

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS & ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE OF TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
THE MARKET HOUSE, TRING ON MONDAY 5th JUNE 2023 AT 8.15 p.m.**

Present: Councillors:

N. Nutkins (Chair)
C. Blair
P. Reynolds
C. Noxon
P. Hearn
B. Patterson (Ex- officio)

Apologies:

P. De Koning

Co-opted members:

M. Moxon - substituting for I. Brownell
(Allotment Association)
B. Kazer (Tring in Transition)
G. Brown (Chilterns Society)

Also present:

Cllr. J. Mottershead
Cllr. R. Farrow
Cllr. C. Nutkins
L. Housden, Town Clerk
Caroline Murray, Deputy Town Clerk
Colin Chambers (Millennium wood
management)
Members of the public: x2

21428. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr De Koning (prior engagement)

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

21429. TO MAKE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Reynolds declared an interest in Item 21439, he owned a house next to the land and had a licence to park in the car park. He would leave the room for that item.

21430. CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr. Hearn, seconded Cllr. Noxon. The co-opted members agreed to continue to serve, but shall not have voting rights. The Clerk was asked to invite Nick Hollinghurst to be a co-opted member in respect of the new transport element. Unanimously agreed.

21431. THE COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

A draft of updated terms of reference including additional wording resulting from the incorporation of transport into the committee had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Reynolds, seconded Cllr. Hearn. To recommend to Council that the updated terms of reference be adopted. Unanimously agreed.

21432. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 27TH MARCH 2023

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr. Hearn, seconded Cllr. Reynolds. To accept the minutes as presented. Unanimously agreed.

21433. MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES

Nothing to report.

21434. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

- The Mayor had received correspondence from members of the public raising concerns about the Wendover Canal and environmental issues relating to its renovation. He suggested a visit to the canal. The Chairman of the Wendover Trust had been invited to respond to those concerns and he had done so including offering a site visit.
- The Deputy Clerk drew the Council's attention to Great Big Green Week.

21435. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two members of the Climate Change Working Party spoke in support of its continuation.

21436. TO CONFIRM THE WORKING PARTIES/SUB-COMMITTEES OF THE COMMITTEE

This item was heard later than itemised on the agenda at the direction of the Mayor to enable members of the public to speak.

There was support for the continuation of the sub-committee from councillors and co-opted members

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Patterson, seconded Cllr. Reynolds:

- (i) To continue with the Climate Change working party.
- (ii) Councillor Membership: Cllr Reynolds, Cllr Noxon, Cllr N. Nutkins, Cllr C.Nutkins.
- (iii) Chair: Cllr Noxon
- (iv) Non-councillor membership: Remain the same.
- (v) Terms of reference to remain the same

Unanimously agreed.

PART 1 - ALLOTMENTS**21437. ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT**

The Deputy Clerk reported:

1. There are 5 plots ready for allocation.
2. An inspection is due to be carried out with Ian Brownell to ascertain if any plots are not being worked.
3. The waiting list currently stands at 49, and requests are being received every week.
4. The Community Garden and Millenium Wood are both organising events for Great Big Green Week which can be found on the calendar on the Sustainable Tring page of the Town Council website.
5. The new allotments software has encountered an issue which is being resolved this week. The email connection with Google dropped off, but a solution has been found that will enable normal service to be resumed shortly.

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Nutkins, seconded Cllr. Patterson. To note the Deputy Clerk's report as presented. Unanimously agreed.

Cllr Mottershead left the meeting.

21438. ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

The representative of the Allotment Association thanked the council for allowing them to use Church Square for the annual plant sale which had been very successful. They were having a Coffee and Catch Up at the Community Garden on 17th June as part of the Great Big Green Week. On the 22nd July, there would be the Annual Allotment Competition and Barbecue. Ex-councillor R. Ransley will be judging.

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr Nutkins, seconded Cllr Patterson. To receive and note the report from the Allotments Association. Unanimously agreed.

