

Kingsbridge Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD AT 9.30 A.M. ON FRIDAY 27 JULY 2018

Present: Cllr Graham Price (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Cllr John Gall

In Attendance: Elliot Myatt
Ann Gomm (Secretary)

18/09 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mike Jennings, David Baisie & Robin Griffin, Café Decks, Community Tennis, Park Bowling Club and the Town Clerk.

Public Open Forum

There were no members of public present.

18/10 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

18/11 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11 May 2018 were approved as a correct record.

18/12 PLAY AREA CAPITAL INVESTMENT – KINGSBRIDGE

Members noted that South Hams District Council (SHDC) had a capital budget at £520k for the improvement of its play parks over financial years 2018-21. Across the district around 25 play areas were aging, had limited play value and were of poor quality. Investment would be prioritised for those play areas where there was potential for an asset transfer to a town/parish council. S.106 funds held could supplement any such investment and local councils were being encouraged to contribute funds as circa £25k per play space was unlikely to buy a new play area.

Therefore, SHDC had requested information from the Town Council (KTC) on a range of matters:

- Is KTC interested in taking on an asset transfer for a play area(s) to be accompanied by up to £25k capital?
- Does KTC have funds it wishes to contribute as match funding to maximise benefit?
- Does KTC consider there is a continued need and local support for all current play areas?
- Is there a more suitable need identified e.g. landscaped, informal recreation area, car parking, community housing?

- Would the play area be more appropriate elsewhere?
- If there is ongoing merit in the play area(s) does KTC consider a complete renewal/redesign or simply replacement of pieces of equipment/safety surfacing? What does the play area(s) need to include?
- Does KTC wish to lead a local consultation? i.e. what the community want at the site and age ranges to cater for? Has there been local community input to date?
- Does KTC wish to lead the project to improve the play area(s)?

Members noted that:

- An initial assessment of Kingsbridge's play areas had been conducted by SHDC.
- The adopted Kingsbridge Open Space, Sport & Recreation Plan identified total refits of children's play spaces at Homelands, Montagu Road, Trebblepark and Duncombe Park alongside either replacement ramps/new roofing at the Skatepark or its relocation elsewhere.
- SHDC held S.106 funds for Kingsbridge at circa £8.5k.
- KTC's revenue reserves allocated for Children's Play Areas & Trim Trail refits, accumulated over several years, were held at circa £88k. However, nil revenue transfer had been budgeted for the current financial year 2018/19.

Members made the following site visits to play areas/amenity spaces:

18/12.1 Montagu Road. Members considered it was not being well used and there were no waste bins or seats. SHDC had very recently repainted the existing equipment. Local residents spoke with Members; there was neighbourhood interest in the area and suggestions were made for raised beds and a current swing to be replaced with a toddler swing.

18/12.2 Homelands. All play equipment had been removed and the site was empty. Members considered it could be used as an amenity space with seats, trees etc. Investigation was required to ascertain if there was a covenant on the land.

18/12.3 Trebblepark. Members considered the climbing frame was in good repair but the basketball post required refurbishment. It was suggested that if the shrubs were removed between the 2 areas, and the trees trimmed, around 7 metres could be gained for better access and the area would be suitable for a skatepark. More seats were required and the one set in situ needed repair. A tree in the culvert required felling.

18/12.4 Duncombe Park. The Nest swing had been removed for repair and Members queried when it would be refitted; there had been strimming damage to its base. The climbing blocks required cleaning which KTC could undertake. The bearings on the Spica pole needed replacement. There were potholes in the central grassed area which were deemed a trip hazard. The Trim Trail equipment was in a generally good condition except for weeds/grass growing from the tiger mulch surface underneath. Trees had been damaged by strimming and Members queried if guards could be positioned to prevent further damage. The young children's play area was very tired and it was considered that the large swings should be replaced with play equipment aimed purely at young children.

18/12.5 Wallingford Road. Members considered the area was very scruffy with 2 swings only and a grassed area covered in litter and brambles. Alternatively, it could be used as a green space or for car parking. Investigation was required to find out if the adjacent garages were privately owned or managed by Devon & Cornwall Housing.

18/12.6 Church Street. Members considered the area was well kept however, the wooden animals were unsatisfactory and enquiries should be made about their future with the local people who painted them. The perimeter railings required painting. Cllr Price would investigate Kingsbridge In Bloom management as a Neighbourhood area.

18/12.7 Recreation Ground. Members considered that the large plastic flower planter adjacent to the pond needed to be moved. It was also suggested that 2 of 4 in number brick sculptures should be removed as they were broken. The planter could then replace them thereby providing access for SHDC grounds maintenance vehicles. Elliott Myatt suggested a plastic seat could be introduced. The teenzone adventure area required attention. The anti-skateboard studs on the low red wall needed to be completed. Similar to Duncombe Park, the nest swing had been removed and the tiger mulch surface and sub-surface required replacement. The rubber matting underneath the swings needed refitting/repairs. The attenuation area adjacent to the Derby Road entrance needed the vegetation to be cleared.

18/12.8 Skate Park. Not visited.

18/12.9 Wash-up in the Council Chamber. It was **RECOMMENDED** to hold a further meeting as soon as possible to work-up KTC's aspirations for the town's play and amenity areas.

18/13 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

Friday 26 October 2018 at 9.30 a.m. in Quay House.

The meeting closed at 11.30 a.m.