

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ALLOTMENTS & ENVIRONMENT  
COMMITTEE OF TRING TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE VICTORIA HALL,  
AKEMAN STREET, TRING HP23 6AA ON MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2023 AT 8.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Councillors: N. Nutkins (Chair)  
P. Reynolds  
C. Noxon  
P. Hearn  
P. De Koning

**Apologies:** C. Blair

**Co-opted members:** I. Brownell (Tring Allotment Association)  
J. Rook (Sustainable Tring)  
G. Brown (Chilterns Society)

**Also present:** L. Housden, Town Clerk  
Caroline Murray, Deputy Town Clerk  
x2 Proposed Co-opted members

**21682. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Blair (Prior Unwell)

**RESOLVED:** To accept the apology for the reason given.

**21683. TO MAKE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None made.

**21684. CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMITTEE**

A proposal was made to co-opt Peter Georgiades and Lee Kennedy-Washington as co-opted members for the transport element of the committee.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Hearn, seconded Cllr De Koning. To approve the co-option of the two members. Unanimously agreed.

**21685. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
11TH SEPTEMBER 2023**

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

**21686. MATTERS OF REPORT FROM THE MINUTES**

Nothing to report

**21687. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Nothing to report.

**21688. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of public present

**PART 1 - ALLOTMENTS****21689. ALLOTMENTS MANAGEMENT**

The Deputy Clerk reported that regarding the Duckmore Lane site:

- The site is at 98.5% occupancy, with two plots ready for allocation. There are 37 on the waiting list, a reduction of 13 since the last meeting.
- Only three tenants have not paid rent, and these are being followed up to ascertain if they still wish to keep their plots
- Hedges from the Woodland Trust have been planted by the Town Warden, maintaining a boundary between plots and the path, and creating a habitat for wildlife.
- The Town Warden has built a fence around the Community Garden to prevent theft from the adjacent site.
- Water troughs have been turned off for winter.
- The Community Garden continues to be worked by volunteers organised by Sustainable Tring.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Hearn, seconded Cllr Reynolds. To note the Deputy Clerk's report as presented. Unanimously agreed.

**21690. ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

The representative of the allotment association reported the following:

- He gave thanks regarding the repairs that had been made to the car park.
- The fence that had been erected in between the community garden and an allotment plot was helpful but they would also like signs to be put up, this would be discussed and arranged with the Deputy Clerk.
- There has been some vandalism and there have been discussions around the possibility of putting up dummy CCTV cameras, with signage.
- He made a request to book Church Square for their plant sale on 15th June 2024.
- The allotment Summer Show will take place on 24th August 2024.
- The planned skip will be arranged for January 2024.

**RESOLVED:**

Proposed Cllr Hearn, seconded Cllr Reynolds. To note the report as presented and to investigate the feasibility and legalities of installing dummy CCTV cameras. Unanimously agreed.

**21691. ALLOTMENT POLICY**

A copy of the existing policy together with a proposed amended policy was circulated ahead of the meeting for consideration.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Hearn, seconded Cllr Nutkins. To approve and adopt the revised policy as presented. Unanimously agreed

**PART 2 - ENVIRONMENT****21692. 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, clearing plots, and the water troughs
- Delivering post as required by the office
- Regular checks of the defibrillators in town
- Obtaining quotes from groundworkers for the water refill station
- Organising the Christmas lights & tree
- Arranging the Electrical Conditions report and PAT testing
- Planting hedges and building fence at Duckmore Lane
- Filling the car park with gravel at Duckmore Lane
- Installing an alarm mat in the office
- Hanging the Information Centre sign

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Hearn, seconded Cllr Noxon. To note the Town Warden's report as given. Unanimously agreed.

**21693. RIGHTS OF WAY**

The representative from the Chilterns Society gave the following report:

- The Town Clerk was asked by DBC if the Chiltern Society could provide a candidate to represent Dacorum in their project 'Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans'. A Chiltern Society volunteer has agreed to fill this role.
- Rights of Way – 1. Footpath TU52 - goes along by the canal from Icknield Way to Little Tring and is very overgrown. This will be cleared as soon as possible. 2. Some clearance was done in Stubbings wood in early October.
- Woodland Trust Car Park – Opened on Monday 27 November 2023.
- Tring Rural (for information) - The DBC Countryside Access officer had led a 5 mile round walk from Long Marston recently – to encourage local people to walk the paths, and stop these paths becoming so overgrown. Ten people enjoyed the walk.

- Pitstone Quarry Restoration - There had been an interesting Drop-In session on 28 November 2023, presented by a representative of Clark Contracting Ltd the owners of the quarry, and the National Trust Ashridge Manager. Planning application hoped for early 2024. If the project is approved, work will start and some results will be open to view after two years. However as Clark Contractors still have a total of 15 years clearance of chalk to complete the Nature Reserve will not be completed for some time. As Clarks own the quarry, the National Trust has to accept what they offer. NT are keen to spread visitors over this hillside, and take some pressure off the sometimes excessive visitors in the Aldbury beech woods. The foot-fall could cause some damage to the trees.

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

**21694. SUSTAINABLE TRING**

The representative from Sustainable Tring reported that they have been busy responding to the draft DBC Local Plan consultation. They thanked the Town Warden for building the fence between the community garden and the allotment plot.

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

**21695. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

A report proposing some minor amendments to the existing policy together with a copy of the existing policy had been circulated ahead of the meeting.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Reynolds, seconded Cllr De Koning. To approve and adopt the existing policy including the amendments proposed. Unanimously agreed.

### **PART 3 - TRANSPORT**

**21696. WEST MIDLANDS TRAINS ONLINE STAKEHOLDER RESEARCH SURVEY**

The Committee were asked to consider if they would like to take part in the survey and if so how this would happen.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Hearn, seconded Cllr De Koning. To be completed by the Clerk with the assistance of Peter Georgiades (new transport co-opted member). Unanimously agreed.

**21697. LNR STAKEHOLDER MEETING ON THURSDAY 15TH FEB 2024**

A volunteer was requested to attend this meeting.

**RESOLVED:** Proposed Cllr Hearn, seconded Cllr De Koning. For one of the transport co-optees to attend on the Council's behalf. Unanimously agreed.