

Kingsbridge Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD AT 9.30 a.m. ON FRIDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2014 AT THE RECREATION GROUND AND IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE

Present: Cllr Philip Yates (Chairman)
Marika Byrne (Café Decks)
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Wayne Grills
Cllr Graham Price
Rosemary Speed (local resident)

In Attendance: Keith Rennells (SHDC Greenspace Projects Officer)
Brian Hayden (local resident)
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

14/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from: Cllr Anne Balkwill, Wendy Bolt (Kingsbridge Playspaces Group), David Dain (Kingsbridge In Bloom), Pat James (Kingsbridge Park Bowling Club), and Cllr Jax Williams.

Public Open Forum

There were no statements from members of public.

14/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14/11 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 25 July 2014 were approved as a correct record.

14/12 RECREATION GROUND

12.1 Green Flag Award. The park had retained its Green Flag Award status having been 'mystery shopped' during the summer. All agreed that this was due to the joint efforts of SHDC, the authority's Grounds Maintenance (GM) Team and local partners. It was **RECOMMENDED** for a Green Flag presentation/photoshoot, with subsequent publicity, to be arranged between South Hams District Council (SHDC) and Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC) as soon as possible; to be combined with Kingsbridge In Bloom Gold Award flag hoisting.

12.2 Assets/Maintenance Licence between SHDC) and KTC. KTC amendments to the draft Licence had been agreed by SHDC. An updated version was currently being worked up, alongside new plans, for signature.

12.3 Condition of the pond. Paul Taper (SHDC engineer) had met with Parks Committee members and SHDC Grounds Maintenance officers the previous day to conduct a thorough review of the condition of the pond and related drainage. The aim was to halt the current ingress of salt water into the pond from cracks in its base and around its perimeter. A menu of actions were suggested however, dye tests and chamber surveys were also required as the issues were complex. Subsequently, a report would be produced to earmark the way forward with possible actions costed out.

12.4 Café business.

- Following the last meeting: putting and boules equipment had been replenished by KTC, Café Decks had featured in local newspapers and had its own Facebook entry.
- The Town Clerk would liaise with Marika Byrne to devise a sign to stop ball games being played on the putting green.
- Tables and chairs on the decking were exposed and a shelter was required for customers. This was likely to extend the café's season and thereby benefit the park as a whole. SHDC anticipated building a structure/cover in spring 2015 which was strongly supported by members.
- It was very unlikely that outside heating could be provided.
- Café operations were recognised as essential in order to manage park games, toilet etc.

12.5 Promotional signage (or alternatives).

- Members were in receipt of a report from SK Countryside via SHDC regarding promotional signage for the park:
 1. Lamp post banners – SHDC proposal not supported by Devon County Council (DCC) on the grounds the columns were deemed too old. It was **RECOMMENDED** for KTC to lobby DCC to review use of street lamp columns for promotional banners.
 2. Railing banner – SHDC proposal not supported by DCC because the railings were too close to a pedestrian crossing.
 3. Signage from the town centre – sign in town square/environs not supported by KTC due to street clutter. Conversely, a design on the paving, e.g. 'giant footsteps' style, was considered ineffective by SHDC as likely to become grubby.
 4. A frame board – not supported by KTC due to proliferation of unauthorised boards elsewhere and current clampdown.
 5. Café signage – sign suggested on the front of the café.
 6. Games & activities – bold signs at the front of the café suggested to encourage participation.
 7. Information Centre – park facilities to be included in the Welcome South Devon guide 2015.

- Following discussion, it was **RECOMMENDED** that the heritage finger post at the head of the estuary (directions to places of interest) be moved to a new location as it was obscured by a tree.
- It was noted that KTC had agreed to partner West Alvington PC for an application to the Town And Parish (TAP) Fund (deadline 31 December); the latter bid related to village signage. It was **RECOMMENDED** for a joint KTC/WAPC TAP Fund bid to include design and installation of new signage to earmark the Recreation Ground and its facilities.

12.6 Landscaping next to café. SHDC reported that landscaping was a requirement of planning consent for the café. Members supported a Chinese Red Birch with shrubs and for the wild flower meadow to be retained. SHDC to manage with input from Kingsbridge In Bloom.

12.7 Apple tree – autumn review. A previous meeting had earmarked a review of the Apple tree near the pond. Fallen apples had been collected as best possible, had not littered the pond as badly as in previous years and the tree was a super feature when in blossom. It was suggested to invite apple collection by local residents in the future. It was **RECOMMENDED** to retain the Apple tree.

12.8 Bowling Club business.

- Pat James would be the new club representative on the committee.
- Members noted that there appeared to be minimal non-member use of the green and queried whether the telephone number on signage was correct. It was **RECOMMENDED** for SHDC to contact the bowling club to encourage greater public use of the green.

12.9 Children’s play area (including upper slopes).

- Tim Pollard (SHDC Greenspace Ranger) conducted weekly checks of all play areas.
- The tap had been switched off for winter.
- There were nil plans to reinstate the vandalised timber posts which would require breaking up the ground surface.
- Two signs had gone missing off gates to be replaced by SHDC.
- A Public Health England ‘no smoking’ campaign would see child friendly signs installed.
- It was **RECOMMENDED** for SHDC to consider fixing eyebolts, or suchlike, to allow dogs to be tied up outside the play area.

