

Kingsbridge Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD AT 9.30 A.M. ON FRIDAY 26 APRIL 2019

Present: Cllr Graham Price (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
Marika Byrne (Café Decks)
Cllr John Gall
Cllr Robin Griffin
Cllr Peter Ralph
Verity Robinson (Kingsbridge Community Tennis)
Rosemary Speed (local resident)

In Attendance: Martin Johnson (Secretary)

18/30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Philip Cole & Mike Jennings, Lesley Healey & Lisa Miller (Kingsbridge Community Tennis), David Dain (Duncombe Park) and David Hurrell (Kingsbridge Park Bowling Club).

Public Open Forum

There were no members of public present.

18/31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

18/32 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 1 February 2019 were approved as a correct record.

18/33 PLAY AREA/AMENITY SPACE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

33.1 Proposals for refits at Montagu Road and Duncombe Park play areas.

SHDC Place Making had provided draft tender documents for the Town Council (KTC) to review; Cllr Price and the Town Clerk had reviewed the same and replied with their comments. Duncombe Park would be earmarked for 0-5/6 year olds and Montagu Road for 0-11 years olds however, it may be possible to incorporate one or 2 items of play equipment/experiences for older children e.g. a nest swing. More recently, SHDC had requested whether natural/imaginative play should be installed rather than traditional play activities/equipment. Members aired concerns about ongoing maintenance, longevity and ground conditions during autumn/winter regarding natural play and considered that the actual size/location of Kingsbridge play areas may not be suitable. It was **RECOMMENDED** to feedback to SHDC for Montagu Road and Duncombe Park play areas to be refitted along traditional lines.

33.2 Trim Trail equipment re-painting. Members noted a current financial year budget had been agreed; the exercise equipment had been powder coated originally and therefore the surfaces would need to be carefully prepared.

18/34 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION PLAN

34.1 Expenditure at financial year end 2018/19. An OSSR project to provide an access footpath at Britton's Field had not been completed by financial year end 31 March 2019. However, the cost code budget had been carried forward to earmarked reserves to action the works in the current financial year.

34.2 Revisions adopted. Amendments proposed at the previous meeting had been adopted by full council and had been incorporated into the Kingsbridge OSSR which was available on KTC's website (www.kingsbridge.gov.uk).

34.3 Potential Kingsbridge-Salcombe multi-use trail. A feasibility study funded by the Communities Together Fund had been completed by Sustrans and the report was awaited.

18/35 GRASS VERGE CUTS & WEED SPRAYS

A timetable for grass verge cuts had been drafted for SHDC which dovetailed with Kingsbridge In Bloom judging days (see agenda item 18/38). Devon County Council funded £730 for 4 cuts of visibility splays only however, KTC actioned 7 cuts for the whole length of grass verges in town at circa £1,850. The first cut for the current financial year had been completed.

It was reported that a wall in West Alvington Hill (opposite Station Yard industrial estate) was full of weeds and vegetation and trees along Cookworthy Road interfered with the passage of pedestrians. The Town Clerk would review both locations as a budget was available for weed spraying and vegetation cuts.

Members noted that KTC had agreed to action ground work and wildflower seeding at the rear of Devon Square.

18/36 DUNCOMBE PARK & RECREATION GROUND

36.1 New goalposts. The 5-a-side style goalposts in Duncombe Park and the Recreation Ground lasted circa 2 years. The model used was mid-range made from mild steel which tended to rust eventually at the rear stays. An annual budget at £600 covered purchase, installation and disposal of old goalposts. It was **RECOMMENDED** to investigate a water repellent/treatment for goalposts in the parks.

36.2 Duncombe Park grounds work. David Dain had provided a written report; he was liaising with another local resident to complete works to the 'half-moon' flower bed in the park which would be progressed on his return.

36.3 Recreation Ground Green Flag. Cllr Price and the Town Clerk alongside Rob Sekula, SHDC Place Making, had accompanied judges Richard Taylor and

Jane Nicholls on a 'show & tell' tour of the park on 1 April. The outcome was awaited.

