

Kingsbridge Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD AT 9.30 a.m. ON FRIDAY 25 APRIL 2014 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE, KINGSBRIDGE

Present: Cllr Anne Balkwill (Chairman)
Wendy Bolt, Kingsbridge Playspaces Group
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Wayne Grills
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Jax Williams
Cllr Philip Yates

In Attendance: Brian Hayden, local resident
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

13/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Marika Byrne (Café Decks), David Dain (Kingsbridge In Bloom), Cllr Irene Jeeninga, Keith Rennells (SHDC Greenspace Projects Officer), Rosemary Speed (Sustainable Kingsbridge) and Val Statters (Kingsbridge Park Bowling Club)

Keith Rennells (SHDC) had forwarded a comprehensive update.

Public Open Forum

Brian Hayden distributed a report on the pond which suggested 2 main problems: saline water seeping from the estuary at high tides alongside slow draining, stagnation and excessive greening-up of pond water. He acknowledged that sealing of the base of the pond was being worked-up by SHDC but considered that the problems could be ameliorated by regular flushing and reinstating the mechanism which historically allowed a flow of fresh water into the pond via the channel to the east of the pond/under the bridge. He would be very content to act on behalf of KTC and meet with SHDC to assist in trying to resolve current issues.

Cllr Balkwill thanked Brian for his statement and that the matter would be brought up during the meeting.

13/27 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

13/28 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 25 October 2013 were approved as a correct record.

29.1 Draft management plan 2013-2018. SHDC aimed to update elements of the plan before Green Flag Award judging 2014. While acknowledging 'mystery shop' judging this year SHDC had requested a timescale window which would be advised to KTC and partners.

29.2 Assets/maintenance licence between South Hams District Council (SHDC) and Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC). Kerry Tidmarsh (SHDC Senior Valuer) reported that the draft licence was almost complete, to be reviewed internally, and forwarded to KTC shortly.

29.3 Pond repairs and planting. KTC had requested an update at the full council meeting held on 8 April 2014. Paul Taper (SHDC Senior Engineer) now reported that a plan was evolving including proposals for 3 new flap valves (estuary wall, junction with land drain, and pump sump) plus stronger re-lining of the pond itself. On completion the proposal would be priced, reviewed against available budgets, and further information provided to KTC when available.

Members discussed the condition of the pond. It was **RECOMMENDED** to:

- note the above progress report from SHDC and to await the proposed solution,
- identify to SHDC that KTC may be able to assist in funding an engineering solution,
- propose to SHDC that local community volunteers may be available to assist with day-to-day upkeep,
- suggest to SHDC that the pond should be regularly flushed through by way of pumping fresh water from the main 900mm pipe,
- suggest that KTC should meet with SHDC officers at Follaton House, Totnes (alongside Ward Member & Brian Hayden) to discuss pond related matters.

A member of public left the meeting

29.4 Sculpture. KTC had provided its support for the "Art in the Park" project at the full council meeting held on 8 April 2014 to install the following: a stainless steel sculpture in the centre of the pond, decorated sheep, and brick built seating. The latter to be designed and constructed by Kingsbridge Community College (KCC) students on Tuesdays 13 and 20 May. KCC had also agreed a community dance performance "passing memories on" to link up and introduce the new sculptures in the park. A site meeting had been arranged for committee members to meet with KCC's art, construction and dance teachers at 1.00 p.m. that day to discuss further and agree locations.

29.5 Flooding at/from Derby Road. Members agreed that flood resilience engineering measures at Derby Road continued to work well. A number of tall leylandii had been felled along the stream bank opposite Jades Components and several cuttings and logs had fallen into the stream. It was agreed to request Jades to clear the stream of debris.

29.6 Additional works. It has been proposed at the last meeting to fell the apple tree as fruit fell into, and fouled, the pond. SHDC reported that Marika Bryne at Café Decks was content to collect the crab apples for use, that the tree framed the park interpretation board, and therefore wished the tree to be retained. It was **RECOMMENDED** to review the apple tree situation in autumn 2014.

29.7 Café update. Keith Rennells (SHDC Greenspace Projects Officer) had held discussions with Marika Byrne (Café Decks). SHDC reported that any public/children's event should be endorsed, and an application submitted, by KTC due to legal requirements including public liability insurance.

