

**MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE OF THE
TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MARKET HOUSE, TRING
ON MONDAY 7th JUNE 2010 at 8 p.m.**

- Present:** Councillors: Mrs R. L. Ransley (in the Chair)
J. S. Allan (ex officio)
Mrs M.V. Booth
M. J. James
Mrs D. M. Rance
- Co-opted: Barbara Kazer (Tring Environmental Forum)
Mary Lynn Moxon (Tring Allotments Association)
John Savage (Ramblers Association)
Rupert Wallis (Tring Allotments Association)
- Also present:** Councillor: Mrs P. J. Hearn
- Mrs S. Johnson, Clerk of the Council
Mrs B. Daytonn, Deputy Clerk
2 members of the public

15499. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Greta Brown (The Chiltern Society).

15500. **CO-OPTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2010/11**

RESOLVED: That the following be co-opted members of the Committee until its dissolution or the next Annual Meeting of the Council, whichever was the earlier:

Brian Kazer/Barbara Kazer (Tring Environmental Forum)
Greta Brown (The Chiltern Society)
Mary Lynn Moxon (Tring Allotments Association)
John Savage (The Ramblers Association)
Rupert Wallis (Tring Allotments Association)

15501. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

15502. **WORKING PARTIES 2010/11**

Allotments Consultation and Tring Transport Plan Working Parties: the Committee agreed that these working parties would be convened as and when necessary.

15503. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Allotments & Environment Committee meeting held on 12th April 2010 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman, with the following correction: Minute 15423, change date of minutes from 2009 to 2010 .

15504. **MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES**

Arising from Minute 15428, the Clerk had sent a letter of support from the Council for the Woodland Trust's HLF bid for Tring Park.

Arising from Minute 15429, the Clerk had written to Herts Highways in support of Wigginton PC's suggestion for changes to the London Road speed limit; but had had no response as yet.

15505. **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.

Christine Hopkins of Longfield Road and Tring in Transition Food Group expressed concern at the state of the Memorial Garden flower beds, especially due to vandalism and stolen plants. The TinT Food Group, which managed two of the six beds, tried to put in strong plants with a better chance of survival.

Mary Lynn Moxon arrived at 8.05 p.m.

Veronica Allan of Friars Walk and Chairman of TinT thought that the overhanging, mature trees in the Garden made it seem depressing; she suggested pruning. The Clerk had also suggested this to Dacorum BC, but it had no funds for the sort of radical work needed. Its restricted budget had to be preserved for safety work. The Clerk was requested to refer this problem to Tring's County Councillor to see whether he could use any of his Community Budget to achieve some work on the trees and bushes.

With the Committee's consent the Chairman reversed the order of the following two items.

15506. **MEMORIAL GARDEN**

Regarding the state of the six flower beds for which the Council had taken responsibility, the two managed by Tring in Transition Food Group were considered acceptable. However the four managed by the Council directly through its contractors had been a target for vandalism and theft and were looking in a sorry state. Some members thought the planting regime was unsuccessful. Several members of the Committee were also disappointed with the way the Garden looked generally, with particular reference to the pond, the overbearing trees and bushes, the grass, the gates and signage, and the quality of the lighting. Following discussion it was decided to write to the DBC Portfolio Holder for Finance & Resources, copying to the relevant officer and the PH for Environment & Sustainability, pointing out these items and making suggestions as to sources of help and funding for DBC to improve matters e.g. RAF Halton cadets; the local families of those commemorated on the plaques; the Wendover Arm Trust (expertise on the pond). The Chairman and Councillor Mrs Hearn offered to attend any meeting with DBC which could be set up. Meanwhile the Committee decided to keep the beds the size they were, and replant with flowering shrubs and perennials to be suggested by Christine Hopkins. She would send a list to the Clerk; and this would be communicated on to the contractors. There remained £1,500 in the budget for 2010/11 for this work. A further cause for concern in the area was the erection of an advertising hoarding to the rear of the listed wall to the rear of Mansion Vista, on Tring Park School land. The Clerk was asked to report this to DBC Planning Enforcement.

15507. **DUCKMORE LANE ALLOTMENTS**

- (i) The Deputy Clerk and the Town Warden had inspected the allotments on 19th May 2010. As a result 22 letters asking for improvement had been issued to DL plot holders and 3 to Bulbourne. To date 4 responses had been received. Another inspection would take place at the end of June, which could result in some notices to quit. The waiting list currently stood at 39 for applications for both sites. Following reports of problems it was decided to prohibit the use of JCBs on site; and wording to add to the Protocol would be brought to the next meeting of the Committee due to be held on 20th September 2010. Similarly, problems with dog incursion and fouling would be addressed with the liberal use of notices; replacing them as soon as they were torn down. Some would be provided to Allotment Association representatives so they could help with replacements.
- (ii) The Clerk had identified new hedge-cutting contractors but had not yet had a chance to approach them for quotations. She would bring quotations to the next meeting of the Committee.

15508. **PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP**

There were no currently-identified new projects for putting forward for the P3 grant in 2010/11. The Clerk was asked to find out whether the £1,000 could be held over to 2011/12 for use then for a £2,000 project.

15509. **REPORTS FROM CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

John Savage said that Tring footpaths were in excellent shape. The only anomaly was two footpaths in Stubbings Wood, where F76 and F82 did not exist on the ground and it was impossible to reinstate them. Changes needed to be made to the Definitive Map.

Barbara Kazer reported that the Tring Task Force was finding it difficult to establish wild flowers at the Temperance Hall; that three suitable apple trees had been planted on the TEF allotment at Duckmore Lane; that the cowslips in the Millennium Wood were well-established; and that she had 60 cowslip plugs she would be planting at various Tring locations.

Following discussion, Rupert Wallis understood that progress on the compost toilet project at DL was entirely down to the Allotments Association. The £1,600 put aside by the Council was all the funding being made available for this project in 2010/11. On other matters, the AA was engaging in many activities, including a very successful plant sale; posters encouraging allotment gardening; and tidying up its flower area at DL. The AA would be carrying out its own inspection of allotment plots later in the year; and would provide leaflets for the Clerk's office to issue to plot holders on rent renewal in September/October.

15510. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

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

- (i) Open Space Summer 2010 and the Open Spaces Society report & accounts 2009
- (iii) Wendover Arm News Spring 2010
- (iv) Chiltern News June 2010-06-04 CPRE Newsletter May 2010 and Members' Guide 2010
- (v) Countryside Voice Spring 2010
- (vi) Dacorum Borough Council in association with the Environment Agency had given notice that they were organising a clear-up of the stream in Brook Street down as far as the British Waterways weir. As DBC had needed comments before this Committee meeting, comments had been gleaned from Committee members by email. All who responded had been in favour.

The meeting ended at 9.23 p.m.

Chairman