

Kingsbridge Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD AT 9.30 A.M. ON FRIDAY 11th MAY 2018 IN THE TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE, QUAY HOUSE

Present: Cllr Graham Price (Chairman)
David Dain (local resident)
Cllr John Gall
Cllr Robin Griffin
David Hurrell (Kingsbridge Park Bowling Club)
Lisa Miller (Kingsbridge Community Tennis)
Verity Robinson (Kingsbridge Community Tennis)
Rosemary Speed (local resident)

In Attendance: Martin Johnson (Secretary)

18/01 ELECTON OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Price was elected Chairman of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee for mayoral year 2018/19.

18/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Anne Balkwill and Mike Jennings, Marika Byrne (Café Decks) and Lesley Healey (Kingsbridge Community Tennis).

Public Open Forum

There were no members of public present.

18/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

18/04 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 26 January 2018 were approved as a correct record.

18/05 PARKS AND OPEN/AMENITY SPACES

05.1 Café Decks in the Recreation Ground. Nil report.

05.2 Kingsbridge Community Tennis in the Recreation Ground. A meeting had been held with South Hams District Council (SHDC) officers to work-up a formal lease for the tennis courts which was progressing. A lease was required in the first instance before potential external funding could be explored to enhance the current facilities. A key issue was the availability of toilet facilities; Café Decks managed the toilet abutting the café but it was only available during café opening hours and was

used to store café equipment outside opening hours. The recently introduced South Hams Area Wellbeing (SHAW) wished to work alongside the tennis group. An on-line booking system for the public/casual users was working well. As previously reported, an independent or shared clubhouse was an ambition which could either be realised via: a refit of the existing Cottage/greater community use of the same, a new community building on the current site of the Cottage or a new building on the current green space at the Derby Road end of the park.

05.3 Kingsbridge Park Bowling Club in the Recreation Ground. Similar to Community Tennis, the Bowling Club wished to work-up a new lease as their current agreement had been rolled-over since 2012. The Cottage itself required repairs; in particular the ground floor changing rooms were very damp. Booking the bowling green by the public/casual users was via telephone; the number was available on the access gate. The club had discussed greater community use of its clubhouse and the future of the Cottage per se. It was **RECOMMENDED** to arrange a meeting with District Cllrs Gilbert and Wingate to discuss the condition of the Recreation Ground Cottage and way forward.

05.4 Putting green. Putting equipment was positioned by the café manager when resources allowed however, it was not always possible as the café was at times a one-person operation. The green was being cut regularly by SHDC to enable a satisfactory playing surface.

05.5 Centenary Fields – commemorating the centenary of WW1. Fields In Trust, via SHDC, was promoting a scheme to dedicate green spaces of remembrance. Such a programme would work with landowners to safeguard the future of parks and playing fields which had links with WW1 War Memorials. The spaces would be dedicated as Centenary Fields to join a nationwide legacy of spaces of remembrance while at the same time offering a unique way for communities to be involved in local heritage and participation in forthcoming Centenary commemorations. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request input from the Royal British Legion and Cookworthy Museum and to subsequently arrange a meeting with SHDC officers to discuss a Centenary Fields proposal for the Recreation Ground.

05.6 Replacement (stainless steel) litter bins for Duncombe Park & Recreation Ground via TAP Fund grant. Costs had been estimated at circa £5k and £3.5k had been awarded from the Town And Parish Fund. Style of bins to be agreed.

05.7 Children’s play space refits for Duncombe Park, Homelands & Montagu Road. The Town Council (KTC) had entered a competition run by Kompan which part-funded play space refits. The application had passed the first stage and site visits were awaited by a Kompan representative.

05.8 Grass verge cutting & weed spraying for the current financial year 18/19. The budget allowed for 7 grass verge cuts plus an additional cut had been brought forward from the previous year to provide 8 cuts in total. Weed spraying would commence shortly of the Kingsbridge In Bloom (KIB) judging route; it was anticipated that the budget would allow for further spraying as/when determined.

05.9 Application for a commemorative tree at the head of the estuary. SHDC had invited comments from KTC and KIB for a Cherry to be planted at the head of the estuary. It was **RECOMMENDED** for Cllr Price and the Town Clerk to conduct a walkabout of the Quayside, to identify a suitable location/species and to feedback to SHDC with suggestions for a commemorative tree.

18/06 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION PLAN

The Kingsbridge OSSR had been adopted and the listing of projects had been added to KTC's Priorities & Ambitions.

18/07 KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM

Plants were growing in polytunnels in readiness for planting out in late May. The main flower bed off the Quay roundabout/Information Centre had been worked up alongside the Royal British Legion for a WW1 commemoration with large poppies. More plants would be introduced to the heritage hay cart off the Town Square. Three beds along the Embankment had been taken on from SHDC. The judging dates had been widely circulated: Champion of Champions 16 July and National Finals 6 August. The 1st draft of the portfolio would be produced shortly. The results ceremony would be held in Belfast in early October.

General discussion items:

- *Duncombe Park grass cutting was satisfactory, the mural in the children's play area was anticipated to be painted in 2019, cleaning/re-oiling of public seats would be actioned as required by KTC during the current financial year, and the half-moon flower bed was likely to be filled-in and grassed over.*
- *Wooden fencing bordering the informal footpath at the rear of Northville Park was in a poor condition in places. It was agreed to make the landowner aware.*
- *Dog control was a perennial matter and recent representations had been received about dog faeces not being cleaned up in Duncombe Park and Darky Lane (off Archery Close). A request had been made for additional bins for dog faeces and it was noted that some communities provided their own dog bag dispensers. SHDC had reported that in some areas new Public Space Protection Orders included a rule that all dog owners should carry at least 2 bags and they may be stopped by council officers who can request to check. The current school of thought was that dog owners should take full responsibility for their pets.*
- *The concrete base for the table tennis table in the Recreation Ground had been painted with 3 coats of specialist paint to enhance it and drainage had been introduced. It had been confirmed that bats/balls could be purchased at circa £100 to reach the approved Tesco Bags of Choice funding at £2k total.*
- *Kingsbridge Information Centre had requested the Committee to consider a proposal to introduce glass recycling facilities in the parks. Members were content in principle however, had concerns regarding the capacity of the recycling bins required and would not wish to have glass piling up externally. SHDC's feedback on the proposal would be crucial.*

- *Rack Park amenity space had been discussed at the last meeting however, the introduction of public seats and material to counter mud adjacent to the entrance from the industrial estate had not gained support at full council. However, photographs would be forwarded to SHDC's Kingsbridge locality officer for SHDC consideration.*

18/08 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Friday 27 July 2018 at 9.30 a.m. in Quay House.

The meeting closed at 11.10 a.m.