29.8 Anti-social behaviour. The picnic bench which had been graffitied had been repainted brown.

29.9 Flags/banners to identify/enhance the park. SHDC reported that draft ideas were being drawn up the Design Team to be forwarded to KTC when completed. It was **RECOMMENDED** to suggest to SHDC that Cllr Grills may be able to assist.

29.10 Additional public seats. A successful TAP Fund bid had purchased 3 Cavendish public seats; anticipated for 2 to be installed adjacent to the putting green shortly.

29.11 Goalposts. Checked weekly by KTC e.g. replacement tie-wraps for netting and re-located as required to allow grass to recover.

29.12 Bowling Club business. Kerry Tidmarsh (SHDC Senior Valuer) reported that SHDC would be writing to the club shortly regarding the condition and maintenance of the cottage and their tenancy agreement. When negotiations had been completed KTC would be provided with an update.

29.13 Dogs On Leads Order.

- **Stencilled 'signposting'.** SHDC was content for KTC to paint ground stencil signs "dogs on leads – thank you" at 2 x side gates entrances at the front of the park. Town Clerk to action alongside Cllr Price during good weather.
- **Dog control.** SHDC reported that officers were aware of non-compliance issues and the Dog Warden patrolled the area as part of her regular round. Members noted that a Kingsbridge person had recently been fined at court for contravening the Dog Order. It was **RECOMMENDED** to invite Tracey Weaver, SHDC Dog Warden, to a meeting to discuss dog control matters.

29.14 Maintenance matters.

- **Play space wall repairs.** SHDC reported that Property Services was progressing repairs with their contractor; nil timescales were available at present. Members suggested that a stainless steel edging would provide longevity.

- **Landscaping adjacent to café.** SHDC reported its proposal to plant a Chinese Red Bark Birch and low growing shrubs. The tree had been ordered and planting was anticipated shortly via the Grounds Maintenance (GM) team.
- **Mud from upper slopes and erosion.** Members noted the upper slopes became very muddy in places and bare in others at the previous meeting and had suggested green waste from the GM recycling/storage area to be spread over the area. SHDC reported that muddy slopes were an integral element of a natural play space, identified high usage, and suggested that the location be monitored during 2014.
- **Wooden posts in children's play area.** Seven of the original 14 posts had been vandalised and removed. SHDC reported that fitting replacements would require breaking up the surface to remove the stump below ground which would damage a wider area and therefore be costly to repair. There was no risk as the posts had been cut off at ground level. It was **RECOMMENDED** to monitor the situation and to note that KTC had a 'sinking' fund for refit of children's play areas.

29.15 Boundary fence for storage area. Andy Smythe (SHDC engineer) reported that a draft plan was being reviewed with the GM team to be provided to KTC once available. Members noted and agreed that there may be potential Health & Safety issues and considered the matter should be resolved as soon as possible.

29.16 Other immediate matters:

- **Fall incident July 2013.** There had been no further falls reported on the resin-topped footpaths.
- **Children's play area.** Installation of the tap was anticipated shortly by SHDC's Property Services. It was noted that Tim Pollard (SHDC Greenspace Ranger) conducted weekly checks of play areas.

13/30 DUNCOMBE PARK

30.1 Trees and shrubs.

- SHDC was content for KTC to replace the 3 x Eucalyptus shrubs in poor condition with more suitable native shrubs and suggested liaison with the GM team.
- Proposal for Trim Trail outdoor gym equipment may require re-positioning of some shrubs adjacent to the Eastern Backway.
- A tree adjacent to the Fire Station required a new tie.
- Members suggested that the sub station could be screened by further planting.

30.2 Dog control. Members agreed that a new information sign should be placed in the interpretation board.

30.3 Maintenance matters including bench repairs.

- **Children's swings.** SHDC reported that re-painting of the swings had been programmed but had to compete with other priorities. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request a timeframe for painting.
- **Hollows in central green space.** The Town Clerk had met recently with Robert Harkness and Mark Capper (GM team) on site and plans were afoot to fill the hollows
- **Grass cutting.** As above grass cutting had been discussed recently and it was anticipated that a new sit-on mower would be able to action enhanced grass cuts of the park.

