

Kingsbridge Town Council

NOTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING AT 2.30 P.M. ON FRIDAY 31 JULY 2020

Present: Cllr Graham Price (Chairman)
David Dain (Duncombe Park representative)
Robin Griffin (Kingsbridge In Bloom representative)
Lesley Healey (Kingsbridge Community Tennis)
Cllr Peter Ralph
Verity Robinson (Kingsbridge Community Tennis)
Rosemary Speed (local resident)

In Attendance: Martin Johnson (Secretary)

The meeting was inquorate and therefore it was agreed at the outset for the meeting to be a working group discussion only.

20/01 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Price was supported to be the Chairman for the meeting.

20/02 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Anne Balkwill, Mike Jennings and Steve Mammatt, Marika Byrne (Café Decks), David Hurrell (Kingsbridge Park Bowling Club) and Lisa Miller (Kingsbridge Community Tennis).

Public Open Forum

There were no members of public present.

20/03 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

20/04 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Members received the notes of the last meeting held on 31 January 2020 which were approved as a correct record.

20/05 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION PLAN

The Kingsbridge OSSR plan's list of projects was largely dependent on developer contributions from new housing developments secured through Section 106 legal agreements between South Hams District Council (SHDC) and developers. At present £22,662 was held for Kingsbridge with the potential for further funds from other proposed developments e.g. Belle Hill, K5 West Alvington Hill and Ropewalk. However, taking stock of all potential funding it would require close consideration of

the projects to agree which were deserving of support as the monies available would go nowhere close to supporting all of them. Therefore, many projects were likely to remain as long term ambitions rather than being achieved in the short to medium term.

20/06 DUNCOMBE PARK & RECREATION GROUND

06.01 Recreation Ground Bowling Club. Cllr Price had spoken to David Hurrell, Chairman. The bowling club was up and running, playing on Wednesdays and Saturdays with good turnouts, and the club wished to be kept informed on the progress of a potential new clubhouse/community hub.

06.02 Recreation Ground Café Decks. The café was open 10.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Wednesday to Sunday for takeaway only.

06.03 Recreation Ground Community Tennis. The group had 148 Friends, encouraged more people to join and there was currently 56% usage of the courts with many families playing. The Lawn Tennis Association had provided excellent guidance for playing during Covid-19 indeed, tennis was one of the first sports to be re-introduced following lockdown.

The working group to realise a community hub was progressing and an initial proposal had been sourced from a local architect but further negotiations were required.

SHDC had agreed that the group could hire a portalo, via a licence with the authority, because the only toilet in the park was for Café Decks customers during its opening hours. Devon social tennis and children needed toilet facilities however, the hire company only cleaned once per week which was not sufficient during Covid-19 and the group could put their own health in danger if they cleaned it. Therefore, the proposal had been placed on hold. It was **Supported** to try to re-negotiate use of the toilet at the Cottage or a temporary new facility.

06.04 Recreation Ground Green Flag report 2019. The Town Council (KTC) had completed all matters raised in the field assessment feedback: seating cleaned/reoiled, fitness equipment repainted, table tennis table floor repainted and croquet set purchased. Kingsbridge In Bloom (KIB) had positioned new bird/bat boxes in trees at the teenzone. SHDC would review the management plan. Café Decks was considering the introduction of compost bins. Other recommendations were aspirational and included in the Kingsbridge OSSR: improvements at the Derby Road end of the park (improved signage, public information and new entrance gate), introduction of low-level bollard style lighting through the park and modern hub facility to replace current Cottage/bowling clubhouse.

06.05 Recreation Ground brick sculptures/seating. The sculptures installed in 2014 had become shabby and bricks were regularly thrown into the pond. SHDC and the original materials supplier had been consulted regarding their removal. A later memorial plaque positioned on one of the sculpture would need to be transferred. It was **Supported** to dismantle and remove the brick sculptures next to

the pond and to replace with 2 new seats which could be linked to SHDC's sponsorship scheme.

06.06 Recreation Ground pond. Landmarc would supply concept plans shortly to address drainage matters and improve aesthetics. A pond refit was reported in the Kingsbridge OSSR projects listing.

20/07 AMENITY SPACES/OPEN SPACES

07.01 Britton's Field picnic benches/seating. A seat had been removed due to its poor condition which required renewal and repairs were required to other benches/seating. The original supplier had not returned to work due to Covid-19, a new company may need to be sourced and suggestions were provided.

