

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD AT VICTORIA HALL, AKEMAN STREET, TRING, HERTS HP23 6AA on MONDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2022 at 7.30 p.m

Present: Councillors: P. Elley (Chairman)
P. Hearn
R. Hollinghurst
P. Mc Dowell
R. Ransley
B. Patterson
H. Piper
N. Nutkins

Also Present: Members of public x7
James Doe (Dacorum Borough Council officer)
County Councillor Sally Symington
Mrs L Housden, Town Clerk
Mrs Dawn Slade, Deputy Clerk

20840. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Townsend (Illness), Councillor Macdonald (Prior engagement), Councillor Wilkie (Prior engagement)

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies for the reasons given.

20841. TO MAKE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Ransley would not vote on planning application 22/00273/ROC as the applicant was known to her.

Cllr Hearn would not participate in the discussions relating to Licensing Applications (Item 20849), if any, as a member of the Dacorum Borough Council Licensing Committee.

Cllr McDowell declared that he would not take part in item 20847 as a member of Dacorum Borough Council's Development Management Committee.

20842. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24th JANUARY 2022

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

20843. MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES

- The precept demand has been submitted to Dacorum Borough Council.
- Rennie Grove Hospice Care has thanked the Council for the recent grant and continued support.

- The new website is now live.
- The Dinosaur event was a great success. It was cancelled on Friday as a result of the weather but on Thursday there were over 2000 visitors that attended.

20844. TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS THE TOWN MAYOR MAY DESIRE TO LAY BEFORE THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

The Clerk reported:

- A stall had been booked for the Spring Fayre on 23rd April and it was hoped this could be used to promote climate change in lieu of the climate change event. Details would be discussed at the next climate change working party.
- If any of the Councillors were concerned as to the location of the gym equipment due to be installed in Pond Close during the week commencing 14th March they should approach the Clerk so she could show them the proposed location.
- Cllr Caps had tendered his resignation as town councillor due to personal reasons. Dacorum Borough Council has been informed that there is a casual vacancy. The vacancy will be advertised and if 10 or more electors request it by the 14th March, an election will be held.
- The Council were reminded that there is a meet your Council on Friday 4th March and a number of the members volunteered.
- A stall has been booked for meet your Council at the Tring Summer Carnival on 9th July 2022 12pm - 5pm. Councillors were asked to make a note of the date and volunteers to man the stall would be requested nearer the time.
- There was the first meeting of the Platinum Jubilee committee on Friday 4th February. Various ideas were considered for celebrations by the various groups. These included schools having a flag competition, the farmers market running a pudding competition, a beacon being lit on the top of St Peter and St Paul's church and a church service and family event outside. An instruction kit has been provided to the Council to assist residents who wish to hold a street party i.e. how to complete the forms to apply for a road closure etc and these are being shared on the Council website.
- The Clerk had attended a virtual meeting that afternoon with Dacorum Borough Council regarding their plans for the Platinum Jubilee and an information booklet would be circulated regarding that once received.

- The yarn bombers will be on putting on a display in the Church square for the platinum jubilee around the middle of the last week of May to stay up for 2 weeks.
- An email has been received and circulated inviting councillors to join a zoom presentation tomorrow at 6.30 pm by 20's Plenty for Us, South East Area Coordinator who will explain how Parish and Town Councils in Hertfordshire can vote in favour of 20mph speed limits in their communities.
- An email has been received and circulated regarding the Government consultation on the Glover Landscapes Review – an opportunity to stop 'off-roading' in the Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) and this would be discussed at the next Allotment & Environment Committee meeting.
- A virtual meeting was held with the Clerk, Cllr Hearn, Cllr Ransley and Tring Sports Forum on 9th February to provide them with an update on the DBC Local Plan.
- Minutes of the February Arla/Olleco Liaison meeting (which is one of the council's outside bodies) have been circulated for information.
- Information had been circulated from Luton Rising (which is the trading name for London Luton Airport Limited). They are holding a statutory consultation between 8th February - 4th April and will be at the Victoria Hall in Tring on Wednesday 16th March between 2 pm & 7 pm should anyone wish to attend.

20845. TO RECEIVE A PRESENTATION FROM DACORUM BOROUGH COUNCIL ON THE PLACE STRATEGY FOR TRING:

An officer from Dacorum Borough Council (DBC) introduced the concept of a Place Strategy for Tring which would be an initiative by DBC but in partnership with Tring Town Council and other voluntary organisations.