30.4 New interpretation board. Misting-up of the panel appeared to have been rectified.

30.5 Mural - repairs. Cllr Williams had confirmed that DCC funding was not available to action repair works.

30.6 Goalposts. Checked weekly by KTC e.g. replacement tie-wraps for netting and re-located as required to allow grass to recover.

30.7 Other immediate matters.

- Cllr Yates noted that a tree near the eastern step areas had been felled and queried if it would be replaced by SHDC. Moreover, a stump required to be ground out. KTC to contact the GM team.
- Rosemary Speed and David Dain had identified that they wished to research better use of the stepped area (off Belle Vue Road) and disability/push chair access respectively.

13/31 PUBLIC/GREEN SPACES

31.1 Waterside Walk finger post signs. SHDC reported it was generally content with proposed locations and would liaise with KTC shortly.

31.2 Traffic barrier between Cookworthy Road and Lower Union Road. DCC/SHDC TAP Fund monies received. Paint colour selected (olive green), barrier to be power washed, followed by preparatory works and painting. Completion date anticipated late May/early June.

31.3 Town And Parish (TAP) Fund. KTC/West Alvington Parish Council joint TAP Fund had been successful at 95.5% of the bid. Hedge cutting along West Alvington Hill and Cookworthy Road had been completed with minor finishing-off works to be actioned. Related to items at 29.10 and 31.2.

31.4 Grass verge cutting and weed killer spraying of primary roads. Devolved management/funding from DCC and new contract/cutting dates with SHDC GM team had been agreed for 6 x grass verge cuts and 2 x weed sprays in 2014. This would require additional KTC funds at circa £650 i.e. extra 2 cuts ordered from SHDC.

31.5 Kingsbridge Tree Trail: replanting of Katsura Tree x 2 and Exeter Elm along the quayside. SHDC reported the replacement trees had been ordered to be planted by the GM team shortly. An Exeter Elm could not be sourced therefore Golden Elms ('E' for the Tree Trail) had been ordered instead. SHDC thanked KTC for its agreed contribution of £100. Seemingly some tree labels were missing; to be explored further.

31.7 Luscombe Maye anniversary Oak tree. Completed. A press release with photo had featured in the Kingsbridge Gazette.

31.8 Other immediate matters:

- **Rack Park Amenity Space.** Due to heavy use of the area by dog walkers the dog bin was often overflowing. Four x requests had been received in the previous week from members of public, with photos supplied, for the matter to be investigated. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request SHDC for either a larger capacity bin or more regular emptying.
- **Brownie and WI Celebrations.** The groups wished to action independent projects for bulb or flower planting to celebrate their anniversaries.
- **Trim Trail.** SHDC reported its support in principle for the installation of outdoor gym equipment in Duncombe Park and the Recreation Ground (alongside Quay House grounds). The Trim Trail Working Group had met with 3 potential suppliers and was awaiting formal quotations whereupon it would reconvene to make a proposal to full council on 13 May 2014. It was anticipated to hold a public consultation on the proposals at the Annual Town Meeting to be held in the town square on Saturday 17 May 2014.
- **Brittons Field & Footpath No.15 – dog faeces.** KTC would position anti-dog fouling signs at the locations.
- **Mosaics.** The mosaics to be installed at Peacocks store were eagerly awaited; ownership and maintenance was proposed to fall to KTC.
- **Bench seats.** Four bench seats formerly located in Fore Street car park were available to be re-located elsewhere. It was **RECOMMENDED** for:
 1. Two benches to be located at the head of the boules pitch in the Recreation Ground, and
 2. Two benches to be located at the bottom of the steps area (either side of the footpath) in Duncombe Park.
- **Land off Cookworthy Road.** SHDC had received a proposal from a Kingsbridge resident who wished to explore the turning of currently unused land to the north of Tesco (trees, scrub, stream) into an area accessible for children to use for forest activities, growing plants, natural play etc. After discussion it was **RECOMMENDED** to not support the suggestion as DCC and the Environment Agency earmarked the land as a flood attenuation area. However, there was potential for better use of land at Rack Park and Wallingford Road amenity areas or liaison with the Community Garden at Tresillian for such activities to take place.

13/32 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Friday 25 July 2014 at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting closed at 11.40 a.m.