

## **Kingsbridge Town Council**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD AT 9.30 ON FRIDAY 27 JANUARY 2017 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE**

**Present:** Cllr Graham Price (Chairman)  
Cllr David Baisie  
Cllr Anne Balkwill  
Marika Byrne  
Cllr Robin Griffin

**In Attendance:** Lesley Healey  
Lisa Miller  
Verity Robinson  
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

#### **16/34 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Chris Povey, Brian Hill, Pat Janes and Rosemary Speed.

#### **Public Open Forum**

Lesley Healey, Lisa Miller and Verity Robinson presented their concept to run a Kingsbridge Community Tennis Club from the tennis courts in the Recreation Ground and Members asked several questions. The salient points were:

- Lesley, Lisa and Verity were keen tennis players and current members of the private tennis club in Kingsbridge.
- Preliminary discussions had been held with South Hams District Council (SHDC) regarding the formation of a community tennis club and officers supported the concept.
- The Lawn Tennis Association was supportive, encouraged parks' tennis clubs and advice had been gleaned.
- A potential 7 day calendar for court use was distributed which included: coach-led beginner sessions, cardio tennis, tennis fit, adult/junior coaching, social tennis and open tournaments. The calendar also provided the availability for 'pay & play'.
- They also wished to promote tennis for children and disabled persons.
- Liaison with Kingsbridge Community College would take place.
- Fundraising would be required year-on-year and the suggestion was to make tennis as cheap as possible.
- There was likely to be an annual subscription for members.
- Insurance matters and on-line booking were being investigated.
- Security of the courts via combination lock or similar, with a code to change weekly, was being investigated.
- Café Decks currently managed the tennis courts during café opening hours and therefore SHDC, Café Decks and the Community Tennis Club needed to

discuss any new management routines and whether a lease or licence was required.

- Marika Byrne, Café Decks, supported the concept and aimed to complete her own level 1 tennis coaching course.
- It was hoped to bring the court floodlights back into use to extend play time into the evenings.

Cllr Price thanked Lesley, Lisa and Verity for their presentation.

### **16/35 DECLERATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **16/36 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 28 October 2016 were approved as a correct record.

### **16/37 RECREATION GROUND**

*The following agenda item was taken early out-of-turn:*

**37.4 Tennis courts (proposal for a Community Tennis Club).** Members had received a presentation and discussed the same during the Public Open Forum. It was **RECOMMENDED** for the Town Council (KTC) to support the concept of a Kingsbridge Community Tennis Club, operating from the Recreation Ground tennis courts, and to invite updates as the project progressed.

**37.1 Composting facility (project completion, signage, photoshoot).** The works had been completed to a very satisfactory standard and relevant signage had just been received. It was **RECOMMENDED** for a press release/photoshoot to be worked up when the signage was in position.

**37.2 Bowling Club report.** Nil report.

**37.3 Café Decks report.** Marika Byrne reported that the café would re-open in early March. Members were keen supporters of Café Decks and noted that Marika was to lobby SHDC for a baby changing facility to be installed in the adjacent toilet which was available during café opening hours.

Marika wished to run an Easter Fun Day to include an egg hunt, sunflower planting and putting competition similar to previous years which would act as a season-opener for Café Decks. Members supported the event and suggested that Kingsbridge Playspaces may wish to contribute.

**37.5 Boules court (new surface).** Members agreed that the new surface was an improvement and Cllr Price reported that it played well. It was **RECOMMENDED** to replace the missing 'rules for boules' sign next to the court.

**37.6 Children's play area (new rubber matting & removal of last wooden pole).** KTC's grounds maintenance contractor had replaced the worn rubber matting underneath the swings and SHDC had removed the last remaining wooden pole from the 'green mounds'.

Members had completed a 'walkabout' on completion of the previous committee meeting and highlighted that both the children's play area and adjacent teen zone required maintenance before the spring/summer season i.e. vegetation required clearing and some areas were grubby. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request SHDC to complete a 'deep clean' of all play equipment in the park, alongside re-painting where required and weekly clearance of vegetation/stinging nettles/sand.

**37.7 Table tennis table (concrete base & type of table next financial year).** A budget at £3k in the current FY would not be able to deliver both a concrete base and table and the project would be realised over 2 FYs. Therefore the concrete base only would be supplied in the current FY. A risk assessment for the table tennis table was required.

