

**MINUTES OF THE 46th TRING ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD AT THE VICTORIA HALL,
AKEMAN STREET ON MONDAY 15th APRIL 2018 AT 8 p.m.**

Present: Councillors: P. Hearn, Town Mayor (presiding)
J. Bowden
O. Conway
H. Grace
S. Hearn
M Hicks
P. Hills
N. Hollinghurst
N. Nutkins
R. Ransley
C. Townsend
G. Wilkins

Also present: Michael Curry (Town Clerk)
Dawn Slade (Deputy Clerk)
Colin Jones (Town Warden)
Vicki Elsdon (Information Assistant)
David Lloyd (Hertfordshire Police & Crime Commissioner)
Chief Inspector P. Mitson (Hertfordshire Constabulary)
Hannah Burgess (The Woodland Trust)
Ruth Marshall (The Woodland Trust)
Mike Bass (Tring Community Image Archive)

34 registered electors of Tring Town

440. APOLOGIES

No apologies received'

441. MINUTES

The Minutes of the 45th Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 23rd April 2018 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

442. TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor explained that her year of office had been one of reflection. In June there was the war memorial rededication, after which the 1919 photo of the memorial on Peace Day was recreated. On the 100th anniversary of the end of World War 1, many people could not get in to the Church for the Remembrance Day service.

She thanked all the charities and volunteer organisations in Tring for their hard work and commitment. Tring Together was her charity for the year in recognition of all the wonderful events they organise throughout the year. Tring was recognised for its positive outlook and she had received very positive comments about the Town during the year.

The Town Council had had a busy year with many projects and all the associated administration. The Mayor thanked Colin Jones, the Town Warden, and the Assistant Warden, Philip Cartwright for their hard work in not just keeping the Hugh Street clean but all their other duties.

Planning matters continued to dominate and LA5 between the Ickniel Way and Aylesbury Road finally gained planning permission after lengthy consultations with the Town Council and local residents.

The Mayor concluded by thanking her Council colleagues, the Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk with all the other Council staff for the hard and dedicated work undertaken during her year of office.

443. ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2017/18

Councillor S. Hearn, Chairman of Finance & Policy Committee explained the key features of the budget for 2019/20:

- A cautious approach looking after the Council's resources
- Continued support for local organisations
- A programme of maintenance including the trees around the Nora Grace Hall; reinstating the boundary around the Duckmore Lane Allotments and the Millennium Wood; making an allocation to replace the Duckmore lane water pipes; managing the Kingsley Walk boundary hedge; and an increased allocation to the Market House sinking fund
- The Street Food Event will continue following its successful introduction
- The Band D rate will increase by 2% to £26.70pa

He reported the work of the Finance & Policy Committee in reviewing all the Council's policies on a rolling programme.

444. A PRESENTATION BY TRING YOUTH COUNCIL

Emma Cave, Youth Town Council Clerk, introduced 2 members of the Youth Town Council. They outlined the Youth Council's activities during the year including events like the annual dog show and bake-off; and supporting Tring Youth Project, the 'Ask Angela' safety initiative and mental health counselling.

They thanked all those who had assisted them – PSCO Tommy Walter, Cllr P. Hills – and the organisations who had given funding Tring Charities, Tring Town Council and Hertfordshire Community Foundation.

445. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

A list of representatives had been provided. There were no questions.

446. DAVID LLOYD, HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The Commissioner, Mr Lloyd, congratulated the Mayor on her year of office. He introduced Chief Inspector Mitson, the Dacorum Local Area Commander.

He explained the five elements to his elected role:

- Recruiting the Chief Constable
- Producing the local Police and Criminal Justice Plan
- Setting the police budget
- Holding the Chief Constable to account for police performance
- Representative of the public

He highlighted the increasing number of crime categories to cover more accurately what was occurring and to reflect new technology. Crime was coming down and reporting going up, which showed people had confidence in the police. These changes did make like-for-like comparisons difficult however.

Mr Lloyd quoted:

- There were approx. 1,000 calls per day to the Hertfordshire central control room
- Of which 800 were people feeling unsafe and 200 were crimes
- 10 of these would be in Dacorum with 1 or 2 in Tring per day

- Within a week in Tring there would be 1 burglary, 3 motor vehicle thefts, 1 shoplifting and 3 incidents of domestic violence – there was a greater likelihood of being a victim of domestic violence than of burglary

He acknowledged that there had been a recent spike in crime including the ram raid on McColls, but he stressed that Tring was still a very safe, low crime area against which such isolated incidents tended to be remembered and given exaggerated prominence especially in such a strong, well connected community.

As Commissioner there was an emphasis on recruiting more officers funded by an increase in council tax with an additional seven in Dacorum (Seventy five in total). There was a focus on tackling 'travelling' criminality and partnership working. In terms of what members of the public could do, there was a range of measures one can take to protect one's home and to keep possessions safe, join the Neighbourhood Watch and sign-up to the OWL messaging system. There was a variety of volunteering opportunities for people of all ages.

Chief Inspector Mitson stressed the importance of opening lines of communications between the police and the local community.

