Rae to remind him of his undertaking.

Rupert Wallis (Allotments Association) reported from its AGM that members were not keen on quarter plot lettings; and that extra plots at Bulbourne would be acceptable. Members had asked about the frequency of the Duckmore Lane site's hedgecutting. The Clerk said each hedgerow was cut on alternate years, but if anyone had a particular problem with a hedge, they should contact the Town Warden. Mr Wallis also asked whether allotment holders could harvest fruit from the Millennium Woodland, rather than it going to waste. The Committee agreed they could. The Committee also encouraged Mr Wallis to refer any improvements AA members would like to the Committee. He agreed to give an update on the compost toilet to the next meeting due to be held on 12th April 2010.

15299. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Committee noted copies of reports of problems affecting Rights of Way.

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

- (i) Allotments Regeneration Initiative: Newsletter Autumn 2009
- (ii) Chilterns Conservation Board: Chalk and Trees Autumn/Winter 2009
- (iii) Chiltern News December 2009
- (iv) Chilterns Woodland Project: News of the Woods Autumn 2009 and Special Trees and Woods of the Chilterns
- (v) CPRE : Yearbook 2009; Newsletter November 2009; Countryside Voice; Fieldwork December 2009
- (vi) Cycle Digest
- (vii) Open Space Autumn 2009

The meeting ended at 9.08 p.m.

Chairman