

Kingsbridge Town Council

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD REMOTELY VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING AT 2.30 P.M. ON FRIDAY 23 APRIL 2021

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

In Attendance: Martin Johnson (Secretary)

20/30 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mike Jennings and Mel Rollinson.

Public Open Forum

There were no statements from members of public present.

20/31 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

20/32 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Members received the minutes of the last meeting held on 29 January 2021 which were approved as a correct record.

20/33 OPEN SPACE, SPORT & RECREATION PLAN 2018-2028

The OSSR plan had been reviewed in January 2021, remained extant and nil amendments were proposed. Members noted that housing developments at the K5 site off West Alvington Hill and Applegate Park off Belle Hill could potentially realise circa £310k in S106 developer contributions which had been earmarked for enhanced football and rugby facilities in the town.

South Hams District Council's (SHDC) emerging Playing Pitch Strategy dovetailed with the above OSSR report and the Town Clerk had attended a recent meeting alongside various parties which had reviewed the Kingsbridge input regarding cricket, football, hockey and rugby. A draft Strategy was anticipated for consultation in summer 2021.

34.1 Recreation Ground Bowling Club. Nil report. It was understood that bowling would recommence in early May.

34.2 Recreation Ground Café Decks. Nil report. The café was currently closed and it was unknown when/if it would open. It was **RECOMMENDED** to request SHDC to liaise with the café owner.

34.3 Recreation Ground Community Tennis and the Pavilion in the Park project. The group had been awarded funding from the Lawn Tennis Association for a quality gate system which provided different access codes for each access and also controlled the floodlights.

The public consultation for a community hub in the park had completed and much positive feedback had been received which had also commented on related park matters e.g. toilet facilities. The feedback had to be coordinated whereupon a meeting would be called to deliver the findings.

34.4 SHDC/KTC site meeting 15 April 2021.

- **Pond clean.** SHDC had agreed to skim the pond surface of all green algae. The project, via liaison with a local company to 're-invent' the pond remained an ambition and was progressing albeit slowly.
- **Interpretation panels refit.** SHDC agreed that the panels, in both parks, were tatty and would research replacements.
- **Composting facility clearance/management.** KTC arranged for the clearance of the facility of all non-green waste on 20 April. Kingsbridge In Bloom (KIB) would apply for grants via SHDC to allow the Grounds Maintenance team to support the composting. KTC and KIB had agreed to investigate whether the perimeter fencing could be raised to provide greater security and limit misuse. SHDC would investigate removal of the 2 shipping containers.
- **Tree lopping.** SHDC has agreed to explore minor tree works, nil felling, in autumn on completion of the nesting season (along the head of estuary footways, Quay Car Park and in the Town Square).
- **Partial grass verge re-wilding.** KTC and KIB would liaise to provide SHDC with grass verge locations for re-wilding.

Members noted that some facilities had a shredder on site to assist composting and suggested that the play area wall should be painted in a dark red/orange.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to progress maintenance matters in Duncombe Park and the Recreation Ground.

34.5 Play equipment improvements project. Following site meetings with SHDC and a play equipment provider a menu of minor improvements had been identified to refresh both parks. Moreover, SHDC had undertaken a 'deep clean' of play equipment in the parks, had refitted the nest swing in the Recreation Ground and ordered the required parts to refit the nest swing in Duncombe Park. It was **RECOMMENDED** to apply to SHDC for S.106 developer contributions held at circa £18k to provide:

- Duncombe Park – replacement Bloqx panels.
- Recreation Ground – introduction of 2 springers and replenishment work to ‘mounds’ in the children’s play area, introduction of an obstacle course in the teen zone, repainting of the play area perimeter walls, resurfacing of the boules court, cleaning and reoiling of all park benches.

Kingsbridge Community Tennis representatives left the Chamber

20/35 AMENITY SPACES/OPEN SPACES

35.1 Potential tree planting in town. A local group wished to encourage greater tree planting under the banner Kingsbridge Orchard Town and a listing of potential locations would be forwarded shortly. Non-public authority owned areas would obviously require consent and potential consultation.

35.2 Treblepark play area: public consultation on future use. The consultation with local residents was behind schedule due to priority work at SHDC but it remained an intention.

35.3 Suggested projects: skatepark, basketball and trampoline.

- There were 3 potential SHDC managed locations for a new skatepark: at the current site in Quay Car Park, Treblepark play space or the Recreation Ground at the rear/Derby Road end. A localised lobby/pressure group was probably required to get the project off the ground and evidence a local need; KTC had been contacted recently by local residents keen to progress matters. Members agreed that recent graffiti at the current Skatepark required removal.
- South Hams Area Wellbeing and Kingsbridge Youth for Christ had contacted KTC to lobby for a basketball court (the sole outdoor basketball facility at Treblepark had just one hoop and therefore actual games could not be played).
- Family Advice Support Team had contacted KTC to lobby for a ground level trampoline to be installed in one of the parks. Exploratory investigation with suppliers revealed that a safe zone was required around the trampoline so available space was paramount.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to support a Treblepark play area consultation and to add the introduction of a basketball court and trampoline to the Kingsbridge OSSR.

20/36 KINGSBRIDGE IN BLOOM

Kingsbridge In Bloom would be installing hanging baskets, managing It’s Your Neighbourhood, producing newsletters etc. and was fully energised in readiness for summer 2021. The town would be judged for the South West In Bloom competition in July. There would be a new major display on the prominent Quay flower bed.

20/37 IMMEDIATE PARKS & OPEN SPACES MATTERS

Church Street Garden. New perimeter railings had been agreed by SHDC however, the Repairs Team was currently tasked with repainting all public toilets in the district. The benches and children’s animals were being managed by local volunteers.

20/38 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 30 July 2021 at 2.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 4.09 p.m.