

**MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF THE
TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MARKET HOUSE, TRING
ON MONDAY 12th APRIL 2010 at 8.10 p.m.**

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

Co-opted: Rupert Wallis (Tring Allotments Association)

Also present: Mrs S. Johnson, Clerk of the Council
Mrs B. Daytonn, Deputy Clerk
Mr C. Jones, Town Warden
No members of the public

15421. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor, and Councillors Berdinner and Harris; and from Greta Brown (The Chiltern Society), John Savage (Ramblers Association) and Mary Lynn Moxon (Allotments Association).

15422. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

15423. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Allotments & Environment Committee meeting held on 11th January 2009 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

15424. **MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES**

Arising from Minute 15298, the DBC Rights of Way Officer had begun work reinstating F76 and part of F82 in Stubbings Wood.

15425. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public were present.

15426. **DUCKMORE LANE ALLOTMENTS**

- (i) Rupert Wallis reported on progress on providing a compost toilet. The Allotments Association had identified a company to plan and provide the toilet at an inclusive price of about £10,000 including VAT. The company sought planning permission and installed what amounted to a metal container, which would need screening grown over it. The toilet required no plumbing and was vandal and weather proof. The AA would seek grants to cover the cost. Further progress would depend on the enthusiasm of the Association committee. The Committee **RESOLVED** to pledge the £1,600 in its Allotments Development budget to the project, subject to the AA obtaining the balance through grants.
- (ii) The Committee reviewed the contracts for grass and hedge cutting at the allotments. It accepted the increased price for grass cutting for 2010 from Michael Barratt in the sum of £57.50 per cut, up to a maximum of 9 cuts; with extra cuts (weather-dependent) at the discretion of the Town Warden. However, the current hedge cutter had not fulfilled his obligation this winter, despite reminders, and thus the Clerk was instructed to seek a new contractor. She would seek the advice of Brian and Barbara Kazer (TEF) on this. Rupert Wallis agreed to explain the lack of hedge cutting to the Association.
- (iii) Rupert Wallis suggested that an inspection of plots was due. The Council staff agreed and would be carrying out one soon. A cupboard exceeding 1m in height had appeared under a tree on site. The Town Warden would investigate. It was noted that raised beds were fashionable at present. The consequences of their widespread introduction would be monitored.

15427. **MEMORIAL GARDEN BEDS AND HIGH STREET HANGING BASKETS**

- (i) The contractor, Cheddington Garden Centre, providing the Council's High Street hanging baskets had been retained for a further year at a cost of £196. The standard last year had been exceptionally high. The baskets would be put up at the beginning of May.
- (ii) The service of the contractor for four of the Memorial Garden beds, Sunnyside Rural Trust, had been somewhat erratic, and the choice of plants was not universally popular. However a tidy-up was due in the forthcoming week and judgement would be reserved until that was complete. The two beds allotted to Tring in Transition Food Group for planting herbs were not being well-maintained. The organiser would be reminded of their obligation. The Committee also considered the grass in the Garden was not in a good state; and the Clerk undertook to speak to DBC.

15428. **TRING PARK – THE WOODLAND TRUST HLF BID**

The Woodland Trust was to make a Heritage Lottery Fund bid to improve access and footfall in Tring Park. To this end they had called a meeting of interested parties and prospective supporters in the Council Chamber on 24th March 2010, at which the Council had been represented. Following a very successful and idea-generating meeting, the WT's Alistair Crosby would be the guest speaker at the Council's Annual Town Meeting on Monday 19th April 2010. A further meeting of partners would be held in about six months' time. The Committee considered the bid and planned works a positive contribution to the town and expressed support for the bid.

15429. **SPEED LIMIT ON LONDON ROAD**

Wigginton Parish Council had recently decided to ask Herts Highways to introduce a 40 mph limit on Oddy Hill to the start of the A41 exit slip road at the roundabout, all within Wigginton's boundaries. They had further suggested that Tring Town Council might like to support them by adding a request to extend the 40 mph limit along the deregulated stretch of the A4251 to the start of the 30 mph limit at London Lodge. The Committee thought this eminently sensible and asked the Clerk to write to Herts Highways in support of the suggestion.

15430. **REPORTS FROM CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Rupert Wallis said the Allotments Association wanted to do a tidy-up at Duckmore Lane in the near future, and requested the provision of a skip. The Town Warden would obtain a quotation. However the Committee thought it reasonable to ask for a contribution of 25% of the cost from allotment holders; and Mr Wallis agreed. The Town Warden suggested, and the Committee agreed, that the car park be locked for the whole weekend it was provided to prevent dumping by outsiders. Further the Association undertook to have a nominated person on duty during its use to ensure fair access for all.

15431. **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) Open Space Spring 2010
- (ii) Chiltern Woodlands Project: Special Trees and Woods of the Chilterns
- (iii) CPRE Fieldwork April 2010
- (iv) CPRE Newsletter February 2010
- (v) CTC Cycle Digest 2010
- (vi) The Chiltern Society Chiltern News March 2010
- (vii) CDA for herts Newsletter December 2009 and Annual Review 2008/09
- (viii) DCLG publication *A place to grow: a supplementary document to Growing in the Community* February 2010
- (ix) Fields in Trust: Annual Review and notice of AGM

The meeting ended at 8.54 p.m.