It had been noted that signage had been removed from recycling bins as the contents could not be recycled due to potential contamination. Members noted that SHDC had contracted waste and recycling to an external company and it was **RECOMMENDED** to request an explanation for non-recycling in the parks as they were such high footfall locations.

36.4 Recreation Ground petanque Court re-surfacing. A new surfacing method had been proposed noting that a top layer mix with dust was always likely to wash through given consistent rainfall. A mini-digger would be required to have access to the park; to be co-ordinated with 2 other KTC managed tasks on the same day (date to be confirmed).

36.5 Recreation Ground "Love Your Park" event Sunday 11 August 2019.

Staff were working up the event alongside representation from Cookworthy Museum, Royal British Legion, Community Tennis and Café Decks. The menu, to be confirmed, included: bouncy castles x 2, bucking bronco, tennis open day, soft ball competition, Café Decks, Dartington Dairy, Laughing Yoga and Hola Hoop sessions, Silver Band, open mic sessions and PA throughout the day. Stalls would be manned by Friends of Kingsbridge Library, Kingsbridge In Bloom, Museum and RBL. A portaloos would be hired. Good promotion via banners, press release and social media. Costs to date were circa £700. It was **RECOMMENDED** to progress the KTC managed "Love Your Park" fun day in the Recreation Ground on Sunday 11 August.

36.6 Recreation Ground Café Decks and putting green management. Further to the last council meeting a draft agreement had been produced for Café Decks to manage the putting green on behalf of KTC. Upon agreement it would be forwarded to SHDC for information. It was **RECOMMENDED** to progress putting green management via Café Decks.

A potential access risk from the southern pedestrian access gate to Embankment Road was being investigated by SHDC.

36.7 Recreation Ground Community Tennis and proposed community hub. A major issue for Community Tennis was that the group could not access a public toilet. Indeed, recently some children had to be transported by car to Quay toilets at the head of the estuary. The following options were suggested:

- Liaison with the Park Bowling Club to allow the toilet at the Cottage to be shared with Community Tennis.
- Provide a composting toilet for the shed alongside the tennis courts.
- Provide a small caravan in a corner of the green space adjoining the tennis courts.
- Provide a portaloos in the compost facility near the tennis courts at circa £30 per week (a professional company had already visited the site).
- Provide a directions sign to Quay public toilets (similar to Duncombe Park directional signage to Fore Street public toilets).

It was **RECOMMENDED** for committee Members to consider options in order to provide a toilet facility for Community Tennis.

Members noted that Community Tennis was likely to make an Awards For All application to fund a feasibility study for a community hub in the park. The group also wished to rejuvenate the shed near the coats to include painting in 'Wimbledon colours'.

36.8 Recreation Ground Bowling Club. Nil report.

18/37 TREE TRAIL

Cllrs Dennis & Price, Bryn Hayden and the Town Clerk had completed a walkabout the previous day to survey trees at the head of the estuary mindful of the Tree Trail quiz managed by the Information Centre and proposed replanting of trees following Quay wall repairs.

Five trees had been removed on the Quay Car Park side at the very head of the estuary (Katsura, Copper Beech, Common Whitebeam, False Acacia and Grey Alder). It was suggested for 3 trees to replace them to provide enough room for an agreed RNLi sculpture in the locale which would be installed in September. Taking stock of other trees which had died or were missing, a replacement Persian Ironwood or Indian Horse Chestnut and a Katsura were required (or other trees beginning with "I" or "K") to sustain the Tree Trail; Katsuras should be mature specimens as young trees did not do well. The findings were supported by Members and it was **RECOMMENDED** to feedback to SHDC with KTC's suggestions for new trees/replanting.

18/38 KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM

South West In Bloom regional judging would take place on Friday 5 July and National Champion of Champions judging on Thursday 1 August plans were progressing well. A new portfolio had been completed and was ready for printing, new pictures would be provided for the Town Square, new planters in upper Fore Street were ready to be fitted and knitted bees were being hung from trees and in shop windows.

18/39 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 26 July 2019 at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting closed at 10.55 a.m.