

Kingsbridge Town Council

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

Present: Cllr Graham Price (Chairman)
Cllr David Baisie
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Marika Byrne
Pat Jones

In Attendance: Lesley Healey
Verity Robinson
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

16/44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Tom Coulthard, Robin Griffin & Chris Povey, Dave Dain, Gemma Marshall, Lisa Miller and Rosemary Speed.

Public Open Forum

Lesley Healey and Verity Robinson had attended the previous meeting to present their concept for Community Tennis in the Recreation Ground and now provided an update:

- A trial was underway and they hoped for a formal licence from South Hams District Council (SHDC) from August 2017 for a 3 year duration.
- An open day held on Easter Saturday 15 April had been successful with a disabled coach in attendance and lots of children throughout the day.
- A tennis school set had been received from the Tennis Foundation.
- Players became Friends of "Kingsbridge Park Community Tennis" and it was not a club; there were 70 friends to date with an aim of achieving 100.
- Marketing had commenced.
- Toilets were used at either Café Decks or the Bowling Club clubhouse.
- In summary, it was so far – so good.

A discussion was held which realised the following:

- Members considered greater footfall would increase toilet usage at the café leading to higher utilities' costs for Café Decks which should be explored with SHDC.
- Members supported negotiations between the Bowling Club & Community Tennis to be explored with SHDC for shared use of the Cottage/clubhouse facilities.
- It was **RECOMMENDED** For the Town Council (KTC) to explore the hire of a portaloos for the summer season (which would require a hand wash facility) in case the café/bowling clubhouse were unavailable.

- Members considered that booking the courts via the internet from the Recreation Ground should be explored by Lesley and Verity to enable easy access. Café Decks did not have a wi-fi connection (nil telephone line).
- KTC requested promotional material which would be posted on the notice board in the Recreation Ground.

Cllr Price thanked Lesley and Verity for their attendance/report.

16/45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16/46 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 27 January 2017 were approved as a correct record.

16/47 RECREATION GROUND

47.1 Bowling Club report. The Bowling Club committee had met with Kingsbridge Park Community Tennis (see Public Open Forum) to discuss potential joint use of their clubhouse facilities. The Club had not signed a SHDC formal lease to date. The Club held ambitions to use the ground floor of the Cottage currently used by SHDC's grounds maintenance team. The clubhouse windows required repairs and there appeared to be vermin in the roof. A new memorial seat and promotional banner would be introduced shortly.

47.2 Café Decks report. The café was open for business and enjoyed a good relationship with the new Community Tennis team. A water leak had been fixed and a leak claim would be pursued; ground adjacent to the café had to be dug up to lay a new pipe however, the grass was recovering. Marika was looking forward to the summer season.

47.3 Community Tennis. Discussed during the Public Open Forum.

47.4 Putting Green. SHDC had confirmed that the grass would be cut weekly and on a further occasional basis if required. Cuts were normally actioned on Thursdays and would take place early morning to avoid busy periods at the café. Members agreed that the putting green should be closely monitored to ascertain how it played, demand and enjoyment derived.

47.5 Pond. The temporary base repair actioned in June 2016 was anticipated to hold for 2 years. Kingsbridge In Bloom had researched the introduction of salt tolerant plants. The pond required a good clean as it had 'greened up'. KTC had purchased a portable pump to take water from the main 900mm drainage pipe (attenuation area to estuary outfall) to flush through the pond with fresh water. An on-site meeting with SHDC officers had already been requested to discuss pond cleaning and maintenance.

47.6 Table Tennis Table. A concrete pad circa 17ft x 11ft would be installed shortly funded by KTC in readiness for the installation of a table tennis table. A successful application had been made to “Tesco Bags of Help” for an in-store customer vote during May and June with a choice of 3 community projects. KTC would be notified by late July whether it had been awarded £1k, £2k or £4k for the project.

47.7 Park Furniture. KTC’s 4 x public seats had been power washed/re-oiled and 2 x picnic benches had been re-painted.

47.8 Dog Control. Dog faeces was still found in the park on a regular basis. A sign was required at the northern side gate (front of the park) and a ‘reminder’ sign near the putting green. It was **RECOMMENDED** for another ‘dog control’ campaign to commence; the Town Clerk to discuss with SHDC’s locality officer.

