

Kingsbridge Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD AT 9.30 a.m. ON FRIDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2016 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE

Present: Cllr Wayne Grills (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Marika Byrne (Café Decks)
David Dain (Kingsbridge In Bloom)
Cllr Sandy Gilbert
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Ali Jennings
Graham Price (Kingsbridge In Bloom)
Rosemary Speed (local resident)

In Attendance: Martin Johnson (Secretary)

15/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Martina Edmonds.

Public Open Forum

There were no members of public present.

15/24 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

15/25 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 30 October 2015 were approved as a correct record.

15/26 RECREATION GROUND

26.1 Pond (installation of fountain and re-lining) and recycling (permanent composting facility) suggested improvements.

Pond. Members received an update from South Hams District Council (SHDC) that a tender for the pond was being worked up however, engineers had reported there would still be sufficient salt water seeping through the bank to render any attempt to manage a clean pond as futile. It was suggested to re-consider salt tolerant planting. A discussion followed and **it was then**

RECOMMENDED:

- to request SHDC to flush through the pond with freshwater from the Derby Road culvert on a regular basis using the pump purchased by the Town Council (KTC),

- for KTC and Kingsbridge In Bloom (KIB) to work up a plan for salt tolerant planting, and
- for KTC and KIB to explore the removal of larger stones from around the edge of the pond (which were being thrown at the central sculpture).

Recycling. Members received an update from SHDC that the recycling facility was being costed to a historical plan. A discussion followed and it was considered that a more fundamental recycling method could be realised. It was then **RECOMMENDED** for KTC and KIB to review/work up its own plan, to gain a local quotation for works and to present to SHDC for consideration.

26.2 Café Decks. Marika Byrne reported that:

- the café would open at the beginning of March and she was already making preparations e.g. cleaning of tables and decking,
- sides for the awning would not be installed however, it may be possible to introduce perspex sheeting at the southern end of the decking which could be retracted at the end of the business day,
- a public toilet sign would be positioned as advised by SHDC, and
- she was trying to split the electricity and water charges between the café and toilet as SHDC may be willing to consider whole or partial payment for toilet utilities; a 'people counter' to provide evidence of usage was suggested.

26.3 Bowling Club. Nil report.

26.4 Maintenance matters to include: fees & charges signage and boules sign. Signs had been broken due to vandalism. The fees & charges signage would be reinstalled at the beginning of the new financial year; the boules sign had been re-fixed by KTC. **It was RECOMMENDED to request SHDC to use tougher material for its signage.**

It was further **RECOMMENDED** to request SHDC to varnish the interpretation panel at the front of the park as it had become scruffy.

26.5 Feedback:

Green Flag assessment. SHDC had forwarded the Green Flag judging report.

Tennis court lights. SHDC had reported that it could not consider the re-introduction of tennis court lighting at present due to high costs, replacement of all bulbs and requirement for a token machine to be installed. Moreover, a business case would need to be made. Marika Byrne reported that costs were circa £5k. Café takings had been circa £1.6k during summer 2015 with circa 70% from tennis. Some players did not like paying so the figures could be misleading. Members considered that security of the tennis courts was essential. After discussion it was then **RECOMMENDED:**

- for Marika Byrne, Pat Parfitt (tennis coach) and Cllr Gilbert to draft a press article to promote the tennis courts,

- to strongly request for SHDC to install a gate combination lock for the tennis courts to ensure that the courts were locked and players would have to pay fees at the café during its opening hours, and
- the above to feed into developing a business case to re-introduce lighting.

Tennis court signage. SHDC had installed signs to earmark that the courts were for tennis only.

Waymarking/directions to the park. No further action had been taken to date however, members considered that the introduction of the light railway along the Quayside would assist in its promotion. It was **RECOMMENDED** to discuss Recreation Ground promotion with Steve Mammatt (light railway co-ordinator).

26.6 Any other immediate business related to the Recreation Ground.

Putting. It was **RECOMMENDED** for a deposit system to be introduced for putting equipment.

Dog control. Dogs were still being exercised off leads contrary to SHDC Dog Orders. It was **RECOMMENDED**:

- to review dog signage in the park, and
- to highlight dogs off leads concerns to the SHDC Locality Officer.

Police patrols. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request the Neighbourhood Police Team to include the Recreation Ground in their foot patrols.

Bicycle rack. It was **RECOMMENDED** for Cllr Griffin, David Dain and the Town Clerk to research the installation of a bicycle rack.

Love Your Park. Graham Price would attend a presentation in Exeter shortly regarding the Recreation Ground.

15/27 **DUNCOMBE PARK**

27.1 Central green space suggested rejuvenation. Members received an update from SHDC that a quotation would be gleaned to action a large area of grass near the car park entrance where lots of small stones had risen to the surface which presented a risk to children. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request an on-site meeting with SHDC officer to review Duncombe Park's central green space. **ACTIONED**

27.2 Mural. Members noted that the mural in the children's play area was deteriorating, could not be spot-repaired and would require eventual renewal. It was **RECOMMENDED** to approach Kingsbridge Community College to ascertain if it wished to get involved in a new mural design.