DBC had a new chief executive officer and there had been a management restructure. They were currently forming a strategy for Hemel Hempstead with regards to the development and regeneration of the Town and they would like to do a similar thing for Tring but on a smaller scale. They were also discussing a similar approach with Berkhamsted Town Council.

The strategy would consider what the Town Council and residents wanted to see for the future of the Town. This would involve community engagement which had already started. There had been a low turnout for Tring so the Council would be asked to promote future sessions to try and get residents involved. Residents would be asked to consider the town's strengths and weaknesses.

The aim was to create a closer partnership between councils, the NHS and voluntary sectors. A focus session would be set up between Tring Town Council and DBC so that Tring Town Council could express their views.

In respect of the Draft Local Plan as a result of the objections raised to the level of growth, in particular in Tring, DBC were looking at alternatives. A revised timetable had been agreed for the Local Plan and further regeneration probably in Hemel Hempstead was being investigated. They were also waiting for updates on housing numbers from the Government and would be keen to start a dialogue with the Council as to their views.

A member of the Council expressed that it was difficult to look at the future of Tring when the details of the revised draft Local Plan were not known nor the level of housing that would be expected. The DBC officer said that the wider issues could be considered for example what is needed in Tring for instance social housing, business spaces etc.

It was also requested that Tring Sports Forum be consulted on any plans as there was a great need for more pitches/sporting grounds within Tring. The DBC officer confirmed that they were aware of the pressures and there would be working groups ongoing to discuss this. They were also looking into the possibility of working with Hertfordshire County Council & land owners to see if this could assist.

As requested the DBC officer gave some examples of issues that had been raised by another local Town which included a better programme of events, working on Highway issues and anti-social behaviour.

RESOLVED: To note the contents of the presentation.

James Doe left the meeting

20846. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:
standing orders suspended at 8.00 pm

- A number of members of the public spoke in respect of application reference 22/00273/ROC and their comments included:
 - The works were not in accordance with the plans.
 - The two windows to the rear resulted in a loss of privacy
 - The rear extension was very close to the neighbouring property boundary
 - Potentially a breach of the 45 degree rule.
 - The side window resulted in loss of privacy, noise & smell issues
 - The plans still didn't accurately reflect what had been built.
 - Over development
 - The front of the house was over hanging more than the latest plans suggest.
 - Were the front foundations in the correct place?
 - The owner and builders had displayed anti-social behaviour.
 - Velux windows were not on the original plan & do not believe a form of escape as has been suggested.

- The partnerships Director of the Wendover Arms Canal Trust spoke in respect of their project to remove the waste blocking the canal. The cost has been reduced to £145,000 so the funding they would now like from Tring Town Council is £36,000 for 4 years. This would include the towpath being restored and it would create a lovely green space.
- A resident expressed her disappointment as to the lack of exciting playgrounds in Tring. The playground at Mortimer Hill was boring, Miswell Lane was good but as a result there were always queues. There was a lack of equipment for both younger and older children.
- A resident said that Tring children should also be involved in the place strategy so perhaps Tring School could have an input.

Standing orders were reinstated at 8.18 pm.

20847. 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.

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| 22/00231/FHA | Single storey extension to rear of detached residence at 14 Okeford Close, Tring HP23 4AJ for Mr Fakha (Imogen Botrill-Down) |
| | The Council recommended NO OBJECTION to this application. |
| 22/00273/ROC | Variation of Condition 3 (windows and doors) attached to planning permission 20/00393/ROC (variation of Condition 5 (approved plans) attached to planning permission 4/01888/17/FHA (single and two storey front extensions, single storey side extensions and enlarge and convert roof space, all with front and rear velux windows at 17 Whytingham Road, Tring HP23 5JN for Mr and Mrs Mann (Martin Stickley) |
| | The Council recommended REFUSAL of this application on the grounds of loss of privacy and loss of amenity, over-development & over-bearing. |
| 22/00309/FHA | Proposed single storey rear extension with drop kerb (previously approved) and parking in front garden area at 19 Longfield Road, Tring HP23 for Ms Green (Elspeth Palmer) |
| | The Council recommended NO OBJECTION to this application. |

22/00304/LDP NOTIFICATION Proposed car port with two shutter doors added to the front so that it can be used as secure storage. Side door the building accessed via the garden at 3 Harvest Turn, Icknield Way, Tring HP23 4ET for Mrs Davis (Laura Bushby)

The Council **NOTED** the application.

