

**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 23<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.30 p.m.**

Councillors:	N. Nutkins (Chairman)	Present
	P. Hearn	Present
	B. Patterson	Present
	P. De Koning	Present
	R. Farrow	Present
	C. Weston	Present
	S. Wilkie	Present
	C. Blair	Present
	C. Nutkins	Present
	P. Reynolds	Apologises
	J. Mottershead	Apologises
	C. Noxon	Apologises

**Also Present:**

Mrs. L. Housden, Town Clerk  
Ms. C. Murray, Deputy Town Clerk  
Hertfordshire County Cllr Sally Symington  
5 x Members of the public

21605. **TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Mottershead (Unwell), Cllr Reynolds (Prior engagement), Cllr Noxon (Prior engagement)

**RESOLVED:** Proposed by Cllr Patterson, and Seconded by Cllr Farrow. To accept the apologies for the reasons given. Unanimously agreed.

21606. **TO MAKE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Patterson declared an interest due to sitting on the Dacorum Borough Council Development Management Committee. At such meetings he would not participate in the decision making process of any cases that had been considered by Tring Town Council but if it was his ward he may speak on it.

21607. **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

**RESOLVED:** Proposed by Cllr Weston and Seconded by Cllr De Koning. To accept the Minutes and for the Mayor to sign them. Unanimously agreed.

21608. **MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES**

Nothing to Report

21609. **TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS THE TOWN MAYOR MAY DESIRE TO LAY BEFORE THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

The Mayor reported:

He will be attending the Beavers swimming club tomorrow, was in the Apple Fayre Parade, and has been involved in a meeting of Herts Young Homeless.

The Clerk reported:

It is intended that there will be a staffing committee meeting on Monday 6th November after the Finance and Policy meeting to deal with the annual staff appraisals. The planning meeting will start half an hour early at 7pm to enable that meeting to go ahead.

The Company carrying out the parking survey for the Nora Grace Hall replacement project will commission the surveys to be undertaken on Tuesday 31st October and Saturday 4th November.

21610. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

- A resident spoke regarding planning application 23/02407/APA, Cow Lane Farm development. Concerned it paves the way for mass housing. The site should be used for community use, suggesting a plan between Herts CC, DBC and TTC to explore the potential for the site. There should be more considered planning for Tring.
- A resident spoke regarding planning application 23/01/583/FUL speaking on behalf of herself and two other neighbours. The Council should again recommend refusal to this, the seventh application. The amended application is the same height, footprint and internal area. It is deeper and projects closer to the public verge. In her opinion it is against the pre-application advice and other concerns remain regarding parking and road safety.
- A representative of Sustainable Tring spoke in respect of the planning application 23/02407/APA. In her opinion Hertfordshire County Council consulted on their rural plan poorly, including the Cow Lane site. Questions why there is a planning application for these buildings when the consultation has not been carried out fully. The farm buildings have only been made redundant in the last few weeks. There is a need for national farms. Objection is that it jeopardises the ability for the land to ever be used as a working farm and to meet the potential to farm locally, which is a requirement. The application does not respond to a use for this land in light of the climate crisis. This proposal feels like the process has been neglected and does not consider a long term approach or a community asset.

- County Councillor Sally Symington reported on:
  - Proposed extension of the 20mph zone has received positive feedback but revisions needed to be made because of cost implications. Should be brought to the public by the end of the year.
  - Tring High Street - engineers have recognised that the High Street is failing. The block paving was en vogue at the time of implementation, but is costly to repair. They are considering two options: to replace with asphalt (£830k and closure for six weeks), to replace like for like (£1.22m and closure for 12 weeks).
  - Land between Pound Meadow and Dunsley Farm: investigating ownership. Must be a minimum of 1.5 metres to turn it into a footpath, and will involve moving lamp posts etc. Would cost around £100,000.
  - Crossing at Station Road: Feasibility study will be shared. Recommendation is a Toucan Crossing at £59,000.
  - Repeated flooding at Cobbetts Ride: This issue is with Drainage Engineers at Hertfordshire County Hall who are designing a scheme to alleviate the flooding.

21611. **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.

