

Kingsbridge Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD AT 9.30 ON FRIDAY 29 JULY 2016 IN ROOM 2, QUAY HOUSE

Present: Cllr Graham Price
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Kate Lynn
Pat Janes (Kingsbridge Park Bowling Club)
Rosemary Speed (local resident)

In Attendance: Ann Gomm (Secretary)

16/14 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Price was elected as Chairman of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee for the remainder of mayoral year 2016/17.

16/15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Balkwill & Povey and David Dain.

16/16 DECLERATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

16/17 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 13 May 2016 were approved as a correct record.

16/18 RECREATION GROUND

18.1 Pond. South Hams District Council (SHDC) had provided permission for the Town Council (KTC) to action a temporary repair which had been completed by Heritage Preservation and paid for via KTC capital reserves. Members agreed that a long term plan for the pond, with a suitable lining to last several years, needed to be discussed.

18.2 Composting facility – progress. The compound had been dug out and re-profiled in readiness for construction of the bays by H2Environmental however, further clearance was required. SHDC had delegated management of the project to KTC. Income from Devon County Council (DCC) and SHDC ward members had been supported at £4,750 and expenditure committee to date was £5,714.20. KTC had agreed to part-fund at £1,500. Therefore circa £535 was available for further clearance. It was anticipated for the project to be complete by late September.

18.3 Bowling Club – current matters. There were a number of issues which the Bowling Club wished to resolved with SHDC. A club member wished to sponsor a memorial bench and Pat Janes would contact the Town Clerk regarding the matter.

18.4 Café Decks. It was agreed for Cllrs Griffin and Lynn to speak to Marika Byrne (café operator) prior to the next committee meeting to glean any comments or concerns which she may have.

18.5 Tennis – court security, signage and markings. SHDC had confirmed that new signage had been ordered and the courts would be locked from when the signs were installed. SHDC has also confirmed that the courts were scheduled to have faded surface lining re-sprayed. It was **RESOLVED** to hasten SHDC for new signage at the tennis courts.

18.6 Boules Court – resurfacing. The original and unsuitable top surface gravel had been removed and samples of a new top dressing were awaited. It was **RESOLVED** to hasten samples of a top dressing for the boules court.

18.7 Children’s play area – condition. The last meeting had resolved to research the renewal of matting underneath the swings and replacement wooden or hardened plastic posts for the 3 climbing hills. The items were not on the SHDC/KTC open spaces licence for KTC to action and Rob Sekula (SHDC Assets) would survey however, it was unlikely that the current condition of said play equipment would trigger action as play areas elsewhere in the South Hams were in a poorer state in which case it would be up to KTC to consider whether it wished to take any action. KTC’s grounds maintenance contractor would supply a quotation to renew the matting however, the climbing hills were trickier and would require a specialist company to restore i.e. the surfacing would require breaking up to remove the remains of embedded posts. It was **RESOLVED** for the Town Clerk to progress works to the children’s play area and to feedback to the next committee meeting with findings.

18.8 New bicycle rack & brown sign. SHDC was content in principle for a new bicycle rack in the park and a brown tourism sign to give directions to the park; the Town Clerk to progress matters.

18.9 Green Flag Award 2016. Awarded for 2016 and the announcement was in the public domain with a celebration photoshoot to be arranged shortly by SHDC.

18.10 Table tennis table. SHDC was content in principle for an outdoor table tennis table to be located in the area between the children’s play area, picnic benches and footpath. A flat concrete base would be required minimum 17ft x 11ft. One quotation had been received with 2 more to follow.

18.11 Public wi-fi. Discussed historically but agreed for no further action given 4G network likely to improve coverage per se.

18.12 Goalposts – anchors. The current risk assessment for the portable goalposts was reviewed which advised a low risk of goalposts collapsing if used to secure them to the ground conversely there was also a low risk of injury from the anchors themselves. It was **RESOLVED** to request full council to make a decision regarding the use of anchors for the portable goalposts.

18.13 Dog control. The Town Clerk had discussed with SHDC officers and it was considered that it was local people who let their dogs off leads, were aware of the Dogs On Leads Order but chose to ignore it. The signage or perceived lack of signage was not considered to be the problem. A discussion followed which revealed that the nearby dogs off leads area at Rack Park amenity space was in poor condition with glass debris and therefore dog owners were reluctant to take their dogs there. It was **RESOLVED** to request SHDC to clean up Rack Park amenity space.

18.14 Maintenance matters. Nil at present further to matters discussed and minuted.

18.15 Any other immediate business related to the Recreation Ground. Kingsbridge In Bloom had bid for the redundant wooden shed next to the tennis courts which was empty except for electricity meters; to be progressed.

