

Kingsbridge Town Council

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

Present: Cllr Anne Balkwill (Chairman)
Marika Byrne (Café Decks)
David Dain (Kingsbridge in Bloom)
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Wayne Grills
Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Jax Williams
Cllr Philip Yates

In Attendance: Tracey Weaver (SHDC Dog Warden)
Brian Hayden (local resident)
Ann Gomm (Secretary)

14/01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Balkwill was elected as Chairman of the Parks & Green Spaces Committee for mayoral year 2014-15.

14/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Wendy Bolt (Kingsbridge Playspaces Group), Rob Harkness (SHDC Greenspace Operations Manager), Keith Rennells (SHDC Greenspace Projects Officer), Rosemary Speed (Sustainable Kingsbridge) and Val Statters (Kingsbridge Park Bowling Club).

Keith Rennells had provided an update on SHDC matters, Rosemary Speed had supplied comments on various items, Val Statters had reported that she could no longer attend committee meetings and the Town Clerk had provided an update on KTC related matters.

Public Open Forum

There were no statements from members of public.

14/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14/04 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 25 April 2014 were approved as a correct record.

Tracey Weaver (SHDC Dog Warden) was in attendance and the following agenda item was brought forward:

05.13 Dogs On Leads Order.

Stencilled 'signposting'. SHDC had given permission for "dogs on leads" stencils at park entrances; KTC had trialled at the Derby Road entrance. Members considered that the best method was to paint a rectangle on the ground and then hand paint the stencil rather than spraying. It was also considered that repeater signs were required along the footpaths.

Dog control. Several matters were discussed:

- The Dog Warden reported there had been 2 recent incidents and one fixed penalty fine.
- Majority of complaints received regarded dog fouling. Homelands play area was a particular problem; signs had been erected but people continued to take their dogs into the play area.
- Penalty notices could only be issued by Civil Enforcement Officers and the Dog Warden.
- Members enquired if road sweepers and park workers could report offences; the Dog Warden replied that SHDC job routines were changing. It was proposed to have 2 Mobility Locating Officers and a 12 person team however, responsibilities had not been determined to date.
- Members enquired if there could be further dog restrictions e.g. Brittons Field; the Dog Warden suggested that KTC could conduct its own public consultation as SHDC costs for the same were circa £2k. It was **RESOLVED** for the Town Clerk to contact SHDC to progress further dog restrictions.
- Members enquired whether SHDC could position a notice regarding dog fouling on the estuary footpath before Crabshell Inn; the Dog Warden replied affirmative if a suitable location could be sourced.
- Members raised concerns that dogs from Southmoor Vets were allowed to run free in the Recreation Ground; the Dog Warden replied that she would investigate and request dogs be taken to Rack Park amenity space instead.
- It was suggested that CCTV could be used to catch dog foulers and then reported to the Dog Warden.
- It was proposed to utilise Duncombe Park Fun Day on Sunday 21 September for promotion of dog control and requirement to pick up faeces.
- The Dog Warden had been requested to visit schools to give education talks regarding dog management; members suggested that litter picking should be included.
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Tracey Weaver left the Chamber; Marika Byrne entered the Chamber

14/05 RECREATION GROUND

05.1 Green Flag. The park had won a Green Flag award for the second year running to be announced on Monday 28 July. SHDC reported that flag hoisting could be arranged for mid-August.

Members remained concerned about the condition of the pond and suggested the flag should not be hoisted while it looked so poor. It was agreed that fresh water, supplied from Dodbrooke stream via the central 900mm pipe, should be flushed through the pond at regular intervals to reduce the level of saline. It was **RECOMMENDED** to investigate KTC purchasing a water pump for the pond.

Nil feedback had been received from SHDC to date regarding KTC's request to hold a meeting to discuss pond repairs and it was **RECOMMENDED** to reconvene when SHDC officers were available to meet with committee members to discuss the pond and related matters.

05.2 Assets/maintenance licence between South Hams District Council (SHDC) and Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC). A draft licence had been received at the full council meeting on 8 July and its review and progression had been delegated to the Parks Committee in liaison with SHDC and other partners. Committee members had sighted and the following comments had been received to date:

- Wendy Bolt - required that all items not listed are owned/managed by SHDC.
- Richard Smith (KEBC) - would work-up a firm proposal for CCTV and forward to KTC
- Rosemary Speed - amendments to Licence Terms:
 1. Use line 1. permitted to place objects
 2. Objects line 2. Planting areas (but the plants themselves not to be subject to formal agreement)
 3. Maintenance line 4. the Schedule (singular)
 4. Occupation line 4. Add: provided that such use does not in anyway compromise the Licensee in respect of its security and insurance under the terms of this Licence.
- David Dain - Schedule:
 1. KIB to be deleted from 1C Goalposts, 1E Sculptures
 2. KTC to be deleted from 2B Planters
- Cllr Bloomer - Schedule 6C that KWW (Kingsbridge Walkers are Welcome) has folded

It was **RECOMMENDED** for the Town Clerk to review the Licence, incorporate suggested changes, and liaise with Kerry Tidmarsh (SHDC Senior Valuer).

05.3 Pond repairs and planting. See 05.1 above.

05.4 Sculpture. Brick seating and steel pond sculpture had been installed. Spindriff/Kingsbridge Community College (KCC) dance performance on 27

June had been a real success. Three brightly coloured sheep sculptures were to be loaned from KCC.

05.5 Flooding at/from Derby Road. All debris from recent tree felling alongside the stream had been cleared alleviating concerns that it could block the trash screens.