23/02283/FUL	<p>Construction of new vehicular access. Access To Beeches Farm Icknield Way Tring Hertfordshire.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Weston, Seconded Cllr Wilkie. Unanimously agreed to make the following comment:</p> <p>The Council recommended <b>REFUSAL</b> to this application on the grounds of highways issues including the current speed limit being too high, the line of sight, the footpath opposite exits into the open space, there is no existing right hand turn and if created this would be the third turning in this vicinity.</p>
23/02379/TPO	<p>Works and fell trees. 18 Osmington Place Tring Hertfordshire HP23 4EG.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Wilkie, Seconded Cllr Hearn. Unanimously agreed to make the following comment:</p> <p>The Council recommended <b>NO OBJECTION</b> to this application.</p>

23/02396/FUL	<p>Resurfacing of driveway. The Limes Station Road Tring Hertfordshire HP23 5NW.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Wilkie, Seconded Cllr De Koning. Unanimously agreed to make the following comment:</p> <p>The Council recommended <b>NO OBJECTION</b> to this application.</p>
23/02363/LBC	<p>To install a multi-fuel stove in an existing used open fireplace, installing a slate hearth, dropping a flue liner down the chimney. 2 Lower Dunsley Cottage London Road Tring Hertfordshire HP23 5ND.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Wilkie, Seconded Cllr Farrow. Unanimously agreed to make the following comment:</p> <p>The Council recommended <b>NO OBJECTION</b> to this application subject to the views of the conservation officer.</p>
23/02407/APA	<p>Change of use of two redundant agricultural barns into two larger dwelling houses of 110 square metres (Barn A) and 180 square metres (Barn B). Cow Lane Farm Cow Lane Tring Hertfordshire HP23 5NS.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Hearn, Seconded Cllr De Koning. Unanimously agreed to make the following comment:</p> <p>The Council <b>NOTED</b> this application.</p>
23/02298/FHA	<p>Replacement and relocation of Garage. New Timber Framed Double Garage to be built adjacent to North West Corner of Site, and removal of garage adject to eastern Boundary of the Site. The Barn And Windmill 4 Icknield Way Tring Hertfordshire HP23 4ET</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Patterson, Seconded Cllr Hearn. Unanimously agreed to make the following comment:</p> <p>The Council recommended <b>NO OBJECTION</b> to this application.</p>
23/02409/FHA	<p>Two storey side extension with garage conversion. 18 Mansion Drive Tring Hertfordshire HP23 5BD. (Jane Miller)</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Wilkie, Seconded Cllr Hearn. Unanimously agreed to make the following comment:</p> <p>The Council recommended <b>NO OBJECTION</b> to this application.</p>

23/01583/FUL	<p><b>Reconsultation.</b> Demolition of existing single storey garage building. Construction of 1no. detached four-bedroom family dwelling with associated car parking / landscaping. Land Rear Of 38-40 Windmill Way Tring Hertfordshire HP23 4EH</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Weston, Seconded Cllr De Koning. Unanimously agreed to make the following comment:</p> <p>The Council recommended <b>REFUSAL</b> to this application on the same grounds as before i.e: out of keeping, overdevelopment within the plot, overlooking the neighbours, negative impact on the street scene, overbearing and pedestrian safety concerns. They do not believe that the current application meets the recommendations given by the planning officer in the pre-application advice.</p>
23/02403/TCA	<p>Works to trees. Caversfield 87 Grove Road Tring Hertfordshire HP23 5PB.</p> <p>Proposed Cllr Farrow, Seconded Cllr De Koning. Unanimously agreed to make the following comment:</p> <p>The Council recommended <b>NO OBJECTION</b> to this application subject to the views of the tree officer.</p>

### **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:** Proposed Cllr Patterson. Seconded Cllr Weston. To note the planning decisions received. Unanimously agreed.

21612. **TEMPORARY TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS**

None received.

21613. **PREMISES LICENCES**

None received.

21614. **STANDING COMMITTEES**

(i) Planning Committee held on 9th October 2023

(ii) Buildings Assets and Infrastructure Committee held on 9th October 2023

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Hearn, Seconded Cllr Wilkie . To receive and note the minutes and decisions made in the meetings above. Unanimously agreed

21615. **OUTSIDE BODIES**

- Cllr C Nutkins reported that she hadn't been able to attend the last Rothschild Surgery patient participation group but had heard that the surgery was busy managing queues for Covid 19 and Flu vaccines.
- Cllr Wilkie reported on Tring Community Centre. A new manager had been appointed following the sad death of the previous manager. The bank account has now been accessed and an accountant instructed. The accounts should be ready to be signed off by December. The Ofsted result for the nursery was 'Good' and the nursery is full.
- Cllr Farrow attended the Dacorum Environmental Forum meeting, the minutes of which had been circulated. There had been a discussion on how heat can be extracted from canal waters. There was a plan to heat Kings Langley entirely from the canal but it was very expensive to install.
- Cllr Patterson attended two meetings - London North Western Railway liaison group and reported the introduction of contactless payments on the line, but won't apply to any children's fares, concessions or season ticket holders, which he felt was disappointing. The Arla Liaison Group was discussing very local issues regarding smell and noise. He questioned the Council's need to attend this group going forward.

