

## **Kingsbridge Town Council**

### **MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD AT 9.30 A.M. ON FRIDAY 1 FEBRUARY 2019**

**Present:** Cllr Graham Price (Chairman)  
Marika Byrne (Café Decks)  
Cllr Philip Cole  
David Dain (local resident)  
Cllr Robin Griffin  
David Hurrell (Kingsbridge Park Bowls Club)  
Cllr Peter Ralph  
Rosemary Speed (local resident)

In Attendance: Martin Johnson (Secretary)

#### **18/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Anne Balkwill, John Gall & Mike Jennings and Lesley Healey, Lisa Miller & Verity Robinson (Kingsbridge Community Tennis).

#### **Public Open Forum**

There were no members of public present.

#### **18/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **18/23 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

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

#### **18/24 PLAY AREA/AMENITY SPACE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

Further to the last meeting, a public consultation event had been held at Montagu Road play area on 15 December 2018. Several Members attended to explore what sort of activities local residents and their children/grandchildren wished to experience in the playground, indicative play area designs were presented, questionnaires were completed and a summary of the findings had been forwarded to South Hams District Council (SHDC) Place Making. Feedback had been received that the findings were sufficient to enable tender documentation to be worked up alongside other play areas which required refits elsewhere in the district. The Town Council (KTC) would be invited to take part in the tender process in due course.

#### **18/25 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION PLAN**

**25.1** Members received a report on suggested updates to the OSSR adopted in January 2018:

- Requirements for: “mural in Duncombe Park, litter bins in Duncombe Park and Recreation Ground, tennis court floodlights in the Recreation Ground and Treblepark allotments boundary fencing”; to be deleted as they had all been completed.
- Cottage/Clubhouse in the Recreation Ground: “refit” to be deleted and replaced with “requires a new build modern hub facility”.
- Homelands play area: “refit” to be deleted and replaced with “all play equipment removed”.
- Civic Area: New paragraph “replacement bollards required in and around the Town Square to provide a house style and uniformity”.
- Kingsbridge to Salcombe Cycle Path: “cycle path” to be deleted and replaced with “multi-use trail”.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to adopt amendments to the Kingsbridge Open Space, Sport and Recreation Plan.

**25.2** Further to the last meeting, and following an on-site review by Cllr Price, SHDC and the Town Clerk, an estimate was anticipated shortly from SHDC to provide access improvements to Briton’s Field.

**25.3** Members received information on S.106 funds (developer contributions) held for Kingsbridge: Tumbly Hill £3,162, Rivermaid £19,500 and S.106 agreements had been signed for K5/West Alvington Hill and Belle Hill; the latter had not been included in SHDC’s report to date. Monies had recently been granted to KTC to fund the new stainless steel litter bins in both parks and therefore had already been deleted from the above sums.

## **18/26 GRASS VERGE CUTS & WEED SPRAYS**

Six in number grass verge cuts had been actioned to date in the current financial year (FY) and a further 2 in number had been paid for; one of which had been carried forward from the previous FY. A plan would be agreed for the following FY to dovetail with the Kingsbridge In Bloom competition.

Weed spraying of main highways routes around town had been actioned alongside other areas as requested by Members and local residents. Circa £500 remained in the budget which would purchase a supply of weedkiller and allow some further vegetation cuts before end March 2019.

Devon County Council had agreed to fund £730 next FY to cut visibility splays only 4 times per annum. However, KTC had agreed a budget at £3,500 to cut the entire length of all DCC managed grass verges 7 times per annum. The budget would cover associated weed spraying and ad hoc vegetation cuts.

## **18/27 DUNCOMBE PARK & RECREATION GROUND**

**27.1** Kingsbridge Community Tennis had arranged the next meeting to discuss a new Community Hub for the Recreation Ground at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 21 February 2019 in Quay House. A field trip would be organised to view a community hub near Exeter.

**27.2** Marika Byrne (Café Decks) reported:

- Any hub facility would need to dovetail with the current café.
- Café Decks would open again at the beginning of April.
- She was exploring the installation of artificial grass for the bench/sunflower area adjacent to the café as it regularly became very muddy.
- Cups, lids and straws were 100% compostable which would be promoted and she was exploring the installation of a compost bin.
- She wished to explore croquet alongside putting.
- A “Free things to do in Kingsbridge” board/posters should be investigated.

Cllrs Griffin and Price agreed to hold an independent meeting with Marika to consider her suggestions.

**27.3** SHDC leases for Café Decks, Bowling Club and Community Tennis were awaited.

**27.4** KTC wished to explore a celebration event for the Recreation Ground, alongside the Royal British Legion and Cookworthy Museum, tapping into the rich history of the park. This could be added to the “Kingsbridge 800” event on Saturday 14 September or held independently. The latter coincided with a Bowls Club event. It was **RECOMMENDED** for KTC to organise a celebratory park event in 2019.

**27.5** Kingsbridge In Bloom had entered the Recreation Ground into a national competition and the results would be known in late February.

**27.6** There had been a recent dog incident in Duncombe Park and KTC had replenished the notice board requesting dog owners to keep their dogs on a leash if they had no voice control over their animals.

**27.7** David Dain reported that SHDC had granted permission for a local resident and himself to remove some old tree stumps and replenish a flower bed in the east area of the park adjacent to the steps off Belle Vue Road.

## **18/28            KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM**

Having won the Best Small Town award in 2018, Kingsbridge had been entered into the Royal Horticultural Society’s Champion of Champions 2019 competition against another 4 locations: Castlecaulfield, Durham, Perth and St Helier. It was a tremendous accolade and therefore, plans for spring and summer were progressing well.

New plant beds would be built in Quay Car Park to replace those removed for the ongoing harbour wall repairs. The main flower bed off Quay roundabout would be a celebration of wildlife in Devon with bees and bee hives introduced.

KTC had recently adopted ambitious Public Realm Design Guidelines and a key focus was the introduction of green spaces/pocket parks in Fore Street.

Some trees around the head of the estuary had been vandalised, SHDC had been made aware and the Town Clerk would request an update.

SHDC had agreed to repair the railings at Church Street amenity space and the Town Clerk would request an update.

**18/29            DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Friday 26 April 2019 at 9.30 a.m.

*The meeting closed at 11.03 a.m.*