21439. BULBOURNE SITE

A report had been circulated ahead of the meeting setting out the background to the site and possible future uses of the land. The Council discussed this and proposals included allotments and a fruit orchard. Discussions also took place regarding securing the site to the rear.

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr. Noxon, seconded Cllr. Patterson. For the Clerk and Deputy Clerk:

- (i) To research: water supply.
 - (ii) Carry out a survey of the people currently on the waiting list to see if there is interest in the site as allotments.
 - (iii) For logs to be placed across the gap in the hedge at the rear of the site.
- Unanimously agreed.

Cllr Farrow and the allotment association representative left the meeting.

PART 2 - ENVIRONMENT**21440. TOWN WARDEN REPORTS**

The Town Warden has been busy maintaining a safe and tidy environment in the town and works have included:

- Hedges at allotments
- Improvements to play equipment
- Painting bollards in Church Square
- Checking the chalk stream at New Mill for flooding
- Daily checks at the allotments - general maintenance and the water troughs.
- Undertaken repairs to a broken water trough
- Delivering post as required by the office
- Regular checks of the Town Council defibrillator
- Putting up bunting for the Coronation
- Planting flowers in hanging baskets and troughs
- Putting signs up for Great Big Green Week
- The Council instructs someone to carry out a tree audit every three years to ensure that the condition of the trees on Town Council Land is monitored. A copy of the report which had just been carried out had been circulated and the amount of work resulting from the survey is small and has been actioned by the Town Warden.

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr. Hearn seconded Cllr. Noxon. To receive the Town Wardens Report and the Tree Report and note both together with any actions taken. Unanimously agreed.

21441. RIGHTS OF WAY

It was reported that the progress of the Tring Park car park had been chased and a response was still awaited regarding the possibility of having a pond, between the new car park and the path near the A41 as a runoff for surplus surface water. It was reported that the bottom of Hastoe Lane is very overgrown on the footpath going to the current museum car park. The Clerk offered to report it on the appropriate website. The Ridgeway has its 50th anniversary this year and DBC is keen to work on it. Reference was made to the report that had been circulated ahead of the meeting which detailed recent work that had been undertaken.

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr. Hearn seconded Cllr. Patterson. To note the report as presented. Unanimously agreed.

21442. TRING IN TRANSITION

The Repair Cafe continued to be a success and other towns had copied the initiative. A biodiversity survey was currently being carried out on Rothschild land which included logging wildlife, trees and a bat survey. Fruit trees have been donated to the Community Garden. A member of Tring in Transition is volunteering at Bishop Wood School, creating a garden there. Sustainable Tring Thing and Tring in Transition were planning on merging. They would become 'Sustainable Tring'.

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr. Hearn seconded Cllr. Patterson. To note the report as presented. Unanimously agreed.

21443. ANNUAL FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION

A report setting out the historical terms of the competition and proposals to update the competition was circulated ahead of the meeting.

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr. Hearn, seconded Cllr. Noxon. The competition would no longer have specific categories. Instead, there would be a first, second and third place for the best front garden. The prize would be a garden centre gift voucher 1st place - £60, 2nd place £50 and 3rd place £30. Judging criteria is bee-friendly, environmentally friendly and conserving water. Unanimously agreed.

Cllr Hearn left the meeting.

21444. MILLENNIUM WOOD UPDATE

A brief history of Millennium Wood was provided for the new councillors. It was explained how the wood is managed with the support of a volunteer group of about 15 people. Much of the work is thinning, especially in the winter. The wildflowers are also very impressive, including orchids and cowslips. Some areas are cut and raked to manage the land. They meet around once a month and there are a variety of trees. A guided walk around the woods is taking place during Great Big Green Week.

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr. Patterson seconded Cllr. Reynolds. To note the report. Unanimously agreed.

PART 3 - TRANSPORT**21445. HERTFORDSHIRE'S DESIGN GUIDE PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Details of the consultation taking place had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

RESOLVED: Proposed Cllr. Reynolds seconded Cllr. Patterson. To note the consultation but not take part. Unanimously agreed.