

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee held via a Zoom meeting on Monday 15 February at 7pm

Present: Cllr R Wilson (Chair)
Cllr Mrs S Hladkij
Cllr Mrs T Lannin
Cllr Mrs K Pringle
Cllr A Rea
Cllr A Spencer

In attendance: Mr K Rennells (Parks Consultant)
Mr J Parsons (Town Clerk)
Mrs J Gilbert (Assistant Town Clerk)

There was no public participation session.

PA20/020 **APOLOGIES:** No apologies were received.

PA20/021 **INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED:** There were no interests declared.

PA20/022 **WOODLANDS CEMETERY:** The Parks Consultant gave an update on the progress with South Hams District Council on the extension project (report previously circulated).

It was **RESOLVED** that Members noted the initial phases of works and the planning process in terms of the cemetery extension.

PA20/023 **FILHAM PARK:** A report was received on the initial results from the masterplan public consultation and an update on future plans including the access track (report previously circulated).

The Parks Consultant described the survey results as interesting but not surprising, the main focus was not to make major changes and to leave as a country park. Comments on drainage and footpaths were noted. The park is low lying therefore drainage is a major issue, and a possible solution would be to raise the level of paths by using more stone.

Cllr Hladkij highlighted her concerns over horse riders veering off the bridle path and churning up the ground. Cllr Wilson suggested that if problems continue then fencing may have to be implemented.

The Parks Consultant confirmed there had been a strength of feeling about safety in the context of loose dogs, horses and bicycles, and suggested that the layout should also be reviewed and how the park knits together.

Cllr Rea wished to congratulate the Parks consultant and his team for a splendid job on the survey, and proposed to delegate to officers as recommended in the report.

It was **RESOLVED** that the committee delegate officers to produce some draft layouts that are informed by the community response to the consultation and existing tenant feedback. A site visit should be arranged for the committee to consider these drafts on the ground, in compliance with Covid regulations, which may require some flexibility. Officers can then produce a final draft for consideration by this committee.

PA20/024 **LONGTIMBER WOODS:** A report was received on the winter works, including tree surgery and forestry (report previously circulated).

It was reported to the committee that the heavy horses had not been brought in this winter as it was not financially viable. The Town Clerk confirmed that the large logs were left in place and the smaller logs had been cut up and taken away. Cllr Lannin remarked that leaving the larger logs in place to rot created a nice feature for children to interact with. The Town Clerk also notified the committee that a large fallen tree in Kings Gutter would be removed later in the week.

Cllr Rea referred to social media comments regarding the perception that the workmen with chainsaws were unsafe, although he considered these to be unfounded. Cllr Wilson responded that full site risk assessments are undertaken before any works take place.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members note that the tree and forestry works proposed for Longtimber Woods have been completed or are due for completion this month.

PA20/025 **UPDATE & INFORMATION:** Updates were received on the following: Rangers report, Filham Tree Planting, St Peters Way, Filham Fishing Lake, Filham Bridleway, Ivybridge Bloomers and P3 and Sustrans Quietway project.

P3 Footpaths

Cllr Hladkij highlighted that Footpath 6 was suffering from bank erosion again and users need to take care. She stated that it is quite a large task to rectify and would be entering this into her P3 funding bid. The Parks Consultant suggested that if in any doubt about the safety of the footpath the PROW officer should be contacted. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Parks Ranger is currently looking at the best way to reinstate the path.

Filham Park Tree Planting

The Parks Consultant advised that the community tree donation scheme had been highly successful with 20 applications for 14 trees. Rather than disappoint some applicants the number of specimen trees

has been increased to 20, with 12 oaks to complete the circle and infill, and 8 elms leading to them, and this would make a nice landscape. The Parks Ranger will plant them later this month with individual donors in attendance, and each tree will have a substantial guard.

St Peters Way

Cllr Wilson commented that he was pleased to see the planting would be taking place in St Peters Way.

Filham Fishing Lake

The Town Clerk advised that he and the Parks Ranger had met with the Fishing Club to find alternative methods to traps and ropes on the lake, and the intention is to formally review the management plan and conduct research into the best long term solutions. Communication with the public regarding restrictions will also be enhanced, and informative social media posts will be reposted when required.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and note the information.

IN COMMITTEE - THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE IN CONFIDENTIAL SESSION DUE TO THE NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

PA20/026 **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS FOR 2021-22:** The report was considered regarding extension of the current contract to 31/03/2022 and to commence a procurement exercise for 2022-2023 (report previously circulated).

Members were unanimously in support of the contracts being extended, although Cllr Lannin requested if the litter could be picked prior to strimming. The Parks Consultant confirmed that this was part of the contract and would need to be reinforced.

It was **RESOLVED** that Members support the offer of extended one year contracts for ground maintenance to Cutting Crew Site Care and South Hams DC GM team for Ivybridge Town Council land for 2021-22 in advance of tendering for new contracts from April 2022, and for litter picking to be reinforced as part of the contract.

It is further recommended that Members support the offer of the DCC grass verges cutting programme to South Hams DC GM team for 2021.

Meeting ended at 7.28pm

Signed.....

Date: 2021