

Hughenden Parish Council and the Hughenden Community Support Trust

Press Release

The future of the Allotments in Hughenden Parish

Dated 13th January 2016

The Hughenden Parish Council (“the Council”) and the trustees of the Hughenden Community Support Trust (“the Trust”) formerly known as the Allotments for the Labouring Poor are pleased to make the following joint announcement:

After many years of doubt, confusion and uncertainty as to the correct legal ownership of some of the allotment sites within the Parish, an equitable and satisfactory settlement has been amicably reached and their future is now more certain and assured. However, it must be noted that an appeal made by an individual member of the public has been made to the General Regulatory Chamber (first tier tribunal) and its conclusion is awaited.

Following guidance from and with the approval of the Charity Commission along with the Council having received and followed expert legal advice the Council’s freehold title in four allotment sites and two areas of other recreational land in our Parish is to be returned to the Trust. It is recognised that the land concerned had been held by the Council as custodian trustee for the Trust who are now confirmed as the absolute owner of the freehold. In turn under the terms agreed, the four allotment sites and the recreation land will be leased back by the Trust to the Council for a term of 99 years. Councillors and the Trustees all of whom are local residents and in some cases allotment holders as well, are confident we have secured the best settlement in the interest of the Parish as a whole as it will:

- Settle once and for all ownership issues.
- Ensure the long term future of the allotments to the particular benefit of the allotment holders concerned.
- Ensure the long term future of the recreational land concerned.
- Protect the interest of the Trust and will secure its long term income for the beneficiaries.
- Be fair and proportionate to the Council tax payers of the Parish.
- Remove the possibility of any expensive litigation and legal costs being unnecessarily incurred by the Parish.

Under the agreement the Council will pay a fair annual rent to the Trust. This will form the income of the Trust which is to be applied towards charity need in the Parish.

The history of the Allotments for the Labouring Poor and its relationship with the Hughenden Parish Council has been a long, complex and often confusing one. A chronology of events dating back to 1855 is available as are full details of the settlement which has been reached.

Notes for editors:

For immediate release

Further information is available from the Clerk to the Council, Peter Wetherman

T: 01494 715296 or E: clerk@hughendenpc.org.uk

and on our website <http://www.hughendenparishcouncil.org.uk/transfer-of-parish-land/>

Hughenden Community Support Trust

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