

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS & ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE OF TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
THE MARKET HOUSE, TRING ON MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 8.20 p.m.**

**Present:** Councillors: N. Nutkins (Chair)  
C. Blair  
P. Reynolds  
C. Noxon  
P. Hearn  
P. De Koning  
B. Patterson (Ex- Officio)

**Apologies:** C. Noxon

Co-opted members: I. Brownell (Tring Allotment Association)  
B. Kazer (Sustainable Tring)  
G. Brown (Chilterns Society)

Also present: Cllr. R. Farrow (as an observer)  
L. Housden, Town Clerk  
Caroline Murray, Deputy Town Clerk  
Members of the public: x 7

**21542. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Charles Noxon (prior engagement)

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

**21543. TO MAKE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Reynolds declared an interest in item 215552 on Bulbourne as he was a resident and would not take part in the discussions or voting.

**21544. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH JUNE 2023 (enclosed)**

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

**21545. MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES**

The person invited to be a co-opted member of this group for the transport element has respectfully declined.

**21546. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Chair reported that:

- He had been asked that first aid classes are offered in the town.
- He had also had a lot of complaints about speeding traffic and has obtained information regarding speed control training.

The Clerk reported that:

- The intalink vehicle, which provides passenger transport information for Hertfordshire, visited the Church Square on Thursday 24th August and will be back again on Tuesday 31st October.
- Correspondence had been received advising the Council that the Mayor of London has agreed, as a cost-saving exercise, that from a date in January 2024, Day Travelcards will no longer be sold or accepted by TfL for travel on the TfL network.
- Correspondence had also been received from a resident expressing their concerns at the general state of the roads, footpaths and cycle paths (of which she doesn't believe there are enough of). She says that the footpaths are, in places, dangerous because of overgrown shrubbery and undergrowth which encroaches on them. She also believes that this overgrowth is hiding many road signs, the grass on the verges and roundabouts is not cut nearly enough.
- A Green Space Audit took place on 19th July. The Mayor and Deputy Clerk accompanied the Land Management Project Officer, to evaluate the council's use of its green spaces. The full report will be shared at the next Buildings. Assets & Infrastructure meeting but a summary of some suggestions offered had been circulated.
- As part of the Apple Fayre celebrations this year one of the categories for the Scarecrow competition will be 'your favourite councillor'.
- Correspondence had been received from a resident of Christchurch Road raising the following concerns: 1. lack of 20mph speed limit repeater signs on the high street end of Christchurch Road, 2. Lack of enforcement in relation to the school 'keep clear' markings, and 3. Christchurch Road being used as parking for people going to work in Tring.

#### **21547. PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL ALLOTMENT COMPETITION PRIZES**

The winners were presented with their prizes:.

First Prize - Plot 87

Second Prize - Plot 19

Third Prize - Plot 40

**21548. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE WINNERS AND PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL GARDEN COMPETITION PRIZES.**

The winners were announced and were presented with their prizes:

First Prize - 44, Goldfield Road Tring

Second Prize - 68, Miswell Lane

Third Prize - 38, Miswell Lane

*All members of the public left*

**21549. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of public present

**PART 1 - ALLOTMENTS**

**21550. ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT**

The Deputy Clerk reported that:

- At the time of writing the report Duckmore Lane was at 100% occupancy, with 50 on the waiting list but since then a few plots have become vacant.
- Allotment inspections took place on 13th June and 6 plots were re-allocated.
- Plot holders have been contacted where plots were not up to standard and most wished to keep their plots, and had extenuating circumstances preventing them from temporarily working them.
- The Allotment Competition (Sponsored by Tring Market Auctions) took place on 16th July, prizes awarded at this meeting.
- The Allotment Summer Show took place on 22nd July and was judged by Mayor, former councillor and Deputy Clerk.
- The Community Garden continues to be worked by volunteers organised by Sustainable Tring.
- A revised Allotment Tenancy Agreement for 2023-2024 was circulated ahead of the meeting together with a 'What to Expect' guidance sheet.
- It was also reported that there had been a report of a theft of vegetables on Plot 2 which could be a result of it being so close to the Community Garden and a more satisfactory separation boundary may be required.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Hearn, seconded Cllr Patterson.

(i) To note the Deputy Clerk's report as presented.

(ii) To approve the revised tenancy agreement for 2023-24.

(iii) To approve the 'What to Expect' document and process.

Unanimously agreed.

(iv) Proposed Cllr Nutkins, seconded Cllr Hearn

For the Town Warden, Cllr Nutkins, Barr Kazer and Ian Brownell to do a site visit to find a solution in respect of the issues with Plot 2 and the final decision to be delegated to the Clerk.

**21551. ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

Thanks were offered to the Judges of the Allotment Summer Show.

(i) It was proposed that some plots could be reduced to quarter plots and offered to those on the waiting list to see if there would be any uptake in an attempt to reduce the number of people on the waiting list and assist with plots not being cultivated. Sites could be separated with a woodchip footpath.

(ii) A request was made for the Council to contribute towards half the costs of a 12 yard skip (approx £350) for allotment holders to use. This arrangement had been agreed in the past.

(iii) The committee has been asked whether a shipping container could be placed on site to store equipment.

**RESOLVED:**

Proposed Cllr Hearn, seconded Cllr Patterson.

- (i) To agree with the proposal to use one plot on a trial basis as two quarter plots.
  - (ii) To agree to share the cost of a skip.
  - (iii) To research the possibility of installing a shipping container on site.
- Unanimously agreed.

