

Kingsbridge Town Council

NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD AT 2.30 P.M. ON FRIDAY 31 JANUARY 2020

Present: Cllr Graham Price (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
David Dain (Duncombe Park representative)
Cllr Helen Cope
Robin Griffin (Kingsbridge In Bloom representative)
Cllr Peter Ralph

In Attendance: Two Members of Public
Martin Johnson (Secretary)

19/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Dena Bex, David Hurrell (Kingsbridge Park Bowling Club) and Rosemary Speed.

Public Open Forum

Richard Boyt was a local resident, planning consultant and member of The Primrose Trail group which wished to develop a multi-purpose trail between South Brent and Kingsbridge. He stated that there were no football pitches in Kingsbridge and nil access to a large country park. He suggested that a Sports Forum should be set-up to encourage the major clubs e.g. rugby, football, cricket, tennis and cycling to discuss their ambitions; other clubs could also come aboard at a later stage. South Hams District Council did not have an up to date Playing Pitch Strategy and the town needed to establish its requirements. Belle Hill playing fields had the capacity to be re-used if a footpath could be achieved from the new Applegate development. At present the rugby club leased the playing fields from the Community College.

Members noted that skateboarders did not have a club per se and that they should not be disadvantaged because it was effectively informal recreation.

Shelley Castle stated that Kingsbridge could become the first Orchard Town and distributed information. There was an opportunity for small orchard to be developed at the rear of Wallingford Road which was currently a 'redundant' play area. This would have several benefits e.g. biodiversity and a bat-friendly environment. Moreover, 'ribbon orchards' should be encouraged acting like natural corridors to branch out from Kingsbridge to outlying villages. Indeed, small urban fruit trees should be encouraged for private gardens. There was potential to seek external funding given local support.

Members asked questions and Cllr Price thanked Richard and Shelley for their statements.

19/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

19/24 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Members received the notes of the last meeting held on 1 November 2019 which were approved as a correct record.

It was noted that local residents and The Regal Club wished to continue their maintenance and painting of the wooden animals in Church Street amenity space. The Town Clerk would request this

19/25 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION PLAN

25.1 To conduct an annual review of the Kingsbridge OSSR plan. It was considered that the current OSSR did not require any radical changes and that the vast majority of the information remained current. Therefore, it was **RECOMMENDED** to delegate the review to Cllr Price and the Town Clerk to make minor amendments e.g. children's play area refits at Duncombe Park and Montagu Road had been completed.

25.2 To receive updates on the project listing:

- Children's play space refits completed (as above).
- Policy Committee exploring public art and sculpture projects.
- Recent conversations with SHDC regarding a new skatepark and return of the current location to parking spaces.
- Visualisations being worked up for a public exhibition to 'show & tell' KTC's ambitions for public realm improvements in the town centre.
- Sustrans' feasibility study received for a potential Kingsbridge to Salcombe multi-use trail; a meeting was required with Salcombe TC, Malborough and West Alvington PCs.
- Ambitions for a community orchard at the rear of Wallingford Road, originally raised in 2008, had been discussed recently with SHDC. The authority was reluctant to give a green light at this stage due to potential development in the locale but would feedback when more information was known.

25.3 To receive updates on S.106 developer contributions. The Belle Hill/Applegate development had received SHDC's planning permission which had S.106 developer contributions at circa £207k earmarked for improvements at the rugby club/a 3G artificial pitch. The Town Clerk had already made SHDC aware that KTC would wish to discuss further in order to identify the town's OSSR priorities and potential projects for the funding.

Kingsbridge S.106 developer contributions were held by SHDC at circa £23k and the committee noted that a bid could be worked up to address a designated OSSR project.

25.4 To consider proposals for the budgeted OSSR project for next financial year 2020/21. The 4 in number picnic tables at Britton's Field required either partial repairs or renewal and it had been suggested for exercise equipment to replace one of them to extend the current Trim Trial.

Cllr Price and the Town Clerk had met Landmarc earlier that day to discuss plans to replenish the pond in the Recreation Ground and it was likely that a current underspend for OSSR projects in the current financial year should be allocated to the project.

19/26 DUNCOMBE PARK & RECREATION GROUND

26.1 Recreation Ground "Love Your Park" event Sunday 23 August 2020.

The budget had been increased to £2k next financial year 2020/21, a programme of participants had been booked including Punch & Judy, the budget was likely to be 10% overspent and a first meeting of all interested parties would take place on 4 March.

26.2 Recreation Ground Bowling Club. Nil report.

26.3 Recreation Ground Café Decks. Nil report.

26.4 Recreation Ground Community Tennis and the Pavilion in the Park project. The next working group meeting would be arranged for late March.

26.5 Recreation Ground Green Flag preparations for 2020. The management plan required and update to be actioned by SHDC for submission with the Green Flag application for 2020. Several 'field assessment' recommendations had been included in the 2019 report; to be actioned either by SHDC, KTC or in partnership with Kingsbridge In Bloom. It was anticipated for KTC to action its own areas of interest by end March 2020.

26.6 Duncombe Park suggestion for wildflower areas. Discussion with David revealed that the person who had made the suggestion was unknown. The committee agreed that effectively this was SHDC business and no further action was required.

David further reported that on a long held ambition to remove tree stumps in the eastern area of the park; the Town Clerk would attempt to add some impetus to the proposed works and get in touch with local residents who had offered their assistance.

26.7 RHS best park judging. A submission for the Recreation Ground had been made to the Royal Horticultural Society; the results would be announced at an event in Beer in March.

26.8 "Art in the park". The Policy Committee held ambitions to introduce more public art and sculpture in town; the parks would be included as potential locations.

19/27 BRITTON'S FIELD

In accordance with agenda item 25.4 above, it was **RECOMMENDED** to research proposed works and quotations for either repairs or replacements for seating and picnic benches plus the potential introduction of outdoor exercise equipment in Britton's Field.

The committee considered that wooden exercise equipment may be more appropriate at the location however, a house style similar to equipment elsewhere could also be explored.

19/28 TREE TRAIL

28.1 Tree planting. SHDC had been requested to provide their proposals for tree replanting at the head of the estuary following Quay wall repairs in mid-2019.

28.2 Tree labelling and sponsorship. The committee was conscious that the project needed to be resurrected from the long grass and was awaiting the return of a local resident who had much knowledge on the subject.

19/29 TRIM TRAIL

29.1 Repairs, repainting and signage (Allianz report).

- Recent minor repairs due to 'wear & tear' had been actioned by KTC's grounds maintenance contractor
- A full repaint of all outdoor exercise equipment in Duncombe Park, Quay House grounds and Recreation Ground would be actioned before the end of March.
- The annual Allianz inspection for equipment located on KTC assets i.e. Quay House grounds had identified the requirement for signage to report the operator, contact details and nearest public phone box which would action shortly.

29.2 Potential for further outdoor exercise equipment? Further to the suggestion for additional equipment in Britton's Field (agenda item 19/27) the committee noted that other locations in town should be explored as the current kit was used by a range of ages.

19/30 KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM

A key theme for 2020 was the 400th commemoration of the historic journey of the Mayflower which would include a replica of the ship. Liaison was ongoing with Plymouth City Council to provide links to KIB. Insect friendly plants would again feature high and partnership with the local community.

19/31 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 24 April 2020 at 2.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.