47.9 Maintenance Matters.

- The red wall enclosing the children’s play area and teen zone required repainting. Last repaint was actioned by Tesco volunteers in 2016.
- SHDC had been requested to turn on the water supply for the tap in the children’s play area.
- SHDC had been requested to re-paint 2 x picnic benches near the children’s play area.
- Litter bins throughout the park were shabby and required cleaning. Members considered that a sponsorship scheme via local businesses could be explored.
- Tie-wraps which secured netting to the goalposts required regular replacement. KTC to action.
- Cardboard and an old fire extinguisher had been placed within the compost facility. In due course SHDC wished to remove 2 x shipping containers from the compound.
- The ‘flood mark 1978’ sign located on the external wall of the Cottage required re-painting.
- New rubber matting underneath swings in the children’s play area was lifting in places and required re-fixing with more pins. KTC to action.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to request SHDC to complete the above maintenance as earmarked.

Members noted that Green Flag judging day would take place on Thursday 25 May.

16/48 DUNCOMBE PARK

48.1 Central Green Space Works. SHDC intended to re-turf an area of the green shortly adjacent to the public car park.

48.2 Children’s Play Area Mural. The old mural had been removed and the wall had been rendered in preparation for a new mural. KTC had supported a local competition to be held to design a new mural as Kingsbridge Community College’s Art Department would be unable to assist in 2017. Cllr Balkwill proposed an

alternative option for a joint project alongside Cookworthy Museum in 2018 which she would present to KTC.

48.3 Park Furniture. Public seats x 7 had been power-washed. The seats could either be re-varnished or the remaining varnish sanded off to restore the natural wood finish and then re-oiled. It was **RECOMMENDED** to sand/re-oil the public seats.

48.4 Maintenance Matters. A written report from Dave Dain was received (in his absence) which made suggestions for improvements received from local residents. Members agreed that the proposals should be explored and that he may wish to work-up a local Friends group or similar to encourage the same.

The 'half-moon' flower bed was full of tall stinging nettles plus rubble and it was likely to be an ongoing maintenance issue in its current condition. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request SHDC for the flower bed near the substation to effectively be removed by grassing over the same.

A local resident had offered to pull out the remaining tree stumps in the flower bed using his own equipment and the Town Clerk would make SHDC aware.

The Town Clerk would contact Rob Sekula at SHDC to glean progress on a funding bid for improvements to the children's play area.

16/49 OPEN SPACES/AMENITY SPACES

49.1 SHDC Environment Services/Cllr Price & Town Clerk meeting 6 April. A worthwhile meeting had been held with Honey Foskett & Mark Capper which had discussed several matters.

49.2 Grass Verge Cutting & Weed Spraying. Devon County Council devolved grass verge cutting to KTC and provided funding for 4 cuts however, KTC could increase the number of actual cuts from 6 to 7 for the current financial year 2017/18. The first weed spray would be actioned by SHDC however, it was likely that subsequent sprays would be carried out by KTC's own grounds maintenance contractor on an 'as required' basis as the budget allowed. It was **RECOMMENDED** to approve the grass verge cutting/weed spraying programme for financial year 2017/18 at Annex A.

49.3 Amenity Spaces (Britton's Field, Rack Park, Wallingford Road, Church Street and Bowcombe). It was **RECOMMENDED** to request SHDC to cut the long grass at Britton's Field as soon as possible. Other amenity spaces were Satisfactory.

49.4 Children's Play Spaces (Montagu Road, Homelands and Treblepark). Satisfactory.

49.5 Trim Trail. Satisfactory.

49.6 Tree Trail. Nil report.

49.7 Skatepark. To be included within the K2 (Quayside) Masterplan.

49.8 Open Space, Sport & Recreation Plan. The Town Clerk had to revise the draft OSSR in conjunction with the Joint Local Plan evidence base.

16/50 KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM

Judging day had been confirmed as Thursday 6 July to commence with introductions at Quay House and an exhibition to be held at the Methodist Church. Plans were on schedule with a particularly strong “It’s Your Neighbourhood” element.

16/51 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Friday 28 July 2017 at 9.30 a.m. in Quay House.

Annex:

A. Grass Verge Cutting & Weed Spraying programme.

The meeting closed at 11.25 a.m.