

**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 4th APRIL 2011 AT 8 p.m.**

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

Ex-Officio: J.S. Allan

Co-opted: Brian Kazer (Tring Environmental Forum)
Mary Lynn Moxon (Tring Allotments Association)
John Savage (The Ramblers Association)
Rupert Wallis (Tring Allotments Association)

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

15927 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors James and Rance, Greta Brown of the Chiltern Society and Colin Jones, Town Warden.

15928 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

15929 **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2011 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

15930 **MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES**

Mary Lynn Moxon said that she had received a template for a tenancy agreement from the National Association of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners which she had passed to the Deputy Clerk for comparison with the one currently in use.

Brian Kazer said that the hedges at Duckmore Lane had been cut but the result was disappointing. Ends had been left shattered and split and he would have preferred an 'A' line finish.

Action Town Warden

15931 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were three members of the public present who chose not to participate.

15932 **HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL – FUTURE OF WASTE**

A letter received from Hertfordshire County Council concerning their priority to help residents to reduce, reuse and recycle more household waste, and a brochure dated March 2011 were noted. The brochure indicated that a new County Facility would open in April 2015. Councillor Allan said that a combined District facility for the County would save £6m a year and would be able to recycle all types of plastic.

15933 **DUCKMORE LANE ALLOTMENTS**

- i. Deputy Clerk's Report
The report circulated with the agenda was noted.
- ii. Community Garden
Councillor Allan said that consideration should be given to converting part of the field currently used for sheep grazing above the allotments into a communal garden for the Tring in Transition Food Group.
Rupert Wallis asked if that land could be used to provide more allotments.

Following discussion it was agreed to invite the Tring in Transition Food Group to submit plans to the Town Council for consideration, to include the cost of making the conversion.

Action Acting Town Clerk

15934 **BULBOURNE ALLOTMENTS**

- i. Deputy Clerk's Report
The report circulated with the agenda was noted. It was also noted that more allotments were needed at Beulbourne to respond to demand. The Town Warden had provided a sketch showing how this could be achieved. (See following item).

15935 **BULBOURNE ALLOTMENTS CAR PARK**

- i. Car Park Surface
It was reported that the Town Warden had dealt with the surface problems and was continuing to monitor the situation.
Action Town Warden
- ii. Parking Permit Scheme
It was reported that untaxed and broken down vehicles were being left in the car park which was also being used by boaters using the canal. Two motor homes were regularly parked there. There was a concern that allowing householders to use the car park may result in them being able to claim a right of access to and use of the car park.
Following discussion the following action was agreed to take effect from 1st October 2010:
 - a. Reduce the size of the car park to create more allotment plots, due to high demand for allotments.
 - b. Write to local residents to inform them that as the size of the car park is being reduced to create more allotments, it will only be available for use by allotment holders and that residents parking will not be permitted.
 - c. Sign to be erected at the entrance to indicate private property for use only by allotment tenants.
 - d. Fence off the area to be reclaimed for allotments prior to the 1st October 2010, to prevent any further parking**Action Town Clerk**
- iii. Conversion to Allotments
It was agreed to reduce the size of the car park in accordance with the sketch provided by the Town Warden to create more allotment plots. Estimates of the cost of conversion to be obtained.
Action Town Clerk/Town Warden

15936 **APPEALS AGAINST EVICTION OR DOWNSIZING OF ALLOTMENT PLOTS**

The Deputy Town Clerk circulated a draft constitution for an Allotment Management Team which included a Policy for dealing with Appeals.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Principle of setting up a Management Team to deal with the management of allotments in Tring was a good one but more work was needed on the composition and responsibilities of the Team, which it was agreed would not manage the finances related to allotments or the administration of tenancies.

It was agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting of the Allotments and Environment committee with a recommendation that a Working Party should be set up to determine how the allotments in Tring should be managed in the future, taking into account the draft Constitution prepared by the Deputy Town Clerk.

Action Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk.

15937 **MEMORIAL GARDEN**

A request had been received for permission to hold a T'ai Chi Ch'uan Teachers picnic event in the Memorial Park on the 25th June 2010. It was agreed to advise the applicant to request permission from Dacorum Borough Council, the owners of the Park.

Action Acting Town Clerk.

The Town Mayor reported that Sunnyside Rural Trust were disappointed with the results of the planting in the Memorial gardens which was not as good as it should be. They were carrying out soil testing and would replace the failed plants at their own expense.

15938 **PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP**

a. Grant for 2010/2011

John Savage reported that this years work replacing stiles was complete and all had been replaced with gates or removed. It was agreed to write to Clayton Rae, footpaths Officer to thank him for his work on the footpaths in Tring Parish.

Action Acting Town Clerk.

b. Grant for 2011/2012

John Savage proposed that the grant for 2011/2012 should be used to fund the legal costs to make necessary changes to the Definitive Footpath Map in relation to footpaths 76 and 82. In relation to FP76 there was a drafting error. This path has never existed and is impossible to follow. FP 82 needed to be extended and redirected. Both paths were in Stubbings Wood.

The proposal was accepted and it was agreed to write to Clayton Rae to ask for the proposal to be carried forward.

Action Acting Town Clerk.

John Savage said he had reported two recent footpath problems on Byway 28 and FP 67 to Clayton Rae, Footpaths Officer. Both matters were being dealt with.

15939 **HASTOE HILL BENCH REPLACEMENT**

The Town Mayor referred to an email from Greta Brown (Chiltern Society) regarding the replacement of the bench at the bottom of Hastoe Hill. It was agreed to establish the cost of a replacement bench, including recycled plastic seats, and to recommend to the Finance and Policy Committee that the costs of supply and installation are paid by the Town Council.

Action Acting Town Clerk/Town Warden

15940 **TOWN COUNCIL PLAY AREAS**

It was noted that the next inspection of the Town Council play areas would take place by ROSPA in May 2011. It was agreed to confirm that all the recommendations made by ROSPA in May 2010 had been completed.

Action Town Warden

15941 **REPORTS FROM CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Rupert Wallis asked if the land which was to have occupied by the toilet had been offered for tenancy. The Deputy Town Clerk said that it had been offered but not accepted. It needed clearing. It was agreed to obtain a quote for clearance which would be paid for by the Town Council.

Action Deputy Town Clerk

Mary Lynn Moxon said that Tring Allotment Association had a new web site and allotment members would contribute to a local produce show to be held on the 27th July

Brian Kazer commented on the Wildflower planting which had taken place and two thirds were in flower. He particularly mention planting at Temperance Hall and Bunstrux.

John Savage had nothing further to report.

15942 **CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The following publications had been received:

A letter had been received from John Savage concerning the lack of street cleaning in Tring and the poor condition of street furniture in the Town Centre. Both matters had been brought to the attention of the Town Warden.

A letter had been received from James Roberts regarding the amount of litter plaguing Pound Meadow, in particular around the Skate Park. The Town Warden was monitoring the situation. The Town Mayor said that the Town Council had asked for a recycling bin to be installed in Pound Meadow which was cleared of litter in early morning, but not later. It was agreed to write to the Youth Town Council to ask for their help in reducing litter in Pound Meadow, particularly in and around the skate park.

The meeting ended at 9.18 p.m.

Chairman