The Commissioner and Chief Inspector took questions from the audience:

- Cross-border co-ordination
 - There was a co-funded cross border crime analyst
 - There were regular meetings and the sharing of information
 - Between Herts, Cambs & Beds there was an alliance to provide shared resources that otherwise would not be viable or as effective for a single force e.g. traffic police, major crime unit, and the dog unit
- Resources in Tring
 - Resources were deployed proportionately to risk and crime levels
 - The Neighbourhood team had 1 PC & 3 PCSOs allocated full time to Tring
 - In addition there were 2 dedicated PCs from the Intervention Team
 - There were currently no vacancies within the team
 - The need for a visible presence was recognised, especially to give reassurance after the recent high profile crimes, but it was emphasized that:
 - There were plain clothes deployments going on to tackle crime locally
 - Hertfordshire Police had a very good team of special constables. They were used in initiatives such as ANPR, which was not primarily aimed at catching those without road tax, but was targeting cross-border criminals and drug trafficking
 - The Commissioner stressed the importance he gave to increasing police numbers, but pointed out that they did not have to be visible to be fighting crime
- Tackling drugs
 - The police had specific operations targeting drug dealers
 - Lines of communication were vital to make the best use of what the community knows
 - It is recognised that tackling just the supply side is not a solution:
 - Users are being targeted to 'name and shame' but also to get across that drug revenue is being used to fund child exploitation and other serious crimes
 - A culture change is required to remove the social acceptance of 'recreational' use
 - Young children need to be educated about the dangers of drug use and how the drug trade is used to finance other crimes

The Mayor thanked Mr Lloyd & Chief Inspector Mitson for sparing the time to come to the meeting.

447. THE WOODLAND TRUST – PLANS FOR TRING PARK

Ms. Burgess explained how the popularity of Tring Park was growing strongly – she thanked Visit Herts & Enjoy Dacorum for their support – and the Woodland Trust was planning how it could improve the visitor experience and boost the educational value whilst fulfilling its prime objective as a woodland conservation charity. The Woodland Trust had been listening and consulting widely - it was not looking to increase visitor numbers at the expense of the natural environment.

Planting had started in the area of their new purchase. Native UK species that replicated the local trees were being planted. The aim was to plant fifty percent of the land and keep the remainder as open chalk meadows. Dawes Field would be developed as an entrance that improved access to both parts of the Trust's land. The Management Plan recognised the importance of preserving the historical elements of the land.

Lord Rothschild's initiative to plant examples of European softwoods in the two acre site called the Nursery was raised as a very successful project that, whilst subservient to the natural habitat, added a valuable educational resource. A giant redwood still remained.

448. TRING COMMUNITY IMAGE ARCHIVE

Mr Bass told how the project to create a community image archive had developed from the Charter 700 celebrations. Taking photos finished in 2015, since then they have been captioned and 500 selected for printing on special media to conserve them.

The archive consists of:

- Circa 1700 images on Flickr – this can be browsed by the public and any image can be downloaded for use by the community.
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/129287883@N04/>
- A reference collection of printed versions of 500 selected images that have been printed on high quality paper, with captions, wrapped in protective covering and kept in archive boxes
- A publicly accessible set of 5-volumes containing the same 500 images and captions that can be viewed by the public and are designed to be a usable version of the archive, whilst the original images (print & digital) are maintained in 'archive'

In the long term the natural repository of the physical archive will be at an extended Local History Museum. In the interim the printed images are at the Bucks County Archive in Halton.

The Tring & District Local History & Museum Society will be the 'Curators' of the printed elements of the Archive, whilst the Tring & District Camera Club will be the project lead and the curators of all the digital resource.

The Town Council was identified as the appropriate body to act as guardian (or 'trustee') of this community asset. The Town Council has the continuity going forward to monitor that the archive is properly maintained in accordance with its status as a community asset. To recognise this, Mr Bass presented the Mayor with a memory stick containing a copy of all the images.

449. BEST KEPT ALLOTMENT 2018/19

The Best Kept Allotment prizes, sponsored by Tring Market Auctions, for 2018/19 were presented by Councillor S. Hearn, as follows:

Winner	Mr P. Flitney
2nd Prize	Mr K. Pemberthy
3rd Prize	Mr K. Seabrook
4th Prize	Mr B. Smith

Cllr Hearn commented that the standard continued to improve across the whole site, but the winners were at a level that was hard to beat. He also thanked the Deputy Clerk, Town Warden and Assistant Warden for all their hard work administering and maintaining the allotment site.

450. THE ANNUAL COMMUNITY AWARD 2018/19

Having given a brief resume of the winner's contribution to the Town, the Town Mayor announced that the winner of the Annual Community Award was Ted Oram. He will receive £300 to be donated to a charity of his choice.

He has been active in a range of community projects and organisations, but particularly the Parish Church, Raynet (a group of volunteers who provide communications support for local events) and the restoration of the War Memorial.

451. OPEN FORUM

During this item there were the following questions/comments from members of the public:

- The status of the project to provide temporary car parking on the Market Place. The Clerk said that pre-application advice had been taken from Dacorum Borough Council, which had been positive, and subject to the completion of a traffic survey, a planning application would soon be made
- The bulb planting in Miswell Lane recreation area was praised. The Clerk will forward the comment to Mr Cassidy, Parks Officer, in Dacorum Borough Council
- The danger arising from drivers ignoring the pedestrian crossing on Miswell Lane. The Clerk was asked to enquire about the visibility of the crossing for motorists
- Visitors to Tring were being put off by the lack of cash machines in the High Street. It was suggested that McColls would be replacing the cashpoint, but inside the shop
- That Cala Homes had obtained planning permission for development of LA5 was noted
- A consultation on the parking problems in Tring involving the whole town was suggested

The Mayor concluded the evening by thanking everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 9:45 p.m.

Signed
Town Mayor