

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, THE MARKET HOUSE, 61 HIGH STREET, TRING, HERTS
HP23 4AB ON MONDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7.30 p.m.**

Councillors:	C. Townsend (Chairman)	Present
	P. Elley	Present
	P. Hearn	Present
	R. Hollinghurst	Present
	N. Nutkins	Present
	R. Ransley	Present
	P. McDowell	Apologies given
	A. MacDonald	Apologies given
	S. Wilkie	Present
	H. Piper	Apologies given
	K. Baker	Present
	B. Patterson	Apologies given

Also Present:

Mrs. L. Housden, Town Clerk
Ms. C. Murray, Deputy Town Clerk
8 x Members of the public

21310. **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr MacDonald, Cllr Patterson, Cllr McDowell and Cllr Piper (All had prior engagements.)

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Ransley, Cllr Elley seconded. To accept the apologies for the reasons given. Unanimously agreed.

21311. **TO MAKE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Hearn would not participate in the discussions relating to Licensing Applications, if any, (Item 21319) as chairman of the Dacorum Borough Council Licensing Committee.

21312. **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 23rd JANUARY 2023**

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Wilkie, Cllr Elley seconded that these Minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Mayor. Unanimously agreed.

21313. **MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES**

The Clerk reported:

- The precept demand has been submitted to Dacorum Borough Council.
- The planning permission application for the Nora Grace Hall has now been submitted.

21314. **TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS THE TOWN MAYOR MAY DESIRE TO LAY BEFORE THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

- The Mayor has had no events this month, but three in the diary for the coming month including induction of the new minister at the New Mill baptist Church, Pop up art weekend preview evening for Chilterns MS and Tring Music Partnership Gala Event.

The Clerk reported:

- There was a 'Meet your Council' coming up on Friday 3rd March. Cllrs Ransley, Wilkie and Nutkins volunteered.
- A stall had been booked for the newly elected councillors for a 'Meet your Council' at the Tring Summer Carnival on Saturday 15th July from 12 noon until 5pm.
- A resident has written to the Council to express her distress at the removal of hedgerow at the top of Donkey Lane. This had been reported to the planning enforcement team at Dacorum Borough Council in case it was the developer carrying out those works in breach of the planning permission. However it may be works that Hertfordshire County Council are carrying out to upgrade the footpath to a restricted byway (a notice of these works had been posted on the Town Council website).
- A resident of Bulbourne had asked for the council to consider that increased parking spaces be added to the proposed Bulbourne development. A copy of this correspondence had been circulated.
- Dacorum Borough Council have advised that they are still liaising with the planning department on meeting one of the rural exception site obligations for the proposed Bulbourne development. They are now in a position to move forward so will be liaising with their legal department once again to progress the process.
- A resident has emailed Dacorum Borough Council but copied Tring Town Council into the email expressing his concern as to the state of littering on the A41 road and rural village of Tring. An appropriate response had been sent; this was just for information.
- A meeting was held with Tring Sports Forum attended by County Councillor Sally Symington, Dacorum Borough Council officer Alex Robinson and Dacorum Borough Council councillor Allan Anderson, Cllr Hearn & the Clerk to discuss how Tring Sports Forum could be more involved in encouraging increased sporting facilities in Tring. Dacorum Borough Council had provided suggestions on how they could make progress. This included making proposals via the Tring Place strategy and to Hertfordshire County Council directly.
- The latest footfall report for Dacorum for December 2022 had been circulated for information.

- A resident has alerted the Council that trees on Town Council land at Chapel Meadow need reducing in height. The Town warden is therefore making arrangements with the council's appointed tree contractor to carry out these works.
- Tring in Transition have used the council chambers for a thermal imaging training session including using the Market House as part of that training.
- The Duckmore Lane allotment land that was incorrectly registered in Dacorum Borough Council's name has now been corrected. Tring Town Council is now shown as the registered owner.
- Tring Town Council has successfully been awarded the £5,000 grant from the Police and Crime Commissioners Fund for Hertfordshire thanks to Cllr Wilkie who put a lot of time into the application & process. As previously explained this will be used to assist with anti-social behaviour issues. The Mayor will be asked to sign the agreement alongside the Clerk after this meeting.

