

Kingsbridge Town Council

OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING AT 2.30 P.M. ON FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2020

Present: Cllr Graham Price (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Balkwill
David Dain (Duncombe Park representative)
Cllr Martina Edmonds
Lesley Healey (Kingsbridge Community Tennis)
Cllr Steve Mammatt
Verity Robinson (Kingsbridge Community Tennis)
Rosemary Speed (local resident)

In Attendance: Martin Johnson (Secretary)

20/12 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Philip Cole, Mike Jennings, Peter Ralph and Robin Griffin (Kingsbridge In Bloom representative).

Public Open Forum

There were no members of public present.

20/13 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Edmonds and Mammatt declared non-pecuniary interests in agenda item 20/15 (OSSR projects).

20/14 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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

20/15 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION PLAN 2018-2028

15.01 South Hams and West Devon playing pitch strategy. The previous/time lapsed strategy had been part of the Joint Local Plan evidence base and was linked to the Kingsbridge OSSR plan and emerging Neighbourhood Plan. SHDC and its contractor Belap anticipated producing a new draft strategy by March 2021. The strategy however, would only consider cricket, football, hockey and rugby as determined by the government definition for playing pitches.

15.02 Trebblepark play area – future use survey. The survey would be sponsored by South Hams District Council (SHDC), South Hams Area Wellbeing and the Town Council (KTC) to ascertain the ambitions of Trebblepark residents for their neighbourhood play area. KTC had produced a draft postcard and questionnaire for consideration by SHDC.

Upon production by SHDC the postcards would be hand delivered to all Trebblepark homes by KTC which would signpost residents to the questionnaire via survey monkey.

15.03 Sustrans' Feasibility Study – Kingsbridge to Salcombe multi-use trail. Cllr Price and the Town Clerk had discussed the outcomes of the study with representatives from Salcombe TC, Malborough PC and West Alvington PC. It was considered that a majority traffic-free trail, while laudable, was far too ambitious, would not glean support from landowners and had other negative impacts e.g. the proposal of no-through minor roads for vehicular traffic. It was agreed that an extension of the current off-road Salcombe-Malborough cycle path should be explored via West Alvington to Kingsbridge. Individual councils would survey their own land areas to work-up a concept.

15.04 Wallingford Road – community orchard. The proposal to effectively change the use of the current play area was on hold at present pending support from SHDC.

15.05 The Promenade – potential public art project. SHDC had provided support in principle for KTC to locate a sculpture on the grass verge off The Promenade, adjacent to the slipway, which was likely to require addition to the SHDC/KTC public spaces licence and a planning application. It was **RECOMMENDED** to work-up an outline specification and invite local artists to provide their concepts alongside costs.

15.06 OSSR project for current FY 2020/21. KTC could provide a budget at circa £12.5k within the current financial year due to underspends on various cost codes. SHDC had recently confirmed that it held circa £18k of S.106 developer contributions for Kingsbridge which could also be applied for. Moreover, KTC had committed to spend £100k of capital receipts on projects over the next 3 year period. Finally, S.106 funds for a housing development at Belle Hill could realise £207k (earmarked for improvements at the rugby club) and at K5 off West Alvington Hill circa £100k (earmarked for football facilities in town). Potential projects which may fit the available current funding included:

From the OSSR plan project listing:

- Duncombe Park – new trees and shrubs, new seating on terraces and low level lighting.
- Recreation Ground – Derby Road entrance upgrade (welcome, interpretation board and new gate), pond & locale refit, teen zone upgrade, replacement children's faded play area equipment (e.g. new plastic totem poles) and low level lighting
- Rack Park amenity space: bmx/dirt bike track
- Cricket: new artificial pitch, nets, facilities at the Butts, West Alvington
- Bowcombe amenity space: project to be worked up to include BBQ area, better seating and new toilet.
- Quay Car Park: dinghy racks
- Community Water Sports: facilities for paddle boarding/canoeing

Potential projects not currently OSSR listed:

- Kingsbridge In Bloom: major standalone project
- Civic Space: new seating either side at the head of the estuary, house style bollards/railings throughout and sculpture at nominated location in The Promenade grass verge (item 15.05)
- Fore Street: paint all street lamps and supply water fountains for drinking

- Mill Street: mural
- Memorial Shelter: radical upgrade
- Quay House: conversion of a current parking space to an EV charging point
- CANE Action Plan: more wild flower areas and tree planting

After discussion of the above suggestions, it was **RECOMMENDED** for the following to be considered further for an OSSR project to be achieved during the current financial year:

- New seating around the head of the estuary.
- A feasibility study for a replacement pond/landscaping in the Recreation Ground (including removal of current brick sculptures).
- An upgrade to children's play areas at Duncombe Park (spinner and nest swing) and the Recreation Ground (young children's play area and teenzone) and to invite the original contractor for a site visit.

