

Kingsbridge Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND GREEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD AT 9.30 a.m. ON FRIDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2015 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, QUAY HOUSE

Present: Cllr Anne Balkwill (Chairman)
Wendy Bolt (Kingsbridge Playspaces Group)
Marika Byrne (Café Decks)
David Dain (Kingsbridge In Bloom)
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Wayne Grills
Pat Janes (Kingsbridge Park Bowling Club)
Cllr Graham Price
Rosemary Speed (local resident)
Cllr Jax Williams
Cllr Philip Yates

In Attendance: Brian Hayden (local resident)
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

14/16 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Keith Rennells (SHDC Greenspace Projects Officer) however, a comprehensive report had been distributed to members.

Public Open Forum

There were no statements from members of public.

14/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14/18 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 14 November 2014 were approved as a correct record.

14/19 RECREATION GROUND

19.1 Assets/Maintenance Licence between South Hams District Council (SHDC) and Kingsbridge Town Council (KTC). Trim Trail equipment to be added whereupon the Licence would be ready for signature.

19.2 Condition of the pond. SHDC's assessments/recommendations were in 2 phases: dye tests, new valve and works to the pump alongside a new concrete base and reinstatement of the fountain. Initial tests and lower cost works were being organised and KTC would be provided with outcomes. It was **RECOMMENDED** to

request dates/costings of anticipated works from SHDC and to identify that KTC may consider a contribution towards overall expenditure.

19.3 Café business. Priority for SHDC and KTC was to provide a shelter for the tables/chairs on the decking area to extend options for café opening hours/season particularly during inclement weather. It was noted that the build had been earmarked for spring 2015 however, the Easter holiday period commenced late March. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request a dedicated timeframe from SHDC for the café shelter build and to sight drawings/design.

It was noted that water and sewerage bills for the café toilet were expensive and that the Quay toilets had been earmarked for a pay-on-entry system to gain revenue. It was **RECOMMENDED** for SHDC to install a pay-on-entry system for the café toilet.

19.4 Promotional/directional signage. Members had conducted a thorough review of signage at the previous meeting. It was noted that several concepts had not gained holistic support by DCC, SHDC or KTC including: lamp post banners, railings banner, signage from the town centre, and A frame board. DCC had responded to KTC's request for permission to hang banners/signs from street lamp columns and identified that a structural survey was required. After discussion it was **RECOMMENDED**:

- for Cllr Price to liaise with a local company to gain structural surveys of 2 street lamp columns at the front of the park (to allow fixture of banners/signs),
- to review/enhance the A4 size notices in Quay Car Park which provided directions to the Recreation Ground,
- to request a large notice board be re-introduced at the front of the park to identify its facilities, and
- to work-up a design for a mosaic arch over the main entrance to the park.

19.5 Landscaping next to café. SHDC had earmarked a site visit shortly to consider the landscaping alongside planting at Duncombe Park and the Quayside. It was **RECOMMENDED** for Cllr Price, Wendy Bolt, David Dain and Brian Hayden to meet SHDC's Grounds Maintenance team shortly and to consider planting options near the café to take place February/March.

19.6 Bowling Club business. Pat Janes reported that open afternoons/evenings would be introduced once per month to promote the club and encourage greater public use of the green. Members noted that contact numbers identified were not always available; Pat would review the bowling club's information board and liaise with Marika at Café Decks.

19.7 Children's play area (including upper slopes). Wendy Bolt reported that mulch needed to be re-spread to prevent present trip hazards on exposed black lining. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request SHDC to inspect/provide maintenance on the upper slopes before the school half-term

19.8 Croquet lawn (deferred by KTC at full council). Members held differing views regarding the proposal to integrate a croquet lawn into the putting green and noted SHDC's suggestion for an on-site meeting. It was **RECOMMENDED** for members to meet SHDC officers in the park as soon as possible to discuss the introduction of a croquet lawn.

19.9 Storage area. Members were in receipt of SHDC's report and draft layout plan for the waste and material storage area. The aim was to make the area safe in terms of public access and to incorporate 2 levels of operation: a composting area for the park's gardening staff and volunteers i.e. light garden waste and a more heavy duty storage area to facilitate materials from further afield/to accommodate machinery to process it. Secure storage containers were also required for tools and machinery. As a matter of priority SHDC wished to secure the compound. KTC would be kept informed as the project progressed. It was **RECOMMENDED** to support SHDC's plans for the compost/storage area and to request early action.

19.10 Dog control. Members received a report from SHDC's Dog Warden which identified that dog control in the parks was satisfactory however, there had been recent dog faeces issues near the Crabshell Inn (public footpath no.15) and at Belle Cross Road. Members had sighted dog faeces in the children's play area. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request SHDC to fix eyebolts to the red wall to allow dogs to be tied-up outside the children's play area.

Rosemary Speed presented a mosaic design of a dog on a lead circa A3 size which would be eye-catching; costs were estimated at £50 plus fitting. It was **RECOMMENDED** to support the concept of mosaics for dog control and for Rosemary Speed, Marika Byrne and Michelle McQuinn-Farrand to progress the proposal.

