

Kingsbridge Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD AT 9.30 a.m. ON FRIDAY 13 MAY 2016 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE

Present: Cllr Wayne Grills (Chairman)
Marika Byrne (Café Decks)
Cllr Tom Coulthard
David Dain (Kingsbridge In Bloom)
Cllr Robin Griffin
Pat Janes (Kingsbridge Park Bowling Club)
Cllr Kate Lynn
Cllr Graham Price
Rosemary Speed (local resident)

In Attendance: Bryn Hayden (local resident)
Steve Mammatt (Kingsbridge & District Light Railway)
Pat Parfitt (tennis coach)
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

16/01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Grills was elected as Chairman of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee for mayoral year 2016/17.

16/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Balkwill and Povey.

Public Open Forum

Bryn Hayden stated that:

- he was aware of South Hams District Council's (SHDC) specification to repair/upgrade the Recreation Ground pond; Kingsbridge In Bloom (KIB) volunteers had provided many hours to upkeep the same and it was an essential facility in the park,
- there were not enough dog control signs in the Recreation Ground and people were still unaware that dogs should be kept on leads, and
- proposed bird boxes needed to be installed in the Recreation Ground.

16/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16/04 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 5 February 2016 were approved as a correct record.

16/05 QUAYSIDE LIGHT RAILWAY

Steve Mammatt provided a report and drawings for the Quayside light railway:

- the stations had been named and signs were presented; Kingsbridge Park Side at the southern end (near Memorial Shelter) and Kingsbridge Ria End (at the head of the estuary),
- stations to have platforms with a 1m high picket fence surround,
- the track had been completed and was ready for laying,
- construction to be a 'rolling build',
- it was anticipated to be part-operational for summer,
- Park Side station to be constructed at a later stage,
- sponsorship was on target, and
- rides priced at £2 return.

Members supported progress on the light railway.

16/06 RECREATION GROUND

06.1 Condition of the pond – what are the options? Members agreed there needed to be a feature at the front of the park and the pond was an important aesthetic. KIB volunteers were likely to manage saline ingress into the pond via salt-tolerant planting. SHDC had reported it would be very expensive to resolve the saline ingress with no guarantee of success. **It was RECOMMENDED to:**

- request permission from SHDC for the Town Council (KTC) to action a short term repair to the pond for summer 2016,
- repair cracks in the pond base using a reputable gap filler,
- investigate the installation of a pond liner, and
- explore the introduction of reed-like plants.

Rob – Received a quotation from Heritage Preservation which will be received by full council 31 May – run of 10m crack repairs using Vandex plug, Vandex unimortar and Vandex construction joint tape.

06.2 Composting facility – progress to date. It was reported:

- SHDC had installed a wooden perimeter fence at the rear of the compound,
- installation of composting bays/ancillaries was estimated at circa £6.2k, funding bids had been made to Devon County Council (DCC) and SHDC Ward Members at £4.75k and KTC had agreed part funding at circa £1.5k,
- further clearance of the site, to be agreed with SHDC, was required before the works could commence, and
- the project was progressing.

Rob – as discussed via email recently – plan is for KTC to hire a large skip from Cumings Containers (Torr Quarry) and local mini-digger to remove remains of old concrete posts/wire fence and further removal of earth/reprofile of the bank. Skip parked off-site. Removal of all earth/waste. Funded by KTC. Scheduled for action Saturday 4 June. Can we go ahead???

06.3 Bowling Club – current matters. Pat Janes reported that negotiations were progressing with SHDC for a fence to be repaired and a permanent banner sign to promote the green was being worked up.

06.4 Café Decks – current matters. Marika Byrne reported that she had attended a worthwhile meeting at Follaton House on 11 April, alongside the Town Clerk, which had considered several café matters and SHDC officers were very supportive. A newsletter would be produced shortly to promote all park activities.

