

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT NORA GRACE HALL, FAVERSHAM CLOSE, TRING on MONDAY 20th DECEMBER 2021 at 7.30 p.m

Present: Councillors: C. Townsend (Chairman)
P. Hearn
R. Hollinghurst
P. Elley
H.Piper

Also Present: Members of public x6
County Councillor Sally Symington
Mrs L Housden, Town Clerk
Mr B Cartwright (Town Warden)

20763. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Nutkins (COVID 19 Related), Councillor Ransley (Prior engagement), Councillor Wilkie (COVID19 Related), Councillor Patterson (COVID19 concerns), Councillor Caps (Prior engagement), Councillor MacDonald (Prior engagement) and Cllr McDowell (Prior engagement)

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies for the reasons given.

20764. TO MAKE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

20765. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22nd NOVEMBER 2021

RESOLVED: To accept the Minutes and for the Chairman to sign them.

Cllr Penny Hearn joined the meeting

20766. MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES

The following points arose from 'Meet Your Council' that took place on Friday 26th November:

- The headmaster of Long Marston school noted that the school's places were underfilled and questioned if the allocation method was sensible. This has been referred to the county council.
- A resident queried whether progress was being made regarding verge parking at Hastoe Lane. This is still being discussed in meetings to try and resolve.

- Another resident raised the fact that there are no longer any banks in Tring, but unfortunately, there isn't anything the Council can do to assist with this.
- A resident raised concerns about increased traffic if the Marshcroft Lane development goes ahead.

In the Allotment & Environment Committee meeting, the Clerk was requested to contact CALA homes to ask how they intend to restore the Biodiversity on the Roman Park site when the development is finished. Also if they could address the rubbish blowing around on the site. They responded as below:

'I have relayed your comments re rubbish to our site team for early action. The windy conditions in the last week or so have not helped.

In terms of biodiversity and site restoration, a number of measures have been approved under the terms of the existing planning permission, as follows;

- Supplementary planting of hedgerows and boundary tree planting;
- Planting of wildflowers within the western fields, which would provide a significant landscape and ecological buffer adjacent to the Chilterns AONB
- Street planting within the site
- Incorporation of native species within the planting schedule
- An Ecological Mitigation and Enhancement Plan

The development will also include twelve bird boxes and 12 bat boxes. I enclose a web link to the approved landscape and ecological management documents for your information.

<https://planning.dacorum.gov.uk/publicaccess/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=document&keyVal=PZ5A4MFOFTV00>

20767. TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS THE TOWN MAYOR MAY DESIRE TO LAY BEFORE THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Mayor had:

- been one of the Councillors at 'Meet the Council' on Church Square on 26th November.
- been at the Tring Together Christmas Event, visited all stalls, and made a speech.
- attended a Rennie Grove meeting (virtually)
- attended Connect Dacorum Christmas Lunch at Shendish Manor
- The Christmas Shop Window Competition winners were announced as follows:

1st Place - Emmausnineteen 49

2nd Place - Nonna's Supper Club

3rd Place - Sons of Ink (on Western Road)

- County Councillor Sally Symington had contacted the Mayor regarding having a meeting between the Town Council, DBC and County Council officers to discuss parking zones. This would be added to a future Council meeting agenda to discuss.
- Wendover Canal Trust had requested to update the Council on the Canal Restoration project in the January Council meeting, which would be added to the agenda.

The Clerk reported:

- Tring school will be using the Market place to park cars Monday to Friday from the 5th January potentially until March. The council had previously agreed to this, including the fees, in March 2020.
- County Councillor Sally Symington had provided the following updates:
 1. Regarding the flooding at Hastoe Lane, the drain on the corner of Hastoe Lane and Park Street is listed for silt clearance.
 2. The signage at the bottom of Hastoe has been changed and improved as part of my Highways Locality Budget expenditure in honour of the late Mrs Bainbridge whose house was crashed into by a driver who lost control of his car.
 3. Tring Rural Parish Council has raised concerns about their lack of representation on Tring Charities and their proposed sale of Tring Charities Land in Wilstone. The Tring Town Council representatives were confirmed. Councillor Hearn, the representative, said any queries should be made direct to the Clerk of Tring Charities.