Members then received a comprehensive report from Kingsbridge Gymnastics Club which currently did not feature in the adopted Kingsbridge OSSR plan. The club was about to complete a lease to secure its own home after 25 years of searching and near misses. Currently 130 members trained each week Monday to Friday with squad sessions held on weekends. It was anticipated for membership to reach 300 in the next year or so due to the new premises to include a new accessible toilet, emergency lighting, safety padding and LED lighting. The club sought new equipment at circa £20k including floor matting, competition asymmetric bars and safety landing mats. It was **RECOMMENDED** to include Kingsbridge Gymnastics Club in the Kingsbridge OSSR plan and to add the new equipment required to the listing of OSSR projects.

20/16 DUNCOMBE PARK & RECREATION GROUND

16.01 Recreation Ground Bowling Club. Nil report.

16.02 Recreation Ground Café Decks. Nil report.

16.03 Recreation Ground Community Tennis and the Pavilion in the Park project.

Tennis had continued to be played throughout Covid-19. Pay and play had been successful and the courts had achieved 50-60% usage. Fitness trainers also wished to use the courts during winter however, access was an issue. External funding could be available to supply an electronic gate which would require an application to SHDC. The next Pavilion in the Park meeting would be held on Friday 13 November.

16.04 Recreation Ground brick sculpture/seating. It was **RECOMMENDED** to hire a contractor to remove the sculptures rather than using volunteer assistance.

16.05 SHDC/KTC meeting held on 16 October 2020 regarding maintenance matters.

It was reported that much headway had been made and meetings/liaison would be arranged between KTC and SHDC lead officers to discuss operations and open spaces matters.

20/07 AMENITY SPACES/OPEN SPACES

17.01 Britton's Field picnic benches. The benches were anticipated to be refurbished and refitted by week ending 6 November.

17.02 New bike racks at the head of the estuary and lower Fore Street. Following the last meeting, DCC had given permission for 3 cycle stands to be installed on the footway outside the former Quay pub which would also require a bollard to be positioned. SHDC had given permission for 3 cycle stands to be installed adjacent to Quay toilets/east elevation. Some fine-tuning was required and further site visits had been arranged.

17.03 Potential for replacement seating around the head of the estuary i.e. Quay Car Park and The Promenade/Embankment Road footways. Discussed at agenda item 15.06.

20/18 KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM

It was reported that the KIB volunteer group remained very keen, all spring bulbs had been planted and plans were at an advanced stage for the 2021 display.

20/19 IMMEDIATE PARKS & OPEN SPACES MATTERS

19.01 Kingsbridge Light Railway had ambitions to extend the 'little train' to form a loop at its southern end, to run past the War Memorial and return to the main line near the schooner.

19.02 The condition of the footways at the head of the estuary were in a poor condition in places which saw the pooling of rainwater. It was agreed to be brought to SHDC's attention.

19.03 Duncombe Park terraces required cleaning and the flower bed was unkempt which related to recent maintenance matters discussed between SHDC and KTC. It was anticipated that a future meeting would include site visits to both parks.

19.04 It was reported that a grass verge near Welle House Gardens never appeared to be cut and ownership may be an issue; local residents had brought the matter to KTC's attention and a positive outcome was anticipated.

19.05 A vegetation cut along Cookworthy Road had been earmarked for spring 2021 and any remaining monies in the grass verge/weeding budget would be spent on highway weed spraying. Members also highlighted that the junction between Lower Union Road and Cookworthy Road required attention to overgrowing shrubbery and a pebble island which required weeding/cleaning. However, West Alvington Hill footways had been much improved by the FCC road sweeper.

20/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 29 January 2021 at 2.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 4.30 p.m.