

**NOTES OF THE ALLOTMENT AND ENVIRONMENT WORKING PARTY HELD VIRTUALLY ON
7TH JUNE 2021 AT 8.45PM**

Present: Councillors N Nutkins (Chair)
P Hearn
B Patterson
R Ransley
H Piper

Also Present: L Housden (Town Clerk)
D Slade (Deputy Clerk)
Cllr R Hollinghurst
Cllr C Townsend
Ian Brownell (Allotment Association)
Barr Kazer (Tring in Transition)

APOLOGIES

P McDowell (technical issues), G Brown (prior appointment)

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None received

WORKING PARTIES/COMMITTEES

No new members will be co-opted to the Committee at this time. However, Joseph Stopps will be invited to join the Climate Change Working party

**TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY ON 29TH MARCH 2021**

RECOMMENDATION: to accept the minutes as circulated

MATTERS OF REPORT

Nothing to report

CHAIRS COMMUNICATIONS

- The Chairman reported that some suitable sites for wildflower planting had been identified.
- A resident had complained about the litter problem along Station Road and had been referred to DBC Safe, Clean and Green
- Plant a Tree for the Jubilee was noted. Further information will be available in due course
- Sally Symington (HCC) has received quotes for hard surfacing under the trees in Hastoe Lane

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None present.

Part 1 Allotments

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

The Deputy Clerk reported the following matters:

- Allotments – Inspections have taken place. Some plots have become available and have been offered to the next person on the waiting list. Generally, plots being worked appropriately.
- Tesco Bags of Help – Duckmore Lane Wildflower Meadow. Waiting for contact from HCC for advice.
- Tree planting – suggestion (Colin Chambers) to use grass keep for small scale planting. Either in corners or “island” as in Tring Park. Possibility of “tour” to discuss and decide location.

- Allotment Competition – Propose that competition is judged in July with prizes presented at Allotment Association social event to be held in August. Criteria for judging to be decided and announced prior to competition.

RECOMMENDATION: to note the Deputy Clerk's report as presented and to take suggestion of "tour" to Climate Change Working party

ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

Ian Brownell (Chair) reported that it is hoped that a Summer Show would take place on 14th/21st August when the allotment competition winners could be announced.

RECOMMENDATION: to note the report as presented

Part 2 Environment

TOWN WARDEN REPORT

- Clear plots as become available in preparation for re-letting
- Liaise with Justice and Peace Group as taking on management of wildflowers at stream side to improve nectar rich species for bees.
- Planted Church Square flower bed using bee friendly plants as advised by Justice and Peace Group
- New litter bins, plant bike locks and benches to be installed shortly
- Routine maintenance of public areas in Town Council ownership
- Supervise letting of Church Square and Market Place – Farmers Market, Friday Market, film companies, NHS Testing

RECOMMENDATION: to note the report as presented

CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING PARTY

The notes from the meeting held on 13th May 2021 were circulated prior to the meeting. It was considered beyond the scope of Tring Town Council to respond to the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill and to concentrate on fulfilling the demands of the Mayor's Covenant. It was recommended that the Council would no longer use peat based compost and encourage other users to find a peat free alternative.

RECOMMENDATION: to note the recommendations of the Climate Change Working party and act accordingly.

TRING IN TRANSITION

Barr Kazer reported that the AGM will be held virtually on 17th June 2021 and that the organisation is solvent. An open day will be held at the Community Garden on 11th July to raise funds for Rennie Grove. The information board was progressing well.

RECOMMENDATION: to note the report as presented

GARDEN COMPETITION

This competition has been running for a number of years (although not last year!!). There are 3 classes and cups and certificates are presented usually at the September Council meeting. The competition is for front gardens (as viewed from the public highway) in the following categories:

- Large garden
- Small garden
- Best front garden in Eight Acres.

Traditionally, each Councillor has looked in their wards to produce a shortlist which is then judged by the Mayor and the Chairman of the Allotment and Environment Committee.

It has been suggested that a "bee friendly" approach is taken with an emphasis on flowering plants and shrubs although this may not be appropriate in all circumstances.

The competition could be announced via social media for residents to be made aware that the competition is taking place with residents able to make suggestions for gardens to be considered.

RECOMMENDATION: to recommend to Council that the competition is reinstated in 2021.

TRING PARK RUN

Following a number of complaints received from residents about the cancellation of Tring Park Run, the Council had contacted the Woodland Trust. Their response had been circulated prior to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: to encourage dialogue between the parties concerned (Parkrun, DBC and the Woodland Trust) to try to resolve the situation.

RIGHTS OF WAY

It was reported that the Chiltern Society volunteers have been working on Brown's Path (Footpath 77) and on the Ridgeway path from Tring Station to Wigginton

RECOMMENDATION: to note the work of the Chiltern Society

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 9.58pm.