20768. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:
standing orders suspended at 7.40 pm

- The applicant spoke in respect of application reference 21/04102/FUL. The Council had previously recommended refusal of the application on the grounds of lighting and over-development, but she believed that the application had been misunderstood. There would be no lighting in the arena, and the size of the replacement stable was clarified. Examples were then provided of adjoining properties granted to build structures of similar sizes. The stable would be needed as they were likely to increase the number of horses and their existing horses had weight issues, so that they would need stabling more often. It also allowed the land to be rested. Part of the building would be used to store machinery, which would enable them to manage the land. The Dacorum Borough Council planning officer had visited the property and had not indicated that a change of use would be required. They believe that there would be a minimum impact on the neighbours as it would not be visible for 10 months of the year because of the trees at the property.

- Two members of the public spoke in respect of the planning application 21/03837/FUL. The first wished to reiterate the previous objections, i.e. noise and visual concerns. The technology is needed, but an alternative place should be sought. The second doesn't believe that the amendment assists the Town Council's previous objections. The barrier had to be removed as the equipment was too large for the site, so that it couldn't be moved back. There is no curb on the road, so any accident could be fatal if the barrier were removed. The amendments had made it worse than the previous application.
- The applicant for application 21/04524/FHA was observing Tring Town Council in action.
- County Councillor Sally Symington advised the Council of the following:
 1. Her enquiries in respect of Tring Charities were just a point of action.
 2. By way of background for the Cycle/Walking Routes item later in the agenda. Hertfordshire County Council had ranked 475 individual schemes across the county to take forward. She then gave some examples of the highest-ranking and ones located in Tring. Larger projects would be preferred. Further details would be given to the Clerk.

Standing orders were reinstated at 7.52 pm.

20769. PLANNING APPLICATION:

The Council considered planning applications that had been referred by the Dacorum Borough Council for observation of this authority. It was decided to request the Local Planning Authority to take the following comments into consideration when determining the under-mentioned applications.

PLAN REF. NO.

21/03983/FUL **RE-CONSULTATION** Proposed alterations to improve and enhance the elevations of the upper part of Block B of the Honours building at Block B, Honours Building, 72-80 Akeman Street, Tring HP23 6AF for Akeman Business Park Ltd (Nigel Gibbs)

The Council recommended **NO OBJECTION** to this application subject to the comments of the conservation officer.

21/04479/TCA **FOR INFORMATION ONLY AS ALREADY DECIDED** Works to trees at 19-20 Charles Street, Tring HP23 6BD for Mr Jones (Treemonkey Tree Care Ltd) (Imogen Botrill-Down)

The Council **NOTED** this application.

21/04487/FUL Conversion of existing garage to form new dwelling house at Pendley Manor Lodge, Station Road, Tring HP23 5QY for Mr and Mrs Acott-Smith (Robert Freeman)

The Council recommended **NO OBJECTION** to this application.

21/04524/FHA Single storey front, side and rear extensions following demolition of existing detached garage structure and attached rear outbuilding at 21 Meadow Close, Tring HP23 5BT for Mr and Mrs Downes (Imogen Botrill-Down)

The Council recommended **NO OBJECTION** to this application.

21/03917/RET **FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE** Retention of chattel (Timber clad structure) at Dog Day Care, Little Tring Farm, 5 Little Tring Road, Little Tring for Hart and Hounds (Elspeth Palmer)

Tring Town Council finds it difficult to make a recommendation until the change of use application has been decided, so the Council recommended **REFUSAL** of this application until after the change of use application has been decided.

21/03837/FUL **RE-CONSULTATION** Installation of 1no. 17.5m high monopole and 2no., equipment cabinets together with ancillary apparatus thereto including Armco barrier. Existing monopole to be removed at South Side of Station Road, Tring for Cornerstone (Colin Lecart)

The Council recommended **REFUSAL** to this application on the same grounds as the previous application. In addition, there are now safety concerns regarding removing the barrier.

21/04537/FHA Single storey side extension at 15, Gwynne Close, Tring HP23 5EN for Miss Collar (Imogen Botrill-Down)

The Council recommended **NO OBJECTION** to this application.

21/04102/FUL **FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE** Replace wooden stables with similar larger building, construction of all-weather riding surface at 5 Hastoe Row, Church Lane, Hastoe HP23 6LU for Dr White (Daniel Terry)

The Council recommended **NO OBJECTION** to this application.

x5 members of the public left the meeting.

LIST OF DECISIONS BY DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF RECENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council noted the decisions by Dacorum Borough Council, which were circulated.

