

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE MARKET HOUSE, HIGH STREET, TRING ON MONDAY 29th JANUARY 2018 AT 7.30 p.m.

Present: Councillors: G. Wilkins
J. Bowden
Mrs O. Conway
Mrs P. Hearn
S. Hearn
M. Hicks
P. Hills
N. Nutkins
Mrs R. Ransley
C. Townsend

Also Present: Mr M. Curry, Town Clerk
Mrs D Slade, Deputy Clerk

8 Members of the public

19070. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Grace & Hollinghurst (prior appointments)

RESOLVED: To accept the absence for the reason given

19071. TO MAKE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs Mrs Hearn & Mrs Conway explained that they would not take part in item 19042 as members of Dacorum Borough Council's Development Control Committee.

19072. THE 'FRIENDS OF MISWELL GREEN' AND THE STREET PARTY INITIATIVE IN TRING

The Mayor welcomed Dr R. Schafer and Ms A. Overy to the meeting. They explained how the 'Friends of Miswell Green' had been formed as a result of the planning applications threatening the area with the intention of, not just protecting the area, but improving the facilities.

They were liaising with R. Cassidy, Parks Officer at Dacorum Borough Council and had held consultation events locally to canvass opinion on what people wanted. Litter picks had been organised. The intention was to aim for Green Flag status. Ideas include natural areas, a picnic area, benches and new signage. The latter has raised the issue of a name for the area. Goldfield School will be asked to design a logo once a name has been determined.

Dr Schafer reported that eight out of the nine road closures in Dacorum for street parties had been in Tring. There was now a group of six individuals who could advise local people on the procedures to follow when organising a street party. He reported how effective such events were in stimulating community spirit. The pending Royal Wedding was an ideal opportunity to stage a street party.

Cllr Mrs Hearn thanked them for what they had achieved, highlighting how important it was to work in partnership with the local authorities.

19073. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18th DECEMBER 2017

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

19074. MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES

- The 1st Floor Office is being advertised by Sterling Estate Agent
- Quotes have been obtained for:
 - Redecorating the Market House kitchen and toilets
 - The re-plastering/damp proofing/ reinstatement of the panelling in the Information Office
 - Work in Old School Yard – soak-away, removal of the trees and reinstatement of the surface, and removing the flower bed and relay with block paving
 - Fire alarm, security systems and fire extinguishers inspection and maintenance with an aim to combine into one contract, if possible
 - Maintenance and supply of Telecoms equipment
- A contractor has been approached to provide an agricultural agreement for Duckmore Lane Grass keep
- Three agencies have been asked to quote to take the Market Place Car Park project forward – a meeting has been arranged with one
- The Canal and River Trust have been sent a specification for clarification of quote for Meadow Brook
- GDPR Compliance:
 - The Internal Auditor was asked to quote for the role of DPO – a proposal has been received
 - Quotes were obtained for upgrading the IT System. The consensus is that performance can be improved with minor upgrades rather than new system
- A letter was received from RBS re bank closure – circulated
- Corresponded with W. Black re the Francis House development and a meeting with their arboriculturalist was held. It was agreed that the trees in question did need to be removed and to be replaced with two specimen trees in suitable locations, and a hedge added to the nearby boundary interspersed with smaller native trees to maintain the ‘green corridor’. The proposals will be incorporated into the landscape scheme
- Meetings were held:
 - As a result of an enquiry to hold a street food and vintage/craft market once a month in the Market Place. The details will be presented to the next Building and Assets Committee
 - With Toby Murray, Chairman of Tring Together, about the Nora Grace Hall. A meeting of the Nora Grace Hall Working Party will be called when Tring Together have prepared a provisional working budget on the commerciality of the proposed redevelopment
- An invoice for the balance of the Town Plan funds has been submitted to Dacorum and payment received

- Pictons have been chased for updates on:
 - The land registry entry for Bulbourne
 - The new ATC lease
- The dispute with Water Companies is being pursued
- Policies on the Council's website updated and transparency documents reviewed
- Allotment renewal process has finished. There are now 4 half plots and 1 full plots vacant
- The Warden Assistant's time is dedicated to vacuuming and brushing on Mondays

19075. TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS THE TOWN MAYOR MAY DESIRE TO LAY BEFORE THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Events attended by Mayor:

- 20th December 2017 Games Afternoon and Carol Service at Tring High Street Baptist Church
- 24th December 2017 Carols in the Car Park with Tring Lions

The Clerk had received the following items of correspondence:

- Police & Crime Commissioner's News Letter -circulated
- A letter of complaint concerning litter on the A41
- An invitation to take part in the SW Herts Retail & Leisure Survey sponsored by Dacorum Borough Council - completed
- A letter from the Princes Centre about a lack of referrals to their day care sessions at New Mill Baptist Church
- A reminder about GDRP awareness sessions organised by Dacorum Borough Council

19076. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Standing orders were suspended at 7.54pm to allow members of the public attending the meeting to speak.