**37.8 Goalposts (removal due to wear & tear).** Both goalposts had been removed however, a budget had been provided to supply a new set in the following FY.

**37.9 Park furniture (picnic benches etc.).** Members had discussed at agenda item 37.6. Items contained in the SHDC/KTC Licence also required maintenance i.e. cleaning and re-oiling of public seats and re-painting of picnic benches.

**37.10 Dog control.** Satisfactory. Nil feedback had been received to date regarding SHDC's recent consultation on Dog Orders.

**37.11 Maintenance matters.** Brian Hill had suggested for an astro turf 5-a-side football/basketball/netball/hockey/badminton pitch to be installed and that central government grants may be available for the same. Members noted that a multi-use games area had been carefully considered in 2008 as an element of the Kingsbridge Public Space Strategy but had been shelved in favour of retaining a grassed area which could be used for various events. It was **RECOMMENDED** to thank Brian Hill for his suggestion for an astro turf pitch however, the current mindset was to maintain the grassed area at the Derby Road end of the park.

## **16/38 DUNCOMBE PARK**

**38.1 Central green space (SHDC re-seed Mar 17).** SHDC had confirmed that works would be actioned.

**38.2 Children's play area.** Nil report further to the previous meeting.

**38.3 Mural (removal of current & preparatory works Mar 17 for new mural next FY).** A quotation had been accepted to remove the current flaking mural and render the wall in readiness for a new mural during the following FY (a budget for materials had been set at circa £500). Members suggested that the Community

College art department and Primary School should be invited to contribute to the design of the new mural.

**38.4 New Liquid Amber.** Actioned.

**38.5 Park furniture (benches clean Mar 17).** To be cleaned by KTC by end of the current FY.

**38.6 Maintenance matters.** Nil report.

#### **16/39 OPEN SPACE/AMENITY SPACES**

**39.1 Grass verge cutting & weed spraying (proposals for extra works Mar 17).** The 6<sup>th</sup> and final grass verge cut for the current FY, undertaken by SHDC's Grounds Maintenance team, was planned for March. It was likely that costs would be increased by circa 10% for the following FY.

**39.2 Amenity spaces (Britton's Field, Rack Park, Wallingford Road, Church Street and Bowcombe).** All satisfactory.

**39.3 Children's play spaces (Montagu Road, Homelands, Treblepark).** Nil report further to the previous meeting.

**39.4 Trim Trail (maintenance).** Caloo had provided inspection reports in November 2016 for outdoor exercise equipment in Quay House grounds, Recreation Ground and Duncombe Park. Minor repairs and spot painting had been actioned and no issues had been raised. KTC's grounds maintenance contractor actioned ongoing maintenance matters.

**39.5 Tree Trail.** Satisfactory.

**39.6 SHDC/KTC public spaces licence (update).** The Town Clerk had updated and needed to liaise with SHDC to complete.

**39.7 Skatepark (suggested inclusion K2 Quayside masterplan).** SHDC was due to present a draft masterplan to KTC shortly.

#### **16/40 OPEN SPACES, SPORT AND RECREATION PLAN**

A revised draft Kingsbridge OSSR was received which Members agreed to review individually with comments to be provided to the Town Clerk. Members were also grateful for Rosemary Speed's report which would be input. It was anticipated for Kingsbridge based recreational and sports groups to be consulted in March.

#### **16/41 KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM**

Cllr Price reported that KIB had been in existence for 10 years and would be judged in the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July 2017. The National Trust had confirmed their willingness to assist in flower bed planting and sponsorship had already been gained from several groups including Kingsbridge Feoffees.

**16/42            BUDGET FINANCIAL YEAR 2017/18**

**42.1 Current FY 2016/17 budget.** For parks and open space improvements was anticipated to be used by FY end.

**42.2 Next FY 2017/18 budget.** KTC had approved:

- Trim Trail £400
- Play Areas & Trim Trail refit £15,000
- Grass verge cutting & weed spraying £3,000
- Parks & open space improvements £12,500 (public seats £650, table tennis table £3,000, bus shelter cleaning £150, goalposts £550, highways sign cleaning £150, bunting £1,000, gully cleaning £500, allotments fencing £1,000, CCTV upgrade £5,000 & mural £500)

**16/43            DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Friday 28 April 2017 at 9.30 a.m. in Quay House.

Annex:

A. Draft Kingsbridge Open Space, Sport & Recreation Plan.

*The meeting closed at 11.36 a.m.*