22/00299/FHA Single storey rear extension at 86 Western Road, Tring HP23 4BJ for Mr and Mrs Higgins and Hawkesworth (Jane Miller)

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

21/04660/OPA RE-CONSULTATION Change of use of 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors of building from offices to residential (12 units) at Tring House, 77-81 High Street, Tring HP23 4AB for Mr Gardener (Techaid Facilities Ltd) (Elspeth Palmer)

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

20848. TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATIONS ORDERS

None Received.

20849. PREMISES LICENCES

M053812 Full Variation application The Grand Junction Arms, Bulbourne Road, Bulbourne, Tring HP23 5QE

RESOLVED: To note the application received.

20850. STANDING COMMITTEES

- (i) Planning Committee held on 7th February 2022
- (ii) Buildings, Assets & Infrastructure Committee held 7th February 2022

RESOLVED: To receive and adopt the minutes listed above

20851. OUTSIDE BODIES

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

- Cllr Patterson had attended a virtual meeting at Dacorum Environmental Forum which had dealt with light pollution for instance street lighting and he requested that it be an agenda item to discuss at the next Allotment and Environmental committee meeting.

- Cllr Ransley - There had been no meetings of the Tring Community Centre. She had attended a musical concert organised by Tring Together which had been funded by the grant money given by Tring Town Council and they expressed their gratitude and would be likely to be requesting more.
- Cllr Hollinghurst - Tring Local History Museum had started work on their plans to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and more information would likely be available in the near future.
- Cllr Nutkins - The wildflower plugs had been planted at Miswell Park. There was a meeting planned as part of the Fair Trade Fortnight at the High Street Baptist Church.
- Cllr Elley - The bookings at Friends of Old church House (FOTCH) were starting to recover but they were no longer able to use the kitchen space and he had encouraged them to make a grant application to the Council to assist. In respect of Rothschilds Surgery, he had attended a very informative meeting where they had explained that they were now using a triage system which meant that patients were receiving a call back within 1 hour of their initial call. They did not have sufficient space for ultrasound screening perhaps a space in the new Nora Grace Hall could be considered for such a purpose.

County Councillor Symington left the meeting

20852. TRING YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2022 were circulated.

RESOLVED: To acknowledge the Youth Town Council minutes.

20853. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

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

- (i)
 - In compliance with the Financial Regulations, the Chair of the Finance & Policy Committee had verified and signed the third quarter (October - December) bank reconciliations and there were no concerns raised.
 - Notice had been received that the temporary reduction of the Annual Management Charge for the CCLA Public Sector Investment Fund, in which some of the Council monies are held, will cease on 31st March 2022 and will revert to the previous 0.08%
 - Rental income had been received this month and exceptional items of expenditure were detailed.
- (ii) It was requested that the Finance & Policy Committee be delegated authority to review and approve the renewal of the Town Council Insurance Policy as the quotes were yet to be received.
- (iii) The Council was asked to consider the recommendations of the Buildings, Assets & Infrastructure Committee and a proposal to allocate CIL funds to certain projects.

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

RESOLVED:

- (i) To accept the Clerk's Financial Statement.
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Finance & Policy Committee to review and approve the renewal of the Town Councils Insurance Policy.
- (iii)
 - a. No further monies are to be given to the Wendover Arm Trust at this time.
 - b. To authorise £6,100 of CIL monies being granted to Hertfordshire County Council Highways department for the installation of fencing at Hastoe Lane.
 - c. In principle, the following CIL funds to be allocated to the following projects:
Nora Grace Hall Replacement £500,000
Pond Close Playground Equipment £50,000
- (iv) To approve the Schedule of Payments

20854. MEETING DATES

A schedule of the proposed dates for meetings in 2022/23 was circulated.

RESOLVED: To note the proposed dates.

20855. NORA GRACE HALL REPLACEMENT

A report was circulated requesting permission for the architect to seek pre-application planning advice on the initial design and for payment of the associated application fee (£800 - £1,500)

RESOLVED: To authorise the architect to seek pre-application planning advice and for the relevant application fee to be paid.

The last members of the public left.

20856. RETURNING TO THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The Council discussed the risks and merits associated with returning to the Council Chambers for meetings.

RESOLVED: To reconsider the position at the April Council meeting with the prospect of returning to the Council Chambers for the Annual Council meeting in May.

20857. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

A resolution was considered that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded during the following items of the agenda for this meeting because it is likely that publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

RESOLVED: To exclude members of the press and public.

7191

20858. ANNUAL COMMUNITY AWARD

RESOLVED: A winner was selected to be announced at the Annual Town Meeting.

The meeting closed at 09:25 pm

Chairman