12.10 Croquet lawn proposal. Members were in receipt of a report from SK Countryside via SHDC regarding a proposed croquet lawn 32ft x 40ft to be integrated into the putting green. Members carefully considered the report and discussed its positives and negatives. It was **RECOMMENDED** to support a croquet lawn trial in spring/summer 2015, for croquet equipment to be purchased by KTC (at circa £200), for its hire to be managed by Café Decks (alongside other recreational activity) and to review the trial on completion.

12.11 Boundary fence for storage area. Installation of fencing was being progressed by SHDC (in the authority's assets programme to be actioned).

12.12 Dog control.

- It was noted that Aveton Gifford's play space had a dog poop bag dispenser however, it was considered that it may not be suitable for the park.
- Dogs On Leads Order appeared to be well adhered to.
- A5 size signs relating to dog control were considered to be too small and SHDC was working up improved signage (which also affected other areas in town).
- Cllrs Griffin and Price would paint further 'dogs on leads' stencils during good weather.

12.13 Any other immediate business related to the above. None.

12.14 Feedback. Sculptures (red brick and pond), public seating x 2, and play space wall repairs had all been actioned.

14/13 DUNCOMBE PARK

13.1 Trees and shrubs – to include proposal for Katsura & Chinese Birch. It was **RECOMMENDED** to support SHDC's proposal to plant new trees in the park; locations to be determined upon planting.

13.2 Central green space (including removal of goalposts).

- It was noted that hollows needed to be filled to be progressed by SHDC GM team.
- The grass area close to the car park had large amounts of stone protruding the surface and it was **RECOMMENDED** to request SHDC to dig up and re-turf the area.
- One of the goalposts had been removed for winter storage to limit mud/allow the grass to recover.

13.3 Terraced area. It had been brought up at the last meeting that the terrace steps could not be accessed by disabled persons and was difficult for parents to navigate with push chairs. SHDC reported that there had been no reported safety incidents, there were 3 other points of access into the park and therefore expenditure to develop better access could not be justified.

13.4 Zip wire – proposal for enhanced platform. Members discussed the issues:

- Duncombe Park restoration/new play equipment had been earmarked for teenagers i.e. the Teenzone Project with the Recreation Ground tuned towards younger children.
- The manufacturer had reported the zip wire was suitable for children 6 years and older.

- The button seat was difficult to access for younger teenagers and ages below due to the dimensions of the grassed mound.
- KTC had received representations from parents who wished their younger children to have easier access to the zip wire.
- Members had met Kompan, SHDC Property Services and Allianz on site to discuss matters.
- Members acknowledged that the park was on route to/from the primary school and many children enjoyed the play equipment provided at the end of the school day (alongside their parents).
- Members considered that a primary concern was to ensure that the zip wire was safe.
- It was **RECOMMENDED** to accept SHDC Property Services generous offer to build a bespoke wooden platform (of greater dimensions than present grass mound) to enable easier access to the zip wire.

13.5 Any other immediate business related to the above. Dog poop remained a concern; Tracey Weaver (SHDC Dog Warden) had recently issued a newsletter requesting dog owners to pay more attention to their animals while out walking.

13.6 Feedback. Tracey Weaver (SHDC Dog Warden) had reported that law around public control orders had changed in October e.g. dogs and alcohol. All related business would be covered by new '**public spaces protection orders**' which were part of new Anti-Social Behaviour legislation. The upshot was that no new Dog Control Orders could be served or amended and the existing Orders would have to be converted under the new legislation within 3 years or so. Therefore KTC was unable to make any amendments for the foreseeable future.

14/14 PUBLIC/GREEN SPACES

14.1 Grass verge cutting – proposal for DCC cutbacks 15/16.

- KTC was awaiting feedback from DCC.
- Kingsbridge In Bloom 2015 judging dates may impact on the current cutting programme.

14.2 Rack Park amenity space.

- There remained dog poop issues and Tracey Weaver (SHDC Dog Warden) was aware.
- Broken glass bottles in the undergrowth was an issue which had been brought up at a recent SHDC MAPPS meeting; Police would patrol the area more often.
- A vehicle had accessed the amenity space via the recently laid hardcore track. It was **RECOMMENDED** for a collapsible bollard to be installed by SHDC at the beginning of the track (near industrial units).

14.3 Trim Trail proposal. KTC was waiting feedback from the Lottery Fund regarding a bid for £10k; if successful a formal proposal was likely to be made

to SHDC for use of locations within Duncombe Park and the Recreation Ground for installation of outdoor exercise equipment.

14.4 Skate Park. Members received a report that the skate park design was unpopular with a current group of skaters. Replacement of present ramps was considered as highly unlikely to receive support. Bird droppings and tree debris (acknowledged at the outset of the project) made the ramps virtually unusable for several months of the year. Options were to move the skate park, fell the trees, or cover with a roof; all were considered as highly unlikely to gain support. Scooters and BMX bikes also used the compound and members agreed the situation should be monitored. It was **RECOMMENDED** to acknowledge that the current location, while not perfect, did provide the opportunity for skateboarding (albeit it was not assured all year round) and that no further action should be taken.

14.5 Any other immediate public/green spaces business. It was **RECOMMENDED** for KTC to investigate whether another finger arm could be attached to the heritage directional post at Fore Street Car Park earmarking the Cookworthy Museum. Moreover, the Museum display board in the car park itself was in a shaded position and should be located elsewhere.

14.6 Feedback. Waterside Walk finger posts had been installed in Britton's Field and the Town Square.

14/15 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Friday 30 January 2015 at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting closed at 12.55 p.m.