

**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 10th JANUARY 2011 AT 8.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors: Mrs R.L. Ransley Town Mayor (in the Chair)
Mrs M. V. Booth
L.J. Harris
N.A. Hollinghurst (non committee member)
M. J. James
Mrs D. M.Rance

Ex-Officio: J.S. Allan

Co-opted: Greta Brown (Chiltern Society)
Brian Kazer (Tring Environmental Forum)
Mary Lynn Moxon (Tring Allotments Association)
Rupert Wallis (Tring Allotments Association)

Also present: Mr C.R.Westwood, Acting Town Clerk

15785. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from John Savage of The Ramblers Association

15786. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest regarding items on the agenda.

15787. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2010 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

15788. **MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

15789. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present.

15790. **DUCKMORE LANE ALLOTMENTS**

The Acting Town Clerk reported that the Town Warden was contacting the contractor to arrange for the hedges to be cut for the first time in two years. There was nothing else to report.

Action Town Warden

15791. **DUCKMORE LANE COMPOST TOILET PROPOSALS**

Rupert Wallis said that the Allotment Association had agreed not to proceed with the compost toilet and to open the plot where it would have gone for tenanting.

15792. **BULBOURNE ALLOTMENTS**

Councillor Hollinghurst said that the Bulbourne allotment site was not in such good condition as the other sites. A discussion took place concerning the condition of the car park surface and the individual plots, most of which had changed hands during 2010. The new tenants should be given a chance to bring their plots to the required standard. Cars in the car park should display permits to show they belong to tenants. Following discussion it was

RESOLVED

To refer the question of resurfacing the car park at Bulbourne allotments to the Building & Assets Committee and also to ask if that committee would support a proposal to convert part of the car park into allotment plots.

Action Acting Town Clerk

APPEALS AGAINST EVICTION OR DOWNSIZING OF ALLOTMENT PLOTS

Councillor Rance referred to the problems that arose at the last Committee meeting during an appeal and said that the appeals procedure should be amended to prevent them taking place in public. To avoid public embarrassment the appeal should be made in writing followed by a meeting in private of a group of councillors and Co-opted members to discuss the appeal.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED

To prepare a draft policy to deal with Allotment related appeals for consideration by full Council in February. The policy should include:

- that the appeal must be made in writing to the Town Council
- that following receipt of the appeal an Appeals Group consisting of the Chairman of the Allotments & Environment Committee, one other councillor and a Co-opted member should discuss the appeal in private
- that the decision of the Appeals Group should be reported to the next meeting of the Committee.

Action Deputy Town Clerk

Mary Lynn Moxon said that the National association of allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NAALG) had a template for a tenancy agreement which was clearer than the one currently in use. She would obtain a copy.

Rupert Wallis said that it would help the relationship with tenants if approximate dates of inspections were published in advance. The town Mayor said that the next inspections would be carried out at the end of April.

15793. **MEMORIAL GARDEN**

There was nothing to report.

15794. **PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP**

John Savage of The Ramblers Association had reported by letter that Clayton Rae, Footpaths Officer, had made progress replacing stiles with gates and there were currently only two stiles remaining in the Parish, on footpaths 11 and 72. He expected both to be replaced soon.

15795. **TOWN COUNCIL PLAY AREAS**

Councillor James thanked the Town Warden for carrying out quick repairs to the Pond Close play area. There was nothing else to report.

15796. **BUDGET 2011/2012**

Rupert Wallis said that it appeared that allotment rents were subsidising non allotment related expenditure and this was unfair. However, it was noted that the costs associated with allotments did not include administrative costs or any major works undertaken. Also, the £1600 saved by not proceeding with the compost toilet would be re-allocated to allotments. The draft budget was noted and agreed.

15797. **REPORTS FROM CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Rupert Wallis (Tring Allotments Association) made the following comments:

- Would the Town Council now fund half the cost of a skip as previously agreed (invoice to be sent to the Deputy Clerk).
- Plot 24 had been offered to someone who already had half a plot who was not on the waiting list (The Town Mayor explained why this had occurred).
- Dogs on the site were a problem, could a hedge be planted alongside the footpath as a natural barrier to keep them out. Notices need to be installed and the Dog Warden asked to pay attention. **Action Town Warden to investigate costs and locations of signs and contact the Dog Warden.**
- Speeding cars on Aylesbury Road are a problem. (Councillor Hollinghurst explained the action being taken by Sergeant Adele Hopkin).
- The relationship between the tenants and the council needs to be improved. An example would be to e-mail the tenants with rent demands. (The Town Mayor said that the Deputy Clerk had suggested that the way in which allotments are administered needs a complete overhaul and this would be undertaken). **Action Deputy Town Clerk**
- A Councillor should attend the AGM of the Allotments Association. (Councillor James suggested nominating a councillor as a representative at the request of the Association).

Mary Lynn Moxon (Tring Allotments Association) made the following comments:

- The Town Council and the Allotment Association should work together to increase the number of plots. The NAALG would help to identify land. (It was noted that the current waiting list is reasonable, less than it was and is being managed).

Greta Brown (The Chiltern Society) made the following comments:

- Greta Brown agreed with John Savage, that the parish paths are in a good state of repair.

Brian Kazer (Tring Environmental Forum) had nothing to report.

15798. **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The following publications had been received:

The newsletter of the Allotments Regeneration Initiative, Autumn 2010

The CPRE newsletter for Hertfordshire, Autumn 2010

Cycle Digest

Chilterns Conservation Board Annual Review 2009/2010

The Chiltern Society electronic newsletter for November 2010.

The meeting ended at 9.35 p.m.

Chairman