19.11 Public Wi-Fi. Cllr Grills reported that a public Wi-Fi connection would be an enhancement for the park which could generate income to make it cost neutral. A system could be supplied via a range of methodologies. It was **RECOMMENDED** for KTC, in liaison with SHDC, to provide access to public Wi-Fi in the park.

19.12 Park events for 2015. Marika Byrne reported that Café Decks planned to host an Easter Family Fun Day on Good Friday 3 April. A summer event would be discussed at the next meeting. Members noted that additional events could be linked to Kingsbridge In Bloom or the Rugby World Cup

Wendy Bolt left the Chamber

19.13 Any other immediate business related to the above. SHDC reported that officers had met with Patrick Parfitt, LTA registered coach, who had conducted successful tennis coaching sessions during 2014. He was keen to work with Café Decks again during 2015 to book the courts for regular child/adult sessions to work alongside public bookings. It was **RECOMMENDED** to support SHDC's proposal for tennis coaching during summer 2015.

14/20 DUNCOMBE PARK

20.1 Trees and shrubs – to include proposal for Katsura & Chinese Birch. Linked to agenda item 19.5 above; site visit to take place shortly to assess planting locations.

20.2 Condition of central green space. District Cllr Gilbert had supported KTC's request for sinkage holes to be filled and turfed. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request from SHDC a timeframe for repairs to the central green space.

20.3 Zip wire – new platform. SHDC Property Services had reported that the new wooden platform (to enable easier access to the zip wire) would be built shortly.

20.4 Dog control. Members had noted SHDC Dog Warden's report at agenda item 19.10 above and it was considered that dog control appeared to be better in the park.

20.5 Any other immediate business related to the above. David Dain reported that the terrace steps were very slippery during winter/icy conditions. It was **RECOMMENDED** to investigate the provision of a small grit bin for the steps off Belle Vue Road.

14/21 PUBLIC/GREEN SPACES

21.1 Kingsbridge In Bloom update for 2015 competition. Cllr Price reported that KIB was progressing well and regular working parties were taking place. An introductory visit had been made by judges in readiness for the town's entry into the national championships 2015. It was proposed to introduce 2 new 'wow factor' flower beds; to identify the "Honest Truth" young driver awareness campaign sponsored by the Fire Service and a planted schooner to be located near the War Memorial. Cllr Price was to meet with Steve Mammatt to ensure the proposal for a miniature railway would dovetail with KIB plans.

21.2 Grass verge cutting – enhanced budget for FY 15/16. There was one grass cut remaining within the current financial year to be actioned in early March. KTC had increased its budget for grass cutting in 2015/16 in anticipation of DCC cuts backs.

21.3 Rack Park amenity space. SHDC had ordered a collapsible bollard to be installed on the access path.

21.4 Trim Trail project. Exercise equipment had been ordered from Caloo and SHDC/KTC were in close liaison regarding inspections, insurance and maintenance.

21.5 KTC budget FY 14/15 for open space projects & greenspace improvements. KTC had circa £623 (greenspace improvements) and £600 (open spaces) remaining within the current financial year's budget. Members had identified:

- installation of a new grit bin (agenda item 20.5)
- dog on lead mosaic (agenda item 19.10)
- and were due to discuss finger posts' works (agenda items 21.6a & 21.6b)

It was anticipated that all proposed works could be delivered for the remaining budget.

21.6 Any other immediate business related to the above:

21.6a Finger post – Quay Car Park. Members sighted photographs of the post which provided directions to the Library, Museum and others. The post was partially obscured by a tree and looked shabby. It was **RECOMMENDED** to:

- sympathetically prune lower branches of an adjacent tree,
- repair the column,
- repaint the column, finger arms and lettering, and
- clear weed growth from the base.

21.6b Finger post – Fore Street Car Park. Members sighted photographs of the post and received quotations for an additional finger arm. It was **RECOMMENDED** to:

- order a new finger arm with lettering “Cookworthy Museum” and a steel tube extension from the manufacturer at £160 (plus delivery and fitting), and
- to re-paint the finger post where required.

21.6c Quayside miniature railway. SHDC officers had met with District Cllr Wingate and Steve Mammatt to discuss the proposal to re-introduce a miniature railway at the head of the estuary. KTC had already received and supported the proposal at full council. Discussions were ongoing.

21.6d Town Square bollards. Members noted that a number of bollards were in a poor condition. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request SHDC Street Scene/Property Services to survey the Town Square bollards for either replacement or repainting.

21.6e Heritage Trail. Rosemary Speed provided examples of Heritage Trails in the UK and suggested a trail be introduced to Kingsbridge. Members noted that a Heritage Trail was a major project which would require input from a number of local organisations and external funding. It was **RECOMMENDED** to support the concept of a Kingsbridge Heritage Trail.

14/22 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Friday 24 April 2015 at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting closed at 11.30 a.m.