05.6 Apple Tree. Agreed at the last meeting to review in autumn 2014.

05.7 Café update.

- Marika (Café Decks) to liaise with the Town Clerk regarding replenishment of putting and boules equipment.
- Marika suggested the sponsorship of signage within an Embankment flower bed to earmark Café Decks.
- SHDC reported that a 2 page advert in all 5 South Hams newspapers would appear on Friday 1 August to promote the park, its activities and café.
- DCC had reported that street lamp columns were not suitable to hoist banners and at £1.3 k each were too expensive to replace.
- Alternative to above would be a railings banner by the central park entrance to be seen by passers by and from the other side of the estuary. SHDC to research and share a draft design with KTC and partners when available. Members fully supported this proposal.
- SHDC also reviewing signs from town square to the park to help people find their way. Members fully supported this proposal.
- SHDC/Café Decks to research a social media campaign to publicise on Facebook.
- Marika had much to do and it was proposed on events days for KTC to arrange a rota to help out.
- Possible drugs paraphernalia discovered in the park had been reported to the Police.
- Sign required: “no football” or suchlike near the putting green; currently there was no such instruction.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to progress Café Decks matters listed above.

05.8 Additional public seats. Benches purchased from successful TAP Fund bid had been supplied and installed.

05.9 Bowling Club business. Update awaited on cottage maintenance and tenancy matters. It was **RECOMMENDED** to write to Val Statters to thank her for her strong support as a committee member and also to write to the Club Secretary requesting another representative to join the committee.

05.10 Maintenance matters.

- **Play space wall repairs.** SHDC had installed a stainless steel edging to provide longevity.
- **Landscaping adjacent to café.** SHDC proposed to plant a Chinese Red Bark Birch and low growing shrubs. The tree had been ordered

and planting was anticipated on completion of the wild flower meadow season.

- **Upper slopes and erosion.** Rosemary Speed reported that children found it difficult to get up the slopes.
- **Wooden posts in children's play area.** Ongoing monitoring.

05.11 Boundary fence for storage area. SHDC had confirmed that the project was in the assets work programme and engineers had started to draft a plan with costing; details to follow when available.

05.12 Croquet. Members received a proposal from SHDC for a garden croquet lawn to be incorporated into part of the putting green following an enquiry from local residents. Members considered the proposal to have merit and it was **RECOMMENDED** to request a fully costed proposal.

14/06 DUNCOMBE PARK

06.1 Trees and shrubs. A site meeting had been proposed to agree locations for a Katsura and Chinese Red Birch.

06.2 Maintenance matters.

- **Hollows in central green space.** The hollows had not been filled to date.

06.3 Terraced area and access. Members received reports from Rosemary Speed and David Dain:

- **RS:** Observation highlighted that the terraced area was mainly used by parents with small children. Very young children were shaken as push chairs are bumped down the steps. Comments received were: requests for a sandpit, more swings, more seats, boring terraced area, nice planters, more flowers, good goalposts, keep dogs to specific area, ramp for pushchairs (x4), fell a dead tree, more planters to stop children hurling themselves down the terracing!
- **DD:** Terracing difficult for parents with pushchairs/young children. Alternative is to walk along the narrow footway which does not take a pushchair or walk up Church Street, down Waterloo Road and access at the Fire Station. A ramp to enter the park would therefore be a major asset for local residents.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to liaise with SHDC to explore improvements to the terraced area and access issues.

06.4 Zip Wire. Members received a representation from a local mother and childminder that children under 10 years were unable to independently access the button seat to use the zip wire due to the design of the mound/platform underneath. However, an adjacent sign directed that the zip wire was for children aged 6 years and over. She made some suggestions to overcome the issue. It was **RECOMMENDED** to contact the manufacturer to determine the recommended age range for use of the zip wire and to respond to the enquiry accordingly.

14/07 PUBLIC/GREEN SPACES

07.1 Waterside Walk finger post signs. Locations agreed with SHDC; delivery anticipated early August.

07.2 Traffic barrier between Cookworthy Road and Lower Union Road. Repaint completed.

07.3 Town And Parish (TAP) Fund. Hedge cutting along West Alvington Hill, Ropewalk, Cookworthy Road and related areas had been completed.

07.4 Grass verge cutting and weed killer spraying of primary roads. Three of 6 cuts completed. Next cuts scheduled for early September, late October and early March plus a further weed spray in September.

07.5 Kingsbridge Tree Trail: replanting of Katsura Tree x 2 and Exeter Elm along the quayside. Trees planted.

07.6 Rack Park Amenity Space. Dog litter bin had been moved to the end of the access track to allow for easier emptying.

07.7 Trim Trail.

- Agreed in principle by SHDC.
- 187 completed questionnaires: 88% support, 11% against, 1% nil opinion.
- Lottery Fund (A4A) bid submitted for £10k & acknowledged on 23 July with anticipated 10 week turnaround (SHDC had confirmed minimum 5 year installation period to fulfil A4A requirements).
- KTC and other external funding required to make up the balance. DCC locality budgets were possible.
- Supplier to be determined.

07.8 Mosaics in Fore Street. Officially unveiled on 30 May and very well received. Ownership and maintenance fell to KTC.

07.9 Bench seats. Four bench seats formerly located in Fore Street car park had been relocated:

- Two at the head of the boules pitch in the Recreation Ground.
- Two at the bottom of the terraced area in Duncombe Park.

07.10 Skate Park. Not discussed.

14/08 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 31 October 2014 at 9.30 a.m.