

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS & ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE OF TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
THE MARKET HOUSE, TRING ON MONDAY 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 AT 8.15 p.m.**

**Present:** Councillors: Mrs O. Conway, in the Chair  
H. Grace  
S. Hearn (ex officio)  
M. Hicks (ex officio)  
P. Hills  
C. Townsend  
G. Wilkins

Co-opted members Mrs G. Brown  
Mrs B. Kazer  
Mr I. Brownell

**Also present:** Cllr Mrs P. Hearn  
Cllr N. Nutkins  
Mr M. Curry, Town Clerk  
Mr C. Jones, Town Warden

**18038. APOLOGIES**

Cllr Mrs R. Ransley (prior commitment. Cllr Townsend substituted) and Mr J. Savage (prior commitment)

**RESOLVED:** To accept the apologies for the reason given

**18039. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made.

**18040. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD  
ON 7<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2015**

**RESOLVED:** To accept the Minutes subject to an amendment of the date of the Eco-fair from the 25<sup>th</sup> February to the 27<sup>th</sup> February, and for the Chairman to sign them.

**18041. MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES**

The Clerk updated members on the progress of the following resolutions:

- The hedge in Pound Meadow by the crossing to Tesco's has now been cut
- The tree that came down in the gales at the Nora Grace Hall has been removed and a contractor instructed on repairing the fence
- Cllr Grace has very kindly volunteered the use of his equipment if and when the need arose
- Contractors have been commissioned to clear and remove the rubbish on plot 54
- A letter has been sent to the Woodland Trust with regard to the management of Tring Park

**18042. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Cllr O. Conway welcomed Mr Brownell in his new role as Chairman of the Allotment Association.

The Clerk detailed the publications received and available to Members. He also reported the summary received from the Wendover Arm Trust on their joint lottery bid with the Canal and River Trust for phase 2 of the re-watering project.

**18043. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

***Part 1 Allotments***

**18044. ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT**

The Deputy Clerk's report was circulated prior to the meeting. Whilst the number of vacant plots has fallen and there is continued interest, the number of vacant plots will rise as letters of termination will be sent to plot holders who have failed to pay their rent.

The Clerk explained the duty to inspect trees on one's property and that a procedure need to be put in place to comply with the obligations.

**RESOLVED:** To contract Dacorum Borough Council to conduct the tree inspections on Council property

The poor state of the hedge at the boundary of Aylesbury Road and Duckmore Lane was raised. It was proposed to tidy up this area and in so doing make a feature of the Horse Chestnut that is there. It was noted that at this location the hedge had been replanted twice – both failing.

**RESOLVED:** To clear the undergrowth and remove the hedge in the corner of the allotments at the junction of Aylesbury Road and Duckmore Lane. Replace with a wooden fence

There was a similar discussion on the state of the hedge and stock fence around the Duckmore Lane grass keep.

**RESOLVED:** For the Clerk to investigate the cost to relay the hedge and restore the fencing of the Duckmore Lane grass keep

**18045. TOWN WARDEN'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that vacant plots are trimmed and the paths are receiving their regular monthly cut.

**18046. ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION'S REPORT**

Mr Brownell raised the following points following discussions in the Association:

- The boundary hedge, especially along the Aylesbury Road. The Clerk reported that maintenance of the hedge was now an annual undertaking and would be done with the end of the growing season

- The Association would be exploring the suggested use of tarpaulins to manage vacant plots and would report back to the Committee
- The Association would be participating in the Eco-fair and intends to hold a summer social and a vegetable show
- The provision of a low maintenance eco-toilet had been raised by members of the association. The feasibility of this was being investigated
- There had been incidents of fly tipping. The Clerk was asked to consider if it was practical to install a gate to the car park
- The use made by the Council of the allotment income. The Clerk explained that the annual maintenance (hedge cutting, grass cutting), ad hoc maintenance (repairs to the water troughs, fences), the cost of utilities and strimming vacant plots exceeded the income received without taking into account the staff costs

The Clerk reported that the basis of the draft warning letter sent by Mr Brownell would be used in the future and that warnings of inspections would be given.

## ***Part 2 Environment***

### **18047. TOWN WARDEN'S REPORT**

The Members noted the actions included in the report circulated prior to the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Warden repair the bench on Aylesbury Road

### **18048. RIGHTS OF WAY**

Mr Savage submitted a report to cover his absence. He highlighted that footpath 58 remains closed at Bulbourne; work had started on footpaths 87 & 88; and the P3 application is outstanding.

Mrs Brown noted the additional access points to High Scrubs Wood. Those Members of the Planning Committee present advised of their surprise that this had not required planning permission.

### **18049. TRING IN TRANSITION'S REPORT**

Mrs Kazer reported that they were on target to match the number of stalls at the next Eco-fair. A thousand packets of seeds have been donated to use as a handout to attendees of the fair.

The first installation through the Community Energy Group (TriCE) at Tring Cricket Club has reached a point where work could begin; details of the community share offering will be released shortly. A second potential installation at Grove School is progressing.

### **18050. DACORUM ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM**

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Dacorum Environmental Forum were circulated prior to the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** (i) To note the minutes of the Dacorum Environmental

- Forum
- (ii) That Cllr Hills would attend the Dacorum Environmental Forum on the Council's behalf

The meeting closed at 8:53 p.m.

Chairman