07.02 Potential for new bike racks in the Town Square. A local resident had reported the lack of facilities to secure bicycles in the town centre. Members had explored the issue, conducted trials, and held preliminary discussions with Devon County Council (DCC) and SHDC. It was **Supported** to:

- request permission from DCC to position 3 or 4 bicycle stands on the pavement outside the former Quay pub in lower Fore Street,
- request permission from SHDC to position 3 or 4 bicycle stands on the tarmac area abutting the east side of the public toilets at the head of the estuary, and
- subject to above permissions, for KTC to source and purchase said bicycle stand (tubular i.e. 2 bikes to each stand, galvanised and powder coated in black and baseplate fixed).

07.03 Potential for a disposable BBQ bin at Bowcombe amenity space. The continued popularity of the amenity space was noted. The current one person public toilet was closed due to the requirement for drainage repairs. People often had BBQs at the location and disposable units often burnt the grass. It was **Supported** to request SHDC to position slabs for BBQs to be placed upon and for a bespoke litter bin to be introduced for their disposal.

07.04 Potential for replacement seating around the head of the estuary i.e. Quay Car Park and The Promenade/Embankment Road footways. KTC's ambitions for new street furniture in Fore Street i.e. seating, planters, litter bins and waymarking signs in order to introduce a functional and pleasing 'house style'. However, there were several types of seating on both sides at the head of the estuary. SHDC policy is to replace old seats with recycled plastic alternatives and 2 examples of recent replacements were available near the Slipway. KTC Members would have a walkabout shortly to explore current seating and future options.

07.05 Potential for a community orchard at Wallingford Road amenity space and recent public consultation. KTC's Climate and Nature Emergency Action Plan listed fruit tree planting as a recommended action. A consultation with residents in the locale had recently taken place and a site meeting had been planned for 10.30 a.m. on Thursday 6 August. A preliminary proposal had been made to SHDC and feedback was awaited.

07.06 Potential for a public consultation (alongside SHDC & South Hams Area Wellbeing) with local residents regarding future use of Trebblepark amenity space. It was reported that the amenity space probably had untapped potential beyond its current use as a sub-divided children's play area and basketball zone. SHDC, working alongside KTC and SHAW, had agreed to a public consultation in autumn 2020 via hand delivered postcards, and potentially Survey Monkey, to engage with local residents about the future of Trebblepark amenity space.

07.07 The Tree Trail at the head of the estuary. New tree labels had been sourced and fixed. A mature Katsura tree would be planted in winter to replace a failed specimen. Unfortunately, some vandalism had taken place recently with branches snapped off trees.

07.08 Trim Trail equipment at Duncombe Park, Quay House grounds and Recreation Ground. All the equipment had been carefully re-painted in April.

20/08 KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM

KIB had been on plan to deliver another season of vibrant flower displays throughout the town when Covid-19 emerged. The main display would have celebrated the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower leaving Devon for America. Most of the infrastructure was ready and in storage for 2021 when it would be erected on the main display bed on the Town Square. Social distancing could not be achieved for planting hanging baskets in 2020 however, the KIB team of volunteers had been out working trying to keep the town attractive albeit at a much reduced level. Next year the aim was to return to the award winning level achieved over the past few years with more displays, new and replacement planters and increased wildflower areas. The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) had cancelled all competitions and events for 2020 which had provided the opportunity to review long term improvements and the group's future sustainability. The membership and working party participants continued to grow. Finally, KIB was thrilled and proud to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in the Queen's Birthday Honours which would be presented in the near future. It was **Supported** to provide much publicity for the award and to consider revision of KIB signage at the gateway entry points to town to include the award.

20/09 COVID-19

KIB competitions (as above agenda item 20/09) and Love Your Park Sunday 23 August had been cancelled due to Covid-19. Children's play areas and outdoor exercise equipment could now be used. Committee Members considered that overall people were respecting social distancing in the town's parks and open spaces.

20/10 IMMEDIATE PARKS & OPEN SPACES MATTERS

It was **Supported** to request SHDC to repair the perimeter railings and seating at Church Street Amenity Space; the former had been picked up by the RHS report for KIB in 2019.

It was **Supported** to request SHDC to weed spray and pressure wash the terraces off Belle Vue Road in Duncombe Park.

It was noted that the Town Bowling Club had resurfaced the green and had utilised part of Duncombe Park as a compound during the works under licence from SHDC.

It was **Supported** to request SHDC to refurbish the interpretation panel/notice board in the Recreation Ground as it had become tired.

It was noted that KTC's Climate and Nature Emergency Action Plan agreed to review current grass verge cutting arrangements delegated from DCC to KTC.

20/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 30 October 2020 at 2.30 p.m. (time to be confirmed).

The meeting closed at 4.10 p.m.