21616. **TRING TOWN YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Youth Council minutes of their meeting held on 20th September 2023 were circulated ahead of the meeting. Cllr Weston and Cllr De Koning volunteered to attend November's meeting.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Wilkie. Seconded Cllr Hearn. To approve the minutes as presented. Unanimously agreed.

21617. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

- (i) A report on the following matters was circulated before the meeting:
  - The interim audit will take place on Friday 17th November 2023.
  - The Clerk was given delegated authority to select the company to instruct to carry out a Traffic Survey for the Nora Grace Hall replacement project. The quotes received were as follows: Company A: £1780 + VAT, Company B: £1,500 + VAT, Company C: £1,500 + VAT. Company C, Nationwide Data Collection, was chosen as they were one of the cheapest and their work came recommended by the traffic consultant.
  - September's accounting reports, including a report on the half-yearly analysis and forecast were circulated. The Clerk explained the financial position for September and highlighted items of exceptional expenditure. The Council's finances for the first half of the year were reviewed, and items significantly over budget were highlighted together with an explanation of why. No action was currently necessary for the planned levels of income and expenditure.
- (ii) The Clerk requested that Vintec Laboratories Ltd be appointed to carry out an asbestos survey for the Market House. Only one quote had been obtained as it was understood that it was difficult to get a company that would provide a report that could be relied upon.
- (iii) The Schedule of payments was presented for approval.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Weston. Seconded Cllr Farrow.

(i) To note the date of the internal audit, the appointment of Nationwide Data Collection and September's accounts and the half-yearly report.

(ii) To waive the financial regulations to enable only one quote to be obtained, for the reasons given above. To subsequently appoint Vintec Laboratories Ltd (£525 + VAT) to carry out an asbestos survey for the Market House.

(iii) To approve the Schedule of Payments and authorise the usual payment of £50 (from the annual grants budget) to be made for the Remembrance day wreath rather than the invoiced sum.

Unanimously agreed.

21618. **GRANT APPLICATION GRANT FROM TOY HUB**

A grant application for £1,000 had been received from Toy Hub, to enable them to give Christmas presents to families who are unable to afford them.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Weston. Seconded Cllr Hearn. To approve the grant of £1000. Unanimously agreed.

21619. **CLIMATE ACTION**

A report had been circulated regarding the recommendations made in the Climate Change Working Party on 16th October which included:

- To invite Adrian England, Portfolio holder for Climate Change at Dacorum Borough Council to attend a Climate Action Working Party.
- To continue investigating recycling bins for the town by visiting the Cupids Green depot to understand how recycling of public waste works.
- To share concerns about the development of Cow Lane farm by HCC and consider it as a community resource.
- To respond as individuals to the Herts CC questionnaire regarding locations for on street EV charging.
- To move forwards on developing the Green Planning Criteria and Climate Action Plan.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr N Nutkins. Seconded by Cllr C. Nutkins.

(i) To approve the recommendations made.

(ii) To write to County Councillor Symington in relation to planning application 23/02407/APA and the change of use of two redundant agricultural barns into two larger dwelling houses at Cow Lane Farm, Cow Lane, Tring Herts HP23 5NS. Explaining that the Council is sympathetic to the concerns around this application including suggestions that there are potentially better uses for this specific area .

Unanimously agreed.

21620. **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

The Council's plans for the Remembrance Sunday service were discussed.

**RESOLVED:** Councillors to meet at the War Memorial in Church Square.

21621. **D-DAY 6th JUNE 2024**

The Town Council were asked to consider if they supported an event in Tring commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings in June 2024 and if so the scale of the event they would like to be held.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Wilkie. Seconded Cllr Weston. That they are in support of an event to be held (organised by Tring Together and the Church) and would include £1,000 in the 24/25 budget for this purpose. Unanimously agreed.

*Cllr Wilkie and Cllr Weston declared an interest in the item below (21622) as they were both Dacorum Borough Council portfolio holders. They would not take part in the discussions or vote on the item.*

21622. **LAND EAST OF TRING APPEAL**

The Council were asked to consider if they wished the Clerk to submit correspondence to the Secretary of State highlighting that the site under consideration is not included in the next suggested round of consultation with the community on the Dacorum Draft Local Plan

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Hearn. Seconded Cllr Patterson. To send such correspondence as suggested. Unanimously agreed. (As above Cllr Wilkie & Cllr Weston did not take part in the vote).

21623. **PHONE & BROADBAND CONTRACT**

The Council were asked to consider if the existing BT broadband contract should be renewed or a new contract entered into.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Weston. Seconded Cllr De Koning. To renew the contract with the existing supplier, BT for three years (to tie in with telephone contract). Unanimously agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Chairman