**21552. BULBOURNE**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting with proposed steps and estimates of costs to reinstate part of the site to x12 10m x 10m allotments.

The Clerk also gave an update on new information that had been received regarding the planning appeal for Land East of Tring. It was reported that a decision on that appeal would be made on or before the 15th November 2023. That decision was significant because if the appeal were to be allowed it would not only provide SANG for that development but also potentially provide SANG for other sites as well. The reason given by DBC for withdrawing their planning application for Bulbourne had been because of the lack of SANG available so that could potentially overcome that issue subject of course to DBC and TTC wanting to go ahead.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Hearn, seconded Cllr De Koning. To recommend to Council to defer a decision on the future use of Bulbourne until after the Secretary of State's decision on Land East of Tring. 3 For, 1 Against, 2 Abstained.

## **PART 2 - ENVIRONMENT**

### **21553. TOWN WARDEN'S REPORT**

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

- Cutting hedges and tidying at the front of Nora Grace Hall
- Checking the chalk stream at New Mill for flooding
- Daily checks at the allotments - general maintenance and the water troughs
- Delivery post as required by the office
- Regular checks of the defibrillators in town
- Obtaining quotes to convert Bulbourne site to allotments
- Contacted the suppliers regarding the Christmas lights & Tree
- Accompanying Mayor & Deputy Clerk on town inventory
- Painting bollards in Church Square

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Hearn, seconded Cllr Patterson. To accept the report as given. Unanimously agreed.

### **21554. CLIMATE CHANGE WORKING PARTY**

The following recommendations had been brought forward from the Climate Change Committee for consideration:

#### **(i) Water Refilling Station**

To move forwards with providing a water refilling station in Church Square by:

- (i) Obtaining three quotes for refilling stations
- (ii) Obtaining three quotes for plumbers to prepare the site

**The following items are recommendations from the National Association of Local Council's Climate Emergency Network**

#### **(ii) Green Planning Criteria**

To create a Green Planning Criteria document against which all planning applications can be evaluated.

#### **(iii) Climate Action Plan**

To create a simple Climate Action Plan with a vision and specific, achievable goals.

#### **(iv) To add climate action as a regular agenda item on council meetings**

#### **(v) Changing the name from Climate 'Change' Working Party to Climate 'Action' Working Party**

To reflect a solution based approach

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Hearn, seconded Cllr Patterson.

(i) To obtain quotes for the potential water refilling station for further consideration.

(ii) The Climate Change working party to prepare the Green Planning Criteria document for further discussion.

(iii) The Climate Change working party to prepare the Climate Action Plan for consideration.

(iv) & (v) To agree to the recommendations made.  
Unanimously agreed.

*9.35pm Cllr Hearn left the meeting.*

## **21555. RIGHTS OF WAY**

[The representative of the Chiltern Society reported:

- **Recent work:-**

The Chiltern Society Path Maintenance Volunteers (PMVs) worked on the Ridgeway footpaths from Tring Station, through Wigginton, and to Tring Park. As this is a National Trail, it is required to be 2 metres wide where possible. Vegetation growth was cut back to achieve this. Overhanging branches were trimmed where necessary. On 6 September, the PMVs cleared footpath TU82 in Stubbings Wood with brush cutters. This path goes across the middle of the wood, from TU30 to TU75. It is an attractive path, but is strangely underused. It is now an acceptable width of 1.5m. At the same time, another group of PMVs cleared the Permissive Byway TU36, from the entrance to Pavis Wood to the crossing path, approx 200m. Further work will be carried out at a later date.

- **Woodland Trust Car Park**

The Site Manager had provided an update that they had been able to move on with final planning condition discharge and whilst it is still not currently possible to put a date on opening time, it feels much more like the end is in sight.

- **Tring Rural (for information)**

She had been very involved with Tring Rural in recent months. The area East and West of Long Marston had been added to her responsibilities recently and she had found much of it very overgrown. The Path Representatives from Dacorum have added some waymarks. The Clerk of Tring Rural, is advertising for interested local walkers to join a walk which the DBC officer will lead, in the hope that a regular walking group will continue to walk the area.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr De Koning, seconded Cllr Reynolds. To note the report as presented. Unanimously agreed.

**21556. SUSTAINABLE TRING**

The representative from this group reported that they have had their first meeting since their name change with representatives from all the environmental groups in Tring. The next meeting will be talking about Apple Fayre preparations. Regarding the High Street they would like to see no tarmac used for repairs.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Patterson, seconded Cllr Reynolds. To note the report as presented. Unanimously agreed.

**21557. HEDGEHOG CONSERVATION**

A report was circulated ahead of the meeting asking the committee if they wished to purchase a box of hedgehog highway surrounds (each box contains 50 hedgehog surrounds & information leaflets, a display box & window sticker showing that the Council is a part of the project) to support hedgehog conservations

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Nutkins, seconded Cllr Reynolds. To buy one box at £150 with the intention of giving them away for free to residents to help promote the scheme. 4 agreed, 1 against.

**PART 3 - TRANSPORT****21558. CO-OPTION OF AN ADDITIONAL MEMBER TO THE COMMITTEE FOR THE TRANSPORT ELEMENT**

It was reported that a co-opted member was still needed and the ERTA voluntary group has been contacted to see if anyone is interested.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Patterson, seconded Cllr Nutkins. To ask on social media and other channels. Unanimously agreed.

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Chairman