06.5 Tennis – court security and coaching. New fees and charges signage had been installed for tennis. Two further signs at the courts had been suggested by SHDC:

- courts for the playing of tennis only, and
- to highlight misuse/frequency of users not paying fees and that in future the courts would be locked.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to support 2 new signs at the tennis courts (and the availability of tennis coaching to be added). **We've exchanged emails.**

SHDC had supported the courts to be locked either by combination or key lock with access via Café Decks. Whether the courts would remain locked outside café opening hours was to be determined.

Pat Parfitt reported that a Coaches Hub had been formed for the Kingsbridge and Loddiswell area via Elliot Veale, Marika Byrne (to undertake LTA Training Course) and himself which had been supported by Active Devon. He anticipated that this would deliver a good coaching environment in the area for both recreational and experienced players. KTC had provided Grant Aid at £150 to pay for court fees.

06.6 Putting green – current matters. The new putting flags were deemed to be effective. The introduction of a large 'feather flag' by Café Decks to better earmark the putting green was supported. The Playspaces Group would run a 'Kingsbridge Masters' tournament on Sunday 3 July. No putting equipment had gone missing and no further kit was required for summer 2016. After discussion, it was **RECOMMENDED** to keep a suggestion for a playing deposit under review.

06.7 Boules court – resurfacing. It was **RECOMMENDED** for the current unsatisfactory top surface to be scraped off to be replaced by a rolled-in course sand/fine gravel mix. The works to be delegated to Cllr Price, David Dain and the Town Clerk to complete within the allocated budget. **Part of KTC Licence from SHDC – KTC to fund – to be actioned shortly.**

06.8 Children's play area – condition. Only 2 wooden posts remained on the 3 climbing hills, the surface underneath the swings was worn and some of the play equipment had lost its colour. **It was noted that KTC had a 'sinking fund' for children's play areas and it was therefore RECOMMENDED to gain quotations for repairs/works.** **Will obviously discuss as matters progress.**

06.9 Bicycle rack – proposal. It was **RECOMMENDED** to investigate the installation of new bicycle racks (also for Duncombe Park) which should be a funky rather than traditional design; some examples were distributed. Location, design and quotations to be gleaned. We've discussed – when design agreed maybe I can forward our preferred locations.

06.10 Events – potential for 2016. Cllr Coulthard reported that the Playspaces Group would be running a Fun Day on Sunday 3 July 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

06.11 Promotion – brown tourism sign? Tourism signs were deemed to be lacklustre but were however, recognised practice and likely to promote the park. DCC managed an application process for the same. It was **RECOMMENDED** to explore the installation of a brown tourism sign for the Recreation Ground to be installed in the Town Square area (actual location to be determined). Discussed at recent Café Decks meeting at Follaton House.

06.12 Green Flag Award – competition 2016. SHDC had not received any news to date regarding how judging for 2016. Rob – are we able to contact GF to find out what's happening? Thanks.

06.13 Maintenance matters. It was **RECOMMENDED** to acknowledge the efforts and commitment of SHDC's Grounds Maintenance Team by letter.

Cllr Price would discuss the quantity of wild flower seeding required with SHDC's GM manager.

06.14 Feedback. Revised fees and charges signage had been installed adjacent to Café Decks, Tesco Community Team had completed some sterling maintenance work which KTC had thanked by letter, and Cllr Price had recently collected a Royal Horticultural Society 'best park' award for 2015 which had been displayed in the notice board.

06.15 Any other immediate business.

- The large interpretation panel inside the notice board had become damp and was deteriorating; SHDC to be informed.
- Two bird boxes were ready to be fixed; liaison with SHDC GM team for suitable tree locations was awaited.

16/07 DUNCOMBE PARK

07.1 Central green space – condition. SHDC was investigating restoration of the grass area close to the car park entrance and further feedback was awaited.

07.2 Mural – rejuvenation. The mural continued to deteriorate. It had been designed on the work of Hundertwasser, an Austrian artist, by 2 local art teachers and completed by students from the community college and primary school. Restoration would require cleaning off (possibly sandblasting),

sand/cement render, sealant, new mural design, painting and anti-graffiti top coat. It was **RECOMMENDED** to progress a new mural.

