

Kingsbridge Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD AT 9.30 A.M. ON FRIDAY 28 JULY 2017 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE

Present: Cllr Graham Price (Chairman)
Cllr David Baisie
Cllr Barrie Fishman
Cllr Robin Griffin
Marika Byrne
David Dain
Rosemary Speed

In Attendance: Lesley Healey (Kingsbridge Community Tennis)
Verity Robinson (Kingsbridge Community Tennis)
Laura Cregan (Secretary)

17/01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Price was elected as the Chairman of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee for mayoral year 2017/18.

17/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Anne Balkwill & Chris Povey and Pat Janes.

Public Open Forum

There were no statements from members of public.

17/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17/04 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 28 April 2017 were approved as a correct record.

17/05 RECREATION GROUND

05.01 Green Flag judging 25 May 2017. The Committee agreed that the park looked stunning on judging day and a Green Flag had subsequently been awarded for the 5th year in succession. Presentation of a flag/celebration to be arranged. All agreed that the park should be maintained at a high standard throughout the year rather than a surge of activity in readiness for judging.

05.02 Bowling Club report. Pat Janes had emailed a report. The club had some issues to resolve with South Hams District Council (SHDC) regarding its lease of the

Cottage. Community Tennis did not have access to the Club's toilets and suggested that the former should negotiate to use the ground floor currently used by SHDC's Grounds Maintenance team and adapt the same.

05.03 Café Decks report. Marika Byrne reported that the season had been 'up & down' due to inconsistent weather. Eight seagull sacks (commercial waste) had gone missing and she was investigating alongside SHDC.

05.04 Community Tennis report. Lesley Healey and Verity Robinson reported that there were approximately 100 members. A tournament had been arranged for the weekend 5/6 August. The focus was on young people. They were trying to source additional funding and could not afford £375 for a portaloos for 3 months. Due to child protection guidelines, children could not use the toilets in the Bowls Club on their own. The matter had been discussed with the Bowls Club but it did not wish for certain areas of the Cottage to be used by tennis players. It was **RECOMMENDED** for a meeting to be arranged between SHDC, Town Council (KTC), Bowls Club and Community Tennis to discuss the use of facilities in the park.

It was further **RECOMMENDED** for Community Tennis to become members of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee.

05.05 General matters.

Pond. Green weed on the surface of the pond was due to be sorted by Kingsbridge In Bloom team shortly. Cllr Price suggested that circa £10k funding was required to make improvements to the pond e.g. aeration.

Litter Bins. All litter bins were rusty, in poor condition and let the whole park down. It was **RECOMMENDED** to investigate the supply and installation of stainless steel litter bins.

Boundary Wall Damage. A section of the boundary wall circa 25m east of Café Decks had been damaged; seemingly children had made a 'den' in the vegetation but were hacking at the wall and taking chunks out. The issue had been reported to SHDC for investigation.

05.06 Play matters.

Putting. Café Decks had not been able to provide putting recently because the grass had been too long. The café had been informed that the grass would be cut every week during a morning to avoid busy lunchtime/afternoon periods but this was not happening.

Parking. Committee Members had noticed a few vehicles parking at the Derby Road end of the park; Café Decks lease stated specific times to enter/exit. Town Clerk to investigate.

05.07 Composting facility. In operation and working well.

05.08 Dog control. Dogs on leads and faeces were noted as perennial issues however, dog control was assessed as Satisfactory at present.

05.09 CCTV. New 360° monitoring introduced recently alongside a pan, tilt and zoom camera.

05.10 Proposed autumn meeting with SHDC Members/Officers. KTC and Kingsbridge In Bloom wished to be informed of SHDC routines in the parks and civic spaces e.g. regularity of park grass cutting and maintenance of the Embankment. Therefore KTC/KIB could decide whether it wished to add to the resource via purchase from SHDC or a third party. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request a meeting between SHDC and the Parks Committee.

Marika, Lesley & Verity left the Chamber

17/06 DUNCOMBE PARK

06.01 General matters. A request had been made to SHDC to grass over the flower bed near the steps off Belle Vue Road. All KTC seats had been cleaned but some had not been oiled to date.

David Dain reported that the quality of grass cutting was inconsistent and generally unsatisfactory. Dangerous potholes in the central green space had been reported to SHDC.

06.02 Play matters. The children's play area was very tired. Litter bins were poor similar to the Recreation Ground.

06.03 Mural. Different options had come forward i.e. request for Kingsbridge Community College assistance in 2018, KTC to host a design competition, a project alongside Cookworthy Museum or commissioning a local artist. Town Clerk to investigate. A budget for materials was available.

06.04 Dog control. Very satisfactory at present.

06.05 CCTV. Similar to the Recreation Ground; high quality new cameras were now in operation.

06.06 Raising the profile. David Dain proposed a community event to be held on a Saturday in spring/summer 2018 to raise park awareness and possible fundraising. Town Clerk to liaise with the Playspaces Group.

Cllr Baisie left the Chamber

17/07 OPEN SPACES/AMENITY SPACES

07.01 Grass verge cutting & weed spraying. Seven highways grass verge cuts had been scheduled, and one weed spray of key roads, during the current financial year to be completed by SHDC Grounds Maintenance. After known commitments

circa £800 budget remained for one further weed spray and other vegetation cuts. Town Clerk to request proposals and investigate costs.

07.02 Amenity spaces (Britton's Field, Rack Park, Wallingford Road, Church Street & Bowcombe). SHDC had received a recent request for a new memorial bench at Bowcombe and a Cavendish style bench had been suggested. Public seats were proposed at the top and bottom of Rack Park; Cllr Price suggested discussion with the Men's Shed group.

07.03 Children's play spaces (Homelands closure, Montagu Road & Treblepark). SHDC had closed Homelands due to deterioration of play equipment i.e. Health & Safety risk and Montagu Road was also tired. To be discussed at the SHDC/KTC meeting identified at 05.10.

07.04 Trim Trail (completion of external 3 year maintenance service). Town Clerk to investigate a new contract with the present provider or an alternative maintenance routine. An Allianz inspection report for Quay House grounds had recommended the introduction of signage with the name of the site operator and contact details for damage/accidents.

07.05 Tree Trail. Nameplates were regularly vandalised and it was suggested to investigate metal tree bands. Town Clerk to investigate.

07.06 Skatepark (Quayside consultation). No further information; ongoing.

07.07 Open Space, Sport & Recreation Plan. Feedback from a consultation with over 50 Kingsbridge based sports/amenity groups to be incorporated then a final public consultation before submission to SHDC.

17/08 KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM

Flower displays throughout town were exemplary; work alongside SHDC to be discussed at the SHDC/KTC meeting identified at 05.10.

17/09 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Friday 27 October 2017 at 9.30 a.m. in Quay House.

The meeting closed at 10.45 a.m.