27.3 Maintenance matters.

Grit. The grit box at the top of the stepped area adjacent to Belle Vue Road was operating well.

Vegetation cut. Brambles and buddleia along the southern perimeter had been cut back and a large semi-circular flower bed had been dug out against the boundary wall near the sub-station. It was **RECOMMENDED** to ascertain SHDC's intentions for a new flower bed. Rob – as discussed I will email Mark Capper

27.4 Any other immediate business related to Duncombe Park. Nil.

15/28 OPEN SPACES

28.1 Footpaths and highways. Members noted that KTC had been involved in several pothole, car parking, street light, surface water drains and dog faeces' issues recently.

Zebra crossing - West Alvington Hill. KTC was progressing ongoing dialogue with Devon County Council (DCC) given members' concerns regarding the visibility of the crossing. It was noted that there were no red triangular warning signs in situ at either side of the crossing and it was **RECOMMENDED** to request DCC to review identification of the zebra crossing in West Alvington Hill.

28.2 Amenities/spaces: Britton's Field, Rack Park, Wallingford Road, Church Street, other children's play spaces, Trim Trail and Tree Trail.

Wallingford Road amenity space. SHDC had been requested to consider either fencing or bollards at the mouth of the amenity space to stop vehicles parking on the grass.

Tree Trail. Members received a situation report from Bryn Hayden. In particular, it was noted that Katsura trees did not flourish at the head of the estuary. It was **RECOMMENDED** to convene a meeting between Cllr Griffin, Bryn Hayden, Steve Mammatt, and Graham Price to review the Tree Trail.

Cllr Gilbert left the Chamber

28.3 Proposed Tranquillity Trail. Members reviewed the Tranquillity Trail leaflet drafted by Prof Greg Watt and feedback was received from individual walkabouts. It was **RECOMMENDED** to feedback to Greg Watts that Cllr Gilbert and Graham Price were content to assist in developing a Tranquillity Trail.

28.4 Proposed Heritage Trail. Members noted some negativity raised at the last working group meeting held in November regarding the concept of a Heritage Trail but considered that the proposal still had much mileage. It was

RECOMMENDED for Cllr Grills and Rosemary Speed to meet to discuss current ideas and to progress a Heritage Trail.

28.5 Kingsbridge In Bloom. Graham Price provided a report on KIB:

- The 2016 project would consolidate the successes of last summer.
- The Fire Service (DSF&RS) was likely to again sponsor a safety theme display proposed for the area between Quay toilets and the entrance to Quay Car Park.
- Tesco was likely to sponsor wild flowers along Cookworthy Road and a team of store volunteers may clean and paint public seating around town.
- A hanging basket post outside Peacocks store in lower Fore Street had been hit by a vehicle and required uprighting.

28.6 Any other immediate business related to Open Spaces.

Wild flower beds. Members noted that several wild flower beds along the edge of the highway had been dug out and extended.

Open Space, Sport & Recreation Plan. Cllrs Grills & Lynn had attended a SHDC workshop held in late 2015 where the OSSR had been introduced and a template provided. Communities were encouraged to produce an OSSR to provide a stocktake of current facilities, to priorities future projects and needs, to assist in targeting existing funds and resources, and particularly to identify requirements which may result from increased housing development via South Hams Our Plan

Dog faeces. Members noted dog control issues around town, e.g. Town Square, and **it was RECOMMENDED to request SHDC's locality officer to place signage at appropriate locations.**

15/29 BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2016/17

Budgets had been set for: Trim Trail maintenance, Play Areas & Trim Trail refits, grass verge cutting & weed spraying, and Parks & Open Spaces improvements (public seats cleaning/oiling, boules pitch resurfacing, outdoor table tennis table, Plymouth Road bus shelter cleaning, replacement goalposts, vegetation cut Old Plymouth Road, engagement with youth project, highways sign cleaning and installation of museum directional sign at Fore Street car park). Some specifics:

Boules pitch resurfacing. A local resident was keen to assist and contact details would be supplied to David Dain & Graham Price. The budget was £250.

Outdoor table tennis table. A playing surface at 17ft x 11ft was required and a suitable location needed to be identified. The budget was £3,000. A funding bid to Sports England small grants could be made; evidence of need and local support would be required.

15/30 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS

There were no members of public or the press present.

Confidential matters:

15/31 QUOTATIONS

Quotations were received for grass verge cutting and weed spraying during FY 2016/17. It was **RECOMMENDED** to contract SHDC's Grounds Maintenance to cut DCC grass verges (devolved to KTC) on 6 occasions and to carry out weed spraying on main routes through town on 2 occasions. Timing to be delegated to the Town Clerk in liaison with SHDC GM team and KIB.

Members noted that there may be flexibility in the budget to contract KTC's own grounds maintenance contractor to carry out further weed spraying in residential streets on an 'as required' basis.

15/32 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Friday 13 May 2016 at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting closed at 12.00 p.m.