- A neighbour of planning application 4/03265/17/FHA Beaconsfield Road outlined her objection to the plans, drawing attention to inaccuracies in the site location plan. Her objections were based on the proximity of the proposed extension to their wall; it being so close as to prevent maintenance; cause possible damage to foundations; and to generate problems from rain water run-off
- The applicant (4/02799/17/FUL) explained the amendment to the plans was a reduction in the size of the proposed stable
- Neighbours of planning application 4/03159/17/FHA Thorntree Drive spoke in objection on the grounds that the proposal was out of keeping with the neighbourhood and would cause loss of light. A covenant exists restricting development on the site. Having no gap between the properties would cause problems with maintenance and cause damp
- The applicant (4/03159/17/FHA) explained the proposed single storey extension would replace a shaded courtyard and would not cause any loss of light being NE facing. The covenant related to building (boundary) walls across the front to the properties so was not applicable. The design was compatible with the local Tring Character Area assessment and complied with the relevant Core Strategy policies

Standing orders were reinstated at 8.09pm

19077. PLANNING APPLICATION:

The Council considered planning applications that had been referred by 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.

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4/03159/17/FHA	Single storey side/front extension at 9 Thorntree Drive, Tring HP23 4JE for Mrs Hands The Council recommended refusal of this application on the grounds that the abutment of the extension's wall against the neighbour's wall created a situation that was out of keeping with the character in a neighbourhood of detached properties
4/03258/17/FHA	Single storey rear extension and front porch at 10 Morefields, Tring HP23 5EU for Mr and Mrs Brooks The Council recommended no objection to this application
4/03265/17/FHA	Demolition of rear conservatory and store and construction of single storey side and rear extensions at 56 Beaconsfield Road, Tring HP23 4DW for Mr and Mrs Prescott The Council recommended refusal of this application on the grounds that the extension's wall was so close to the neighbouring property that the result would be out of keeping with the character in a neighbourhood of detached properties. The development would result in the loss of car parking spaces and the proposed provision would be unworkable in practice
4/03267/17/FHA	Single storey rear extension at 23 Fantail Lane, Tring HP23 4EN for Mrs Brett The Council recommended no objection to this application
4/00006/18/LDP	Single storey side extension at 27 Beaconsfield Road, Tring HP23 4DP for Mr Michaels The Council recommended no objection to this application
4/00013/18/FHA	Single storey rear extension at Merrymead, Cow Lane, Tring HP23 5NS for Mr and Mrs Murphy The Council recommended no objection to this application
4/00026/18/FHA	Single storey front and rear extensions and alterations to front and rear landscaping at 81 Grove Park, Tring HP23 5JR for Mr and Mrs Tozer The Council recommended no objection to this application

- 4/02799/17/FUL Domestic stable and menage with new vehicle entrance at Hastoe Stables House, Hastoe Hill, Hastoe, Tring HP23 6LR (amended/additional plans/information) for Mrs L Jarman
The Council recommended **no objection** to this application given the recognition that this was for domestic purposes only in the application
- 4/00057/18/FUL Conversion of former office space to 2 flats at 2a Dolphin Square, Tring HP23 5BN for PCG Projects
The Council recommended **no objection** to this application
- 4/03309/17/ROC Variation of Condition 2 (approved plans) to planning permission 4/01882/17/FHA - demolition of existing lean-to structure. Construction of single storey side extension at 10 Buckingham Road, Tring HP23 4EY for Mrs Egan
The Council recommended **no objection** to this application
- 4/00071/18/FHA Single storey rear extensions at 12 The Greenway, Tring HP23 4JA for Mr and Mrs Armstrong
The Council recommended **no objection** to this application
- 4/00081/18/FHA Single storey side extensions and garage conversion at 2 Grove Leys, Grove Road, Tring HP23 5PB for Mr and Mrs Barnes
The Council recommended **no objection** to this application
- 4/03308/17/FHA New roof and dormer at 10 Brook Street, Tring HP235ED for Mrs Wainman
The Council recommended **no objection** to this application

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

The Council noted the following decisions by Dacorum Borough Council.

- 4/02906/17/FHA Permission granted for demolition of garage and conservatory and construction of granny annexe at 1 Longfield Gardens, Tring HP23 4DN
- 4/03094/17/FHA Permission granted for single storey rear extension at 32 Mill View Road, Tring HP23 4EP
- 4/03136/17/FHA Permission granted for porch and new roof to existing bay window at 26 Meadow Close, Tring HP23 5BT
- 4/03046/17/SCE EIA not required - Request for an EIA at Icknield Farm, Icknield Way Industrial Estate, Icknield Way, Tring HP23 4JX
- 4/03073/17/FHA Permission granted to replace existing render to the front right elevations with eco lime render at March House, 90 Western Road, Tring HP23 4BJ

RESOLVED: To note the planning decisions received

19078. TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS

A notice of a public consultation on the installation of traffic signals to control traffic flow over Gannel Bridge.