21315. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- A number of members of the public explained that they were just there to observe as potential new candidates in the local elections.
- A resident mentioned the poor state of the toilets in the Forge Car park.
- A resident spoke regarding planning application 23/00349/FHA. He suggested that conditions be attached to the planning consent regarding parking as a garage space will be lost. Also the need for retention of the privet hedge and kerb line to maintain the original design intent and prevent concrete paving. He also spoke regarding Nora Grace Hall and his belief that the Council had disregarded the public's response to the consultation. He pointed out the need for a sound business case, and a proven project manager.
- Another member of the public reiterated the disappointment regarding not taking comments from the consultation forward into the build, and questioned the democratic process.
- A Tring Farmers Market committee member spoke about the market. It was felt that since moving to Brook Street it has lost footfall. The committee met at the weekend and asked for support from the Council in a number of ways:
 - Moving the market back to Church Square (and holding it monthly)
 - Financial support (£1,600 approx) for advertising and marketing
 It was emphasised that the Farmers Market is an essential part of the community. The Clerk stated that a director of the Farmers Market should request the move formally from the Council, and a small grant application could be made to the council.

21316. **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

The Council considered planning applications that had been referred by Dacorum Borough Council for observation by 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.

23/00244/LDP Loft conversion with rear dormer. 45 Wingrave Road Tring Hertfordshire HP23 5HE (Laura Bushby)

Proposed by Cllr Wilkie, seconded Cllr Ransley that the following comment be made. Unanimously agreed.

The Council recommended **NO OBJECTION** to this application but to note that the plans were not very clear and the elevations plan did not show the location of the new window.

23/00249/FHA Single storey rear extension, two storey side extension and new entrance porch. 51 Mill View Road Tring Hertfordshire HP23 4EW (Nicole Quinn)

Proposed by Cllr Hearn, seconded Cllr Ransley that the following comment be made. Unanimously agreed.

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

23/00312/TCA Works to trees at The Gables 13 Western Road Tring Hertfordshire HP23 4BE (Shona Russell)

Proposed by Cllr Hearn, seconded Cllr Ransley that the following comment be made. Unanimously agreed.

The Council recommended **NO OBJECTION** to this application subject to the views of the tree officer.

23/00295/FUL Demolition of existing single storey garage building. Construction of 1no. detached four-bedroom family dwelling with associated car parking / landscaping. Development Rear Of 40 Windmill Way Christchurch Road Tring Hertfordshire (Elspeth Palmer)

The first motion to recommend no objection failed.

Second proposal:

Proposed by Cllr Ransley, seconded Cllr Elley that the following comment be made.

The Council recommended **REFUSAL** to this application on the following grounds: out of keeping, overdevelopment, overlooking neighbours, negative impact on the street scene and overbearing.

x4 For; x3 Against; 1 Abstained

23/00282/FHA Part 2-storey, part single storey rear extension following demolition of existing detached garage and rear extension, and new porch storm canopy. NB: The changes are: the depth of the single storey element is reduced by approx 300mm due to the presence of a public sewer in the rear garden and the need to comply with Thames Water Building Near to a Sewer parameters; the 2-storey extension is taken to the full length to create a larger bedroom with en-suite; the proposed materials match the existing finishes at ground and first floor finishes. 3 Mill View Road Tring Hertfordshire HP23 4ER (Elspeth Palmer)

Proposed by Cllr Hearn, seconded Cllr Ransley that the following comment be made. Unanimously agreed.

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

23/00287/FHA Single storey rear extension. Replacement of external windows / doors. 12 Icknield Way Tring Hertfordshire HP23 4ET (Victor Unuigbe)

Proposed Cllr Ransley, seconded Cllr Baker that the following comment be made. Unanimously agreed.

The Council recommended **NO OBJECTION** to this application but to note that on the drawing the roofline has been shown going over next door's boundary.

23/00330/FHA Demolition of single storey rear extension and construction of single storey rear extension and rear dormer. 3 Chiltern Villas Aylesbury Road Tring Hertfordshire HP23 4DH (Lois-May Chapman)

Proposed Cllr Wilkie, seconded Cllr Hearn that the following comment be made. Unanimously agreed.

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

23/00313/ADV Proposed entrance Sign. Unit 2 53 High Street Tring Hertfordshire HP23 5AG (Victor Unuigbe)

Proposed Cllr Ransley, seconded Cllr Baker that the following comment be made. Unanimously agreed.

The Council recommended **REFUSAL** of this application. The wording could be construed as a play on words and thereby be inappropriate. The colouring and design is not suitable for a conservation area.

The Council requested that the Clerk contact the enforcement officer if the sign had already been put up without consent.

23/00349/FHA Double storey side and rear extensions with associated roof works. Proposed single storey front and rear extensions. 21 Meadow Close Tring Hertfordshire HP23 5BT (Nicole Quinn)

Proposed by Cllr Wilkie, seconded Cllr Ransley that the following comment be made. Unanimously agreed.