RESOLVED: To note the planning decisions received

20770. TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATIONS ORDERS

The following orders were considered:

- (i) TRO18080 The Hertfordshire (Temporary Closing of Mortimer Hill, Tring) Order 2021
- (ii) TRO18099 The Hertfordshire (Temporary Closing of Akeman Street, Tring) Order 2022

RESOLVED: To note the orders received.

20771. PREMISES LICENCES

None received.

20772. STANDING COMMITTEES

- (i) Staffing Committee held on 29th November 2021
- (ii) Planning Committee held on 6th December 2021
- (ii) Allotment and Environment Committee held on 6th December 2021

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes listed above

20773. OUTSIDE BODIES

Members gave reports of organisations they represent on behalf of the Council:

- Cllr Elley - Old church House was just beginning to recover from the pandemic, but they are now worried given the current outbreak. Regarding Rothschild surgery, he had attended several patient participation groups. There was a high staff turnover due to retirement, and they were doing very well with the flu vaccination rollout.
- Cllr Hearn had visited all of the Alms residents with Christmas Vouchers on behalf of Tring Charities.
- Cllr Hollinghurst had not been able to attend the Tring Together Christmas event, so she was pleased to hear that the Mayor was in attendance.
- Cllr Townsend did not have any update for Churches Together in Tring as they are not currently meeting.

20774. TRING YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

A verbal update was provided:

- The skatepark project public consultation finished on 1st December & 478 comments were received.
- They have been collecting toys for children in the hospital at Christmas.
- The Christmas festival went well, and they had a stall with vintage tombola items and selling hot chocolate and brownies.
- An open mic night is planned at the end of January to showcase local young musical talent.
- There will be a recruitment drive in the New Year to expand numbers.

RESOLVED: To acknowledge the Youth Town Council update

20775. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

The Clerk briefed the Council on the following matters as a report had been circulated before the meeting:

(i)

1. Income for this month was expected from Council properties. Expenditure was mainly routine running costs.
2. Authority was requested to donate the funds held in the Dementia Friendly Tring Account to Dacorum Age UK for a memory support group in Aldbury attended by Tring residents.
3. Authority was requested to instruct the council's usual contractor to carry out works to trees at the Nora Grace Hall Grounds.

(ii) The Schedule of Payments was presented for approval.

(iii) To receive a Budget update.

(iv) To receive the Interim Audit Report

RESOLVED:

(i)

1. To accept the Clerk's Financial Statement.
2. To authorise the Dementia Friendly Tring Account balance to be paid to Dacorum Age UK and the account closed.
3. To authorise Tree Monkey Tree Care Ltd (£580 + VAT) to carry out works on trees at the Nora Grace Hall grounds.

(ii) To approve the Schedule of Payments

(iii) To note the Budget update.

(iv) To note the Internal Audit Interim Report and observations November 2021 & authorise the Fidelity Insurance cover to be increased to one million pounds.

20776. GRANT APPLICATION FROM RENNIE GROVE HOSPICE CARE

Details of the application were circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: To award Rennie Grove Hospice Care £753 to help fund counselling and bereavement support for the residents of Tring.

20777. CYCLE/WALKING ROUTES

A recommendation from the Allotment and Environment Committee to develop a project to encourage walking and cycling in the town was considered.

Councillor Hollinghurst explained that Hertfordshire County Council would usually lead such projects but had a shortage of funds due to various cuts and that the Town Council may be able to assist with the use of CIL monies. She proposed that the following projects be considered:

1. Improve and potentially make a dual cycleway the path from Bulbourne to Newmill
2. Cow Lane Sports centre to meet the cycleway to Station road.
3. Pound Meadow (the opposite side to Tesco's) past the farm shop to the existing footpaths.
4. CARLA Homes estate to create a footpath to the bus stops.

RESOLVED: To find out if the 4 above proposed projects are feasible and to obtain an idea of the costs involved so that it can be discussed further at the next Building, Assets and Infrastructure committee meeting.

20778. HASTOE LANE VERGE PARKING

A report circulated prior to the meeting explained that placing grass create on the verges would only appear to be an option if the existing trees were removed. Furthermore, the curb would have to be dropped for the length of the parking area, and there would be an issue as a 60mph zone.

The council considered if the trees should be removed and hardstanding provided to allow parking or if posts should be inserted to prevent parking altogether.

Two Councillors had carried out a site visit, and it appeared people were parking on the verges for convenience rather than there being a lack of parking spaces.

RESOLVED: To pursue trying to implement measures to prevent parking on the verges.

The meeting closed at 08:45 pm

Chairman