RESOLVED: To note the consultation received and to inform HCC that provision should be made for pedestrians and cyclists at the bridge.

19079. PREMISES LICENCE APPLICATIONS

None received

19080. STANDING COMMITTEES

- (i) Planning Committee held on 15th January 2018
- (ii) Finance & Policy Committee held on 15th January 2018

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes listed above.

19081. OUTSIDE BODIES

Members gave reports of meetings attended when representing the Council:

- Councillor Conway has attended the Carol Service on Christmas Eve and a meeting of Tring Charities to discuss the Millennium Grant
- Councillor Nutkins had attended a site meeting at St Francis House to discuss the arboriculture survey
- Councillor Ransley had also attended the Carol Service and had been informed that a little egret was sighted at Meadowbrook
- Councillor Townsend had attended the YTC meeting in December
- Councillor Hills also went to the Carol Service.
- Councillor S Hearn had been to the Carol Service and had been planting trees and hedges at the allotments. A lack of progress with bank clearance at Meadowbrook was causing concern. A number of trees on Silk Mill Way were dangerous and should be reported to the Tree Officer
- Councillor Bowden reported that a new noticeboard had been installed at Silk Mill
- Councillor P Hearn had delivered food vouchers for Tring Charities. She expressed concern about the untidy state of the redundant telephone boxes on Chiltern Way and Manor Road

19082. TRING YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Cllr Hills will attend the next meeting on 31st January 2018

RESOLVED: To note the minutes (13th December 2017) received

19083. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

- (i) **To receive the Finance & Policy's recommendation on the 2018/19 Budget and Precept**

The Finance & Policy Committee recommended to Council a draft budget (circulated prior to the meeting), with a small surplus of £3,823 financed by a precept generated by a 2% increase in the Band D rate to £26.17 per annum.

RESOLVED: To accept the budget proposals and set the precept at £130,874 based on a Band D rate of £26.17

(ii) To consider the Clerk's Financial Statement and Third Quarter Outturn Forecast

Monthly Income & Expenditure. The Clerk explained the detail of the income and expenditure reports (circulated prior to the meeting) for December 2017, highlighting the exceptional items.

Third Quarter Estimated Outturn. The Clerk outlined the current position against the annual budget and in comparison with the last financial year.

In respect to income this financial year was relatively high to last year because of a higher precept, rental income and the lottery grant for Pond Close Playground. Total Expenditure was up, this year relative to last year, because of the following significant items of expenditure:

- Pensions employer contributions
- The photocopier purchases
- The refurbishment of the mayor's chain
- Management fees for Old School Yard (timing issue with regard to billing)

These were partially offset by reductions in legal & professional costs, repairs & maintenance and youth council salaries.

As a consequence the forecast showed a deficit of £8,568 for the year. The expenditure on the Mayor's chain will be covered by earmarked reserves reducing the deficit to £5,568. This is the sum required to finance the balance of the Pond Close playground improvement.

The Town Plan. To date £83,555.39 of the £100,000 funding has been spent. The balance of the funding will be spent on replacing four litter bins; Streamside Walk (work to the canal feeder, work to the meadow and information points; production of tourist itineraries (bringing to a close the tourism project unless further outside funding can be secured); the Community Garden; and improving the boundary between the Old School Yard and the library.

RESOLVED: To note the Clerk's Financial Statement and Third Quarter Outturn Forecast

(iii) To certify the Schedule of Payments

The schedule of payments (circulated separately) was presented for approval. In addition details of the Council's dispute with Thames Water/Castle Water/Everflow - managed on the Council's behalf by Utilitywise - were given. Progress is being made; once settled a compliant will be set to Ofwat.

RESOLVED: To approve the Schedule of Payments

19084. THE 2018 EDITION OF THE TOWN CRIER

A timetable for completion of the annual newsletter was circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: To agree the proposed publication schedule for the 2018 edition

19085. THE COMMEMORATION OF THE END OF WW1

The Government have announced the following:

- Nationwide peel of bells
 - Beacons
 - 14-18 Now cultural programme will culminate on 11 November 2018 in a UK-wide event where filmmaker, Danny Boyle, will invite communities to come together in marking 100 years since the end of the war.
- Locally:
 - The yarn-bombers are preparing a display
 - Tring Together will have an article in the Town Crier about ideas to mark the centenary

RESOLVED: to monitor the events planned and to provide support if required.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Chairman