

Kingsbridge Town Council

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

Present: Cllr Graham Price (Chairman)
Verity Robinson (Kingsbridge Community Tennis)
Rosemary Speed (local resident)

In Attendance: Ann Gomm (Secretary)

Due to a low attendance the committee was inquorate however, the meeting went ahead with reports and proposals to be made to the next council meeting rather than formal committee Recommendations.

19/01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Price was **proposed** to be elected as Chairman of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee for mayoral year 2019-2020.

19/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Dena Bex and David Dain.

Public Open Forum

A member of the public stated that she wished to take on an open space to plant a tree and wildflowers. She was looking for a suitable location but had not had any success to date.

19/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

19/04 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last meeting held on 26 April 2019 were **proposed** for approval as a correct record.

19/05 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION PLAN

05.1 Project listing revised 1 February 2019. Current hot topics were: provision of new football pitches, improvements for vehicular access to the Rugby Club via High House Lane, new play areas for Duncombe Park & Montagu Road, condition of the Recreation Ground pond, new community hub in the Recreation Ground, provision of new skatepark, public realm improvements in the town centre, new cycle route Kingsbridge to South Brent, and new multi-use trail Kingsbridge to Salcombe.

05.2 Budget carried forward from previous financial year 2018/19 (£3k held as Restricted Reserves for agreed Briton's Field access footpath). Agreed at

£2,250 for materials and labour. Cllr Price & Town Clerk had met SHDC grounds maintenance officer on site, agreed the scope of works required and a start date was awaited.

05.3 Budget for financial year 2019/20 at £3k and project proposal. Nil project identified to date for current financial year ending 31 March 2020.

05.4 Suggestion for a local Town Sports Group. Members of the Primrose Line cycle group had formed a bespoke group Belle Hill Active which hoped to realise football pitches at the former Belle Hill playing fields (land owned by KCC but leased to the KRFC rugby club for junior rugby provision). This location would require pedestrian access from the proposed Applegate development to the site (SHDC decision awaited on reserved matters' planning application). Jon Parkinson had been included in conversations and suggested a Kingsbridge Town Sports Group is formed to link up with potential S106 funds allocated to sport and recreation i.e. a town-wide and all-sports version of the current Recreation Ground group trying to realise a community hub. Such a proposal could be an objective for the Neighbourhood Plan.

05.5 Proposal for new Skatepark. Rob Sekula, SHDC Place Making, had supplied details of 3 skatepark companies for the Town Clerk to contact in order to commence exploratory conversations. It was suggested to review Rack Park amenity area as a possible site for a new skatepark although it was suggested that noise could be prohibitive. The favourite site would be at the current Trebble Park play area.

05.6 Proposal for a Kingsbridge to Salcombe multi-use trail and Sustrans' feasibility study for a route. The Sustrans' report (paid via a successful bid to the Communities Together Fund) following a field study in April, had been forwarded to Salcombe, Malborough & West Alvington Parish Councils and the Information Centre requesting comments by mid-September. Feedback had been received from Malborough PC to date. A potential route had been broken down into 4 parts with options at key points. Very little of the route would be within the Kingsbridge parish boundary with the majority in other parishes. The report was available for Members to consider.

19/06 PLAY AREA/AMENITY SPACE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

06.1 Play Areas Tender Panel held at Follaton House, Totnes on 9 July 2019 for Duncombe Park small children's play area and Montagu Road play area. Kompan had been selected from the tenders received and the agreed plans were available for Members to read. SHDC would meet Kompan shortly to discuss the design of each area (which included play areas in Ivybridge & Woolwell). Matters to consider for Kingsbridge were:

- Duncombe Park. SHDC was keen to add coloured wetpour but it would require more funds from KTC. It was **proposed** to retain the original grey wetpour surfacing.

- Montagu Road. SHDC wished to review the option for recycled plastic bark retainers as opposed to timber sleepers to provide longevity. It was **proposed** to support the use of recycled plastic.
- Montagu Road. SHDC suggested straight edging for the bark retainers or ease of maintenance as opposed to a scalloped edge. It was **proposed** to retain a scalloped edge as it had better aesthetics.
- Montagu Road. SHDC would consider planning along the southern boundary edge at a later stage. It was **proposed** to support SHDC's suggestion and for a climber such as Honeysuckle or Clematis to be considered.
- Montagu Road. The current access gate would be augmented by a second gate along the perimeter fencing abutting Montagu Road. Cllr Jennings had reported that children ran straight out into the highway because there was no pavement and should the 2 in number entrances be positioned at the ends of the play area to negate this situation? The Town Clerk had informed DCC's local highways officer to request 'slow – children' highways signage.

