

## **Kingsbridge Town Council**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD AT 9.30 A.M. ON FRIDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2018 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE**

**Present:** Cllr Graham Price (Chairman)  
Cllr David Baisie  
Cllr Anne Balkwill  
Marika Byrne (Café Decks)  
David Dain (local resident)  
Cllr Barrie Fishman  
Cllr Robin Griffin  
Lesley Healey (Kingsbridge Community Tennis)  
David & Mrs Hurrell (Kingsbridge Park Bowling Club)  
Verity Robinson (Kingsbridge Community Tennis)  
Rosemary Speed (local resident)

**In Attendance:** Martin Johnson (Secretary)

#### **17/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Chris Povey and Lisa Miller (Kingsbridge Community Tennis).

#### **Public Open Forum**

There were no members of public present.

#### **17/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **17/23 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 27 October 2017 were approved as a correct record.

#### **17/24 PARKS AND OPEN/AMENITY SPACES**

**24.1 A long-term project for the pond (Recreation Ground).** South Hams District Council (SHDC) did not manage a maintenance schedule for the pond however, clearance of the build-up of green algae was possible. A former engineer at SHDC had produced a refit scheme for the pond however, SHDC was unlikely to fund at circa £15k. S.106 funding was possible and a refit had been included in the Kingsbridge OSSR projects' listing. The Town Council (KTC) had actioned a temporary repair to its base in summer 2016 to prevent salt water ingress. There remained a requirement for some form of attenuation at the front of the park given spring tides flood risk. Members noted that a long term refit project was required in due course.

**24.2 Maintenance and future use of the putting green (Recreation Ground).**

Play had been intermittent in 2017 due to the length of the grass. Discussion with a local turf company had revealed that the turf was likely to be a bent, fescue and rye grass mix which, if cut twice weekly in the growing season via a bespoke green mower, could provide a very suitable playing surface. Members noted that SHDC Grounds Maintenance operations and cutting frequencies listed the putting green for 8 x monthly cuts. Café Decks requested for grass cutting to take place before 10.00 a.m. in order that it did not disturb customers. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request SHDC to cut the putting green in the Recreation Ground in accordance with its reported grounds maintenance schedule.

**24.3 Aspirations for the cottage/clubhouse (Recreation Ground).** The upper floor of the cottage was leased to the Bowling Club as its clubhouse; the lease had expired but had been held over. The cottage was in an unsatisfactory material condition and required a refit. KTC had suggested shared/community use of the cottage to SHDC and had subsequently been requested to glean aspirations from the Bowling Club, Community Tennis and other potential parties e.g. Kingsbridge In Bloom. It was **RECOMMENDED** for a working group to be formed to consider the future for the cottage in the Recreation Ground.

**24.4 A new children's play area mural (Duncombe Park).** The mural was the only open spaces project for FY 2017/18 which had not been achieved to date and time was ticking away.

**24.5 Replacement litter bins for 2 x parks, current TAP Fund bid and potential S.106 funds.** KTC had applied for £4,950 to replace the tatty litter bins in the Recreation Ground and Duncombe Park. Either Cllr Balkwill or Povey would present KTC's application to the DCC/SHDC TAP Fund Panel on 1 February. The project had also been listed in the Kingsbridge OSSR.

**24.6 Children's play space refits (Duncombe Park, Homelands & Montagu Road) to include public consultation.** Following discussion with SHDC, local consultation/drop ins were required to gain community aspirations for each site to be pulled together as a joint project brief with a tender process to follow. This would need to include play equipment, landscaping, surfacing, levels of use and by what ages i.e. to evidence use and need of the play spaces. Current S106 funds for Kingsbridge totalled £8.4k and an application for SHDC capital funds could be made. It was **RECOMMENDED** to progress refits for children's play areas.

**24.7 Grass verge cutting and weed spraying programme for FY 2018/19.** It was **RECOMMENDED** to delegate the schedule for grass cutting/weed spraying to Cllr Price and the Town Clerk.

**24.8 Maintenance for footpath at rear of Northville Park.** The footpath (between the rear gardens of dwellings and field boundary fencing) was not registered by Devon County Council. It was installed by the landowner when the houses were built to prevent cattle encroaching and the land/fencing belonged to the same. Either DCC or SHDC laid hardcore and landscaped the footpath in the early 1990s however, there was no formal agreement in place. KTC had actioned sporadic vegetation cuts when requested by local residents as it was used by dog

walkers and cyclists. It was suggested that KTC may wish to takeover the management of the footpath however, Members considered that there were similar informal footpaths in town which were managed by the local community e.g. at Linhey Close. It was **RECOMMENDED** that KTC should not consider taking on the management of the footpath at the rear of Northville Park.

#### **17/25 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION PLAN**

SHDC officers had reviewed the draft Kingsbridge OSSR and provided advice on the projects' listing which had been incorporated. It was **RECOMMENDED** to adopt the final draft of the Kingsbridge OSSR plan.

#### **17/26 KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM**

Cllr Price reported that Kingsbridge In Bloom (KIB) volunteers had been working over the winter to keep the town looking attractive. In 2017, KIB had won gold/category winner and had been nominated by the RHS for entry to the Champion of Champions Britain In Bloom for 2018. Funding was a significant challenge however, there were some exciting new displays planned for 2018. KIB was keen to work with SHDC as much of the land the volunteers worked on was the responsibility of the authority.

##### *Discussion items:*

- *The Bowling Club, Café Decks and Community Tennis had experienced minor vandalism in the Recreation Ground.*
- *Rack Park amenity space was very muddy adjacent to the footpath leading to Derby Road. Benches were suggested for the amenity space.*

#### **17/27 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Friday 27 April 2018 at 9.30 a.m. in Quay House.

*The meeting closed at 11.25 a.m.*