07.3 Goalposts – anchors. The anchors had been ordered following consideration of revised guidance regarding safety standards for portable goalposts; to be fitted on receipt.

07.4 Trees, shrubs and new flower bed. A new bed dug between the terrace and sub-station had been seeded with wild flowers. A new development on Belle Vue Road had offered a tree and it was **RECOMMENDED** to suggest a Liquid Amber to be planted in a small flower bed near the terrace. Are you content?

07.5 Maintenance matters. Similar to agenda item 16/06.04, Tesco had carried out several maintenance tasks in Duncombe Park.

07.6 Any other immediate business. None.

16/08 OPEN SPACES

08.1 Footpaths and highways. A meeting with DCC Ward Members and local highways officer had been held recently alongside discussion of Fore Street pavement and Public Footpath matters at full council.

08.2 Grass verge cutting and weed spraying. Six cuts would be carried out during the financial year: late May, mid-June, July immediately before KIB judging, early September, late October and early March 2016. Two weed sprays of major routes in town would be carried out early June and early September.

08.3 Amenities/spaces: Britton's Field, Rack Park, Wallingford Road, Church Street, Bowcombe, and children's play spaces e.g. Trebblepark. Public toilet at Bowcombe amenity space had been refitted and was open. Nil significant issues elsewhere.

08.4 Trim Trail. Well used. Weed spraying was required to halt weeds growing from the tiger mulch base.

08.5 Tree Trail. Cllr Price, Bryn Hayden and the Town Clerk had conducted a walkabout on 26 February. Nil significant issues. Members thanked Bryn Hayden for monitoring the Tree Trail.

08.6 Proposed Tranquillity Trail. Cllrs Gilbert & Price and Laura Cregan had conducted a recent walkabout and their comments and photos had been incorporated into the draft leaflet. Feedback was awaited from the originator Professor Greg Watts.

08.7 Proposed Heritage Trail. Cllr Grills and Rosemary Speed had discussed recently; the project was progressing.

08.8 Any other immediate business related to Open Spaces.

- The funding for Skatepark cleaning (restricted reserves) had almost run out meaning cleaning would fall to SHDC as asset manager.
- Cllr Lynn, Marika Byrne and the Town Clerk agreed to review the operation of the Skatepark.
- Several of the small trees planted by Hi-Line along Cookworthy Road (northern section off Plymouth Road) were dead and required removal.
- David Dain reported that the Primary School required a picnic bench for its gardening club.

16/09 DOG CONTROL

It was likely that Public Space Protection Orders would overtake Dog Orders, and possibly related business e.g. skateboarding byelaws and 'no alcohol' designation zones. SHDC would consult with local councils and KTC had been given early notice.

SHDC would issue a press release shortly calling on local residents to report incidents of dog fouling in order to deploy enforcement officers at repeat locations.

16/10 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION PLAN

A draft Kingsbridge OSSR plan, stocktake of current facilities only, was distributed by the Town Clerk with a request for feedback. Subsequently the draft plan would be forwarded to various stakeholders for consideration alongside a request for their various requirements. It was anticipated that a completed OSSR plan would inform future S106 developer contributions.

16/11 KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM

Cllr Price reported that KIB was progressing well towards the competition in July.

16/12 BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/17

Circa £9k had been allocated for various parks and open spaces improvements within the current financial year. It was **RECOMMENDED** for a proposed outdoor table tennis table to be located in the south east corner of the grassed area near the children's play area; an area 17ft x 11ft was required. KTC will fund. Table Tennis England promote Cornilleau outdoor tables which are very robust with a 10 year guarantee for top and legs. Will require a bespoke concrete pad. Means loss of some grassed area. Are you content??

16/13 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Friday 29 July 2016 at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting closed at 12.05 p.m.