06.2 To review historic plans for Rack Park (bmx/dirt bike track) and Wallingford Road (community orchard) amenity spaces. Mor Design (now MeiLoc) had suggested the above in the Kingsbridge public space strategy 2008. Plans were available for Members to consider. It was **proposed** for a site visit to Wallingford Road to investigate the possibility of planting an orchard, and to discuss the types of trees, local specimens would be preferred. SHDC permission would be required alongside local consultation.

19/07 DUNCOMBE PARK & RECREATION GROUND

07.1 Duncombe Park grounds maintenance and suggestion for wildflower areas. David Dain had reported that he was still working up clearing and grass seeding the 'half-moon' flower bed in the south east of the park. SHDC permission had been received.

Moreover, it was **proposed** to plant wildflowers on the verges in Duncombe Park to introduce more colour into the park.

07.2 Recreation Ground Green Flag. The park had retained its Green Flag again for 2019 and SHDC proposals for flag hoisting and public relations were awaited. The judges had provided a full report which would be forwarded to KTC.

07.3 Recreation Ground petanque court re-surfacing. A new top surface had been laid and needed to be compacted to allow boules to run. To be actioned shortly as the location was required for cage football during Love Your Park below.

07.4 Recreation Ground "Love Your Park" event Sunday 11 August 2019. Much preparatory work was ongoing; next meeting 10.30 a.m. Monday 29 July. The event had already received much Facebook support and promotion would be ramped up shortly via banners, flyers handed out during Fair Week Carnival and a Gazette notice. Expenditure would be above the earmarked youth project budget at £1,000.

07.5 Recreation Ground Bowling Club. Nil report.

07.6 Recreation Ground Café Decks: putting green management and access risk to/from southern pedestrian access gate to Embankment Road. A putting green licence between KTC and Café Decks had been agreed and signed, all putting kit replenished for summer, covers for holes supplied to eliminate risk of falls when not in play and large feather promotional flag supplied.

A fence had been erected recently to eliminate the risk of children running out of the grassed area below the café and into Embankment Road. However, it had made it difficult for wheelchair users to gain access to the café.

07.7 Recreation Ground Community Tennis: proposed community hub, Awards For All funding, and provision of toilet facility. Funding had been granted at £10k to manage a feasibility study for a new community hub. County Cllr Brazil had granted £500 for a disability portaloos; a decision was required by early September where to site it.

07.8 Goalposts maintenance. Rear stays and base legs would be rubbed down and painted with Rustoleum, or similar product, to provide greater longevity.

07.9 Non-recycling in parks (and public litter bins). SHDC's environment waste contractor FCC did not recycle from public waste bins due to cross-contamination which had been confirmed at a recent visit from Sarah Moody, SHDC senior waste officer.

19/08 TREE TRAIL

08.1 The Family Activity/Tree Trail. Recent KTC walkabout findings had been supplied to SHDC's tree specialist. KTC had requested contact details for the company which provided replacement tree identification tags; it had been suggested for KTC to take over such local management from SHDC.

08.2 Proposed tree re-planting scheme at the head of the estuary (following harbour wall repairs). SHDC had reported that replacement trees were unlikely to be planted until late 2019. It was **proposed** for large specimens to be planted and KIB was content to water.

08.3 Suggested memorial tree planting 28 September. SHDC had been contacted for KTC to plant one of the above trees to commemorate Cllr David Baisie; permission, location and type of tree had been requested.

19/09 GRASS VERGE CUTS & WEED SPRAYS

Grass verges were being cut by SHDC in accordance with the programme. The rear of Devon Square had re-profiled and tree stumps removed. A Wildflower mix had been earmarked to be sown for colour in future years.

19/10 KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM

Kingsbridge In Bloom judging for South West in Bloom (Friday 5 July) and forthcoming National Champion of Champions 2019 (Thursday 1 August). Cllr

Price reported that everything was going to plan. This year had been a huge challenge with a lot of work involved. Kingsbridge had been chosen by the Royal Horticultural Society as one of 5 towns and cities to go forward to the Champion of Champions.

19/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Diaried for Friday 25 October 2019 at 9.30 a.m.

The meeting closed at 10.40 a.m.