

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS & ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE OF TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
THE MARKET HOUSE, TRING ON MONDAY 5th SEPTEMBER 2016 AT 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Councillors: G. Wilkins, in the Chair
Mrs O. Conway
S. Hearn
M. Hicks (ex officio)
P. Hills
N. Hollinghurst (sub. for Cllr Mrs R. Ransley)
N. Nutkins

Co-opted members Mr I. Brownell (Allotment Association)
Mrs B. Kazer (Tring in Transition)
Mrs G. Brown (Chiltern Society)

Also present: Cllr Mrs P. Hearn
Cllr J. Bowden
Mr Michael Curry, Town Clerk
Mrs Dawn Slade, Deputy Town Clerk

18401. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs R. Ransley (family circumstances) and Mr J. Savage (prior engagement). Cllr Hollinghurst substituted for Cllr Mrs Ransley.

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies for the reasons given

18402. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

**18403. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD
ON 23rd MAY 2016**

RESOLVED: To accept the Minutes as circulated

18404. MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES

The Information Office Staff are liaising with Isabel Crozier of CMS on the production of footpath map showing routes radiating from Tring

18405. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Chairman congratulated the Allotment Association on the barbeque event held on 3rd September 2016. Copies of newsletters received were made available to Members.

Correspondence on the following has been received:

An alert on the implications of the Deregulation Act that will shortly come into force.

2. Green Flag Memorial Gardens. A competition is being run to pick the nation's top ten favourite parks. Members have been asked to vote as individuals for the Memorial Gardens and to encourage others to vote for it to (Vote at www.greenflagawards.org).

3. Notice of the South East Waterway Partnership Annual Meeting 19th September 2016 at Milton Keynes

18406. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public wishing to speak at this time.

Part 1 Allotments

18407. ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

The Deputy Clerk's report was circulated prior to the meeting.

There is now a waiting list of four enquirers, but it is anticipated that the demand will be met when the renewal notices are issued shortly. Drafts of the renewal letter and licence were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Deputy Clerk is liaising with Tring in Transition on the preparation of the Community Garden. The cost of skip hire is being investigated to remove an accumulation of non-compostable rubbish.

Hedging plants will need to be ordered shortly for autumn planting.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) Cllrs Wilkins and S. Hearn discuss the native species to plant in the hedgerows and to liaise with the Deputy Clerk on sourcing
 - (ii) To stop concessionary prices with effect from 1st October 2017
 - (iii) To accept the drafts presented with minor changes to paragraph 4 in the licence and an amendment to accommodate (ii) above

18408. THE TOWN WARDEN'S REPORT

The Deputy Clerk's report incorporated details of the work done by the Town Warden. The Millennium Wood grass has been cut and the access bollard locked. The windsock will be fitted before bonfires resume on the 1st October.

18409. ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION'S REPORT

Mr Brownell briefed Members on the following:

- The plant sale held on the 18th June was the most successful ever
- A strimmer has been purchased for use by members subject to use of the safety equipment provided and the signing of a disclaimer. Tuition will be given
- The Autumn Show and Barbeque was well attended with three new members recruited
- The AGM will be held on 19th October at the Nora Grace Hall

Part 2 Environment

18410. TOWN WARDEN'S REPORT

The following work has been carried out:

- The perimeter hedges have been reduced and thinned at Nora Grace Memorial Hall. Cuttings are being shredded
- Benches in various locations repaired
- Repairs undertaken at the Pond Close playground
- Chains and locks fitted at the Market Place whilst replacement gates are sourced

The tree audit was discussed and the proposed work was discussed.

- RESOLVED:**
- (i) The work recommended for 2016/17 to be completed subject to confirmation that the footpath improvements on footpath 41 will be carried out by Hertfordshire County Council
 - (ii) An alternative to planting a replacement tree in Church Square be sought
 - (iii) Work for 2017/18 to be considered as part of the next budgeting round

18411. RIGHTS OF WAY INCLUDING FOOTPATH 41

The Deputy Clerk gave details from a report prepared by Mr Savage:

- Footpath 58 – the Canal and River Trust have refused to have the footpath formally diverted onto their land.
- Footpath 76 – the route of the path has not been found
- P3 works are progressing
- The Ridgeway link has been surveyed and a recommended route determined

Cllr S. Hearn reported on the clearance of the land adjacent to Footpath 41:

- The cleared area has been left fallow throughout the summer
- Periodic cultivator sweeps have been done to lift roots. This has also lifted numerous bricks
- A harrow will now be used to clear a rocky area. The rocks will be used for small creature habitat
- A seed bed for a grass and wild flower mix will be prepared
- The planting will be to create a green corridor as part of a natural approach being taken with regard to the area
- The clearance of the stream will be done according to the outcome of discussions with the Canal and River Trust

Parking on Brook Street in the Streamside Walk section of the route was discussed and it was agreed that preventative measures were necessary.

- RESOLVED:** That the Clerk write to Dacorum Borough Council asking that low level timber parking bollards be installed along Brook Street at Streamside Walk.

18412. TRING IN TRANSITION'S REPORT

Mrs Kazer reported on the progress being made in developing the Community Garden, thanking the Council for the support it has given the project.

Working parties take place on the second Sunday of every month. Three raised beds are in place and will be filled with top soil shortly. To control the ground elder, comfrey and wild strawberries will be planted on the banks. Wild flowers will be planted around the raised beds.

The Council will be planting a beech hedge round the corner at the junction of Duckmore Lane and the Aylesbury Road. On the road side bulbs will be planted. It was agreed that this could be supplemented with excess plants from the Community Garden.

18413. DACORUM ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

Cllr Hills attended the meeting held on 25th August 2016 the main item being a report on the future of transport in Hertfordshire containing suggested developments. Inherent in the suggested approach is the recognition that new roads and road improvements will not solve the problem of congestion. The number of cars will have to be reduced whether through better public transport or deterrents such as road charging. Air quality also needs to be addressed through a switch to electric powered vehicles. A consultation is imminent.

Mrs Brown raised concerns at developments taking place in the woods above Tring.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk write, following briefings from Cllr Hollinghurst and Mrs Brown, to Dacorum Borough Council Enforcement Office to express the Council's concerns.

18414. ANNUAL GARDEN COMPETITION

The Mayor has judged the recommendations from each ward. The winners are:

Tring UDC Cup (Overall)	23 Westron Gardens
Trevor Marwood Cup (Small Garden)	18 Henry Street
Coulter Cup (Eight Acres)	77 Eight Acres

18415. THE MANAGEMENT OF MILLENNIUM WOOD AND THE CREATION OF A 'FRIENDS' GROUP

A proposal to prepare a management plan and to form a friends group was discussed.

RESOLVED: That the proposal was supported in principle subject to consideration of the costs involved

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Chairman