Members reported a lot of noise in the early hours of the morning and it was agreed for Cllr Griffin to discuss with Sgt Green. Rosemary Speed suggested that SHDC should adopt "Park Guardians" e.g. ex-police officers.

The putting green flags were not being positioned on a regular basis as the café operator did not have the time; SHDC Grounds Maintenance team often actioned the same.

16/19 DUNCOMBE PARK

19.1 Condition of central green space. Feedback was still awaited from SHDC regarding whether it intended to renew the top surface at the corner adjacent to the car park.

SHDC did not wish to collect the grass from the central green space any more however, Kingsbridge In Bloom suggested that the authority should continue to do so otherwise eventually the grass would die.

19.2 Children's play area. SHDC had identified that restoration works for corroded equipment and unsatisfactory surfacing was being investigated.

19.3 Mural rejuvenation. Restoration was a significant task given the wall required good preparation to ensure longevity; Town Clerk to progress and feedback findings.

19.4 New Liquid Amber. SHDC was content for a Liquid Amber, sponsored by local resident Kris Mahon, to be planted in the flower bed near the terrace; the bed would require work in the first instance before planting in autumn.

19.5 Maintenance matters. Dave Dain had concerns that maintenance not up to previous standards.

19.6 Any other immediate business related to Duncombe Park. None.

20.1 Footpaths and highways. There had been much recent liaison between KTC and DCC regarding highways matters with a focus on Fore Street and environs. Members noted that some areas of town had weeds and hedges growing over pavements and the situation required monitoring with any concerns to be reported to the Town Clerk for onward action.

20.2 Grass verge cutting and weed spraying. SHDC had been provided with the contract for 6 grass cuts and 2 highways weed sprays within the current financial year however, service delivery had not been delivered in accordance with the scheduled programme. Members were disappointed that weed spraying had been actioned very late for the In Bloom competition and agreed to review grass cutting/weed spraying before award of the contract for financial year 2017/18.

20.3 Amenity spaces: Britton's Field, Rack Park, Wallingford Road, Church Street, Bowcombe and children's play spaces e.g. Treblepark. Montagu Road had been criticised by Allianz (SHDC's external play spaces inspector). The swings, climbing frame and see-saw were probably used by the local neighbourhood only. SHDC would consider options for the way forward and had requested comments from the Parks Committee. Members firmly considered that there was a need for the play area and Cllr Griffin would speak to the Town Clerk regarding leafletting to explain the situation and requesting ideas and assistance to revive the play area. Members also noted that Homelands and Treblepark children's play areas may also require some improvements.

PCSO Hawkes and the Town Clerk had met recently with Teagan Byrne, a skateboarder, regarding potential improvements to the skate park at the Slipway and feedback was awaited.

20.4 Trim Trail. The equipment was well used. Weeds grew through the mulch surface in Duncombe Park and Quay House grounds and required regular weedkiller spraying which was effective however, long term the surface may require investigation.

20.5 Tree Trail. Satisfactory.

20.6 Tranquillity Trail. The trail leaflets, with 'academic' insert, available from Quay House, Library, Information Centre and Norton Brook Medical Centre were proving popular.

20.7 Proposed Heritage Trail. Cllr Edmonds, Rosemary Speed and Holly Trubshawe (Cookworthy Museum) and another working group meeting would be set up.

20.8 SHDC/KTC public spaces licence. Rob Sekula (SHDC Assets) and Town Clerk to review the current licence i.e. new items likely to be added.

20.9 Any other immediate business related to Open Spaces. Cllr Price reported that negative feedback had been received regarding this year's 'natural look' at

Britton's Field where the grass had been allowed to grow high around picnic benches. The project needed to be re-considered for 2017.

16/21 OPEN SPACES, SPORT AND RECREATION (OSSR) PLAN

A first draft OSSR reporting current facilities had been distributed to 14 local clubs/groups with a deadline of 29 July for feedback i.e. was the stocktake correct? and what future requirements were needed? At the time of the agenda nil comments had been received which Members considered to be disappointing. The Town Clerk intended to hasten and Members suggested a press release should be produced to promote comments.

16/22 KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM

Judging had taken place on 11 July. The response from the KIB team was excellent and the judge was very complimentary. Cllr Price considered that it was the best presentation to date. The results would be announced on 6 October at Taunton Cricket Club. Cllr Griffin commented that the town looked amazing and "In Your Neighbourhood" needed to be encouraged.

16/23 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Friday 28 October at 9.30 a.m. in Quay House.