The Council recommended **NO OBJECTION** to this application but asked that neighbours comments be noted. These included concern as to a reduction in a parking space with the removal of the garage and that he would like to see the privet hedge and kerb line be retained.

23/00345/TPO Works to and felling of trees. Grangewood 75 Grove Road Tring Hertfordshire HP23 5PB (Shona Russell)

Proposed Cllr Wilkie, seconded Cllr Hearn that the following comment be made. Unanimously agreed.

The Council recommended **NO OBJECTION** to this application subject to the views of the tree officer.

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

21317. **TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS**

TRO21581 - The Hertfordshire (Temporary Closing and Temporary Waiting Restrictions in Various Roads in Tring) Order 2023

RESOLVED: To note the order received.

21318. **TRAFFIC REGULATIONS ORDERS**

RESOLVED: To note the application received.

21319. **PREMISES LICENCES**

(i) M055937 Licensing Act 2003 – LA2003 s.17: Premises licence - New licence application – Crockers Chef's Table

RESOLVED: To note the application received.

21320. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

(i) the Planning Committee held on 6th February 2023

(ii) the Buildings, Assets & Infrastructure Committee held on 6th February 2023

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Wilkie, seconded Cllr Hollinghurst. To receive and note the minutes and decisions listed above. Unanimously agreed.

21321. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

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

- Cllr Elley had attended the FOTCH meeting as a trustee, and stated that they are in need of further volunteers. He emphasised the importance of maintaining our churches, regardless of religious inclination. Money is needed for renovations.
- Cllr Townsend is our representative on Churches Together and is keeping in touch, although there is not much happening.
- Cllr Nutkins was not able to go to the Justice & Peace Group meeting as it clashed with this meeting.
- Cllr Wilkie reported on the Tring Community Centre. They had received their Ofsted report and now had a copy of the lease, so repairs could be considered. Further funding has been requested from Dacorum Borough Council and the garden will soon be finished. She reiterated that a grant had been obtained from the Police & Crime commissioner to address antisocial behaviour.
- Cllr Baker attended a meeting with the Berkhamsted Citizens Association attended by MP Gagan Mohindra who agreed that the large development on green belt land should be resisted. The subject was also raised in Prime Minister's question time, and the Prime Minister stated he supported Dacorum's position on resisting large scale development on the Green Belt

21322. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(i) The Clerk briefed the Council that rental income was high this month and detailed any items of exceptional expenditure in a report that had been circulated prior to the meeting.

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

RESOLVED:

Proposed Cllr Wilkie, seconded Cllr Ransley.

(i) To receive and note the Clerk's financial statement.

(ii) To approve the Schedule of Payments.

Unanimously agreed

21323. **RENEWAL OF TOWN COUNCIL'S INSURANCE**

The renewal quote, papers and a report summarising any changes had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Clerk was asked to research with other Councils whether they had cyber insurance.

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Ransley, seconded Cllr Wilkie. To note the renewal terms and renew without amendment but subject to possible future changes to the fidelity guarantee limit. To defer making a decision on cyber insurance. Unanimously agreed.

21324. **UTILITIES CONTRACTS**

A report summarising the costs, benefits and disadvantages of the existing supplier and alternative suppliers was considered.

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Ransley, seconded Cllr Elley. If feasible, to change suppliers to Green Energy. Unanimously agreed.

21325. **KING'S CORONATION**

A report was circulated setting out the national plans to mark the event together with initial proposed plans for Tring. Cllr Wilkie proposed we have space on our website about how to create a street party and other coronation events.

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Wilkie, seconded Cllr Hollinghurst. To note the plans proposed to mark the event. Unanimously agreed.

21326. **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: Proposed Cllr Ransley, seconded Cllr Elley. To exclude members of the press and public. Unanimously agreed.

21327. **THE MARKET HOUSE**

The quotations received from the tender process to carry out external maintenance works together with a report summarising these and containing the surveyors recommendations were considered.

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Wilkie, seconded Cllr Hearn. To appoint R.O. Allum & Sons (£30,679) as they are a local Contractor who offered the most competitive tender price which has been checked with the other tenders received to ensure fair comparison & value. The surveyor is also familiar with their recent work and feels confident that they will undertake the work to a satisfactory standard. Unanimously agreed.

21328. **ANNUAL COMMUNITY AWARD**

Nominations for the award that had been received from the public were considered.

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Wilkie, seconded Cllr Hearn. A winner was selected and it was agreed to award a Special Commendation to another individual this year. Both to be announced at the Annual Town meeting. Unanimously agreed.