

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL – EXTERNAL COMMITTEE
KILN FIELDS RESERVE AND WILDLIFE VENUES SUB-COMMITTEE
NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 04.09.19

PRESENT:

Town Councillors: Mrs. Jean Curteis, Callum Knowles, and Dr. Lisa Lovelidge.

Non-Councillors: Jon Burnell, Roger Finniss and Mrs. Jean Sugden.

Tenterden Town Council Staff: Lesley Owers taking notes.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Apologies for absence were received from Miss Nikki Gooch. Mrs. Jean Sugden advised that Cllr. Pam Smith has resigned from this committee. Dr. Lisa Lovelidge requested that an email should be sent to all committee members to confirm that they want to be on this committee.
- 2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.** The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.
- 3. MATTERS ARISING.** There were no comments from the committee members on the first draft of the Kent Wildlife Trust Management Plan so KWT will now finalise it.

The 'Pick Up After your Dog sign was put on the fence at Kiln Field but it was reported that dog owners were still not being responsible and picking up after their dogs. It was suggested that a larger sign was put up on the gate and to spray any dog waste bright pink as this had worked in other areas.

A letter has been sent to the owners of the 'A' Boards outside Leigh Green advising them that their boards would be removed if they were left on the grass verge.

- 4. THE MERGING OF KILN FIELD & WILDLIFE VENUES AND THE CARETAKER SCHEME SUB-COMMITTEES.** It had been agreed at the last External Meeting that the two committees would both merge and be called the Kiln Field Reserve & Wildlife Venues Sub-Committee.
- 5. TERMS OF REFERENCE.** A draft terms of reference was circulated to the committee and was agreed.
- 6. KILN FIELD BUDGET UPDATE.** The committee has already been awarded a budget of £5,000 and have received a donation of £1,000 from Jarvis Homes leaving a balance to date in the sum of £5418.90. Callum Knowles said he would speak to Guy Day who had previously agreed to give a donation of

£1,000 to Kiln Field. The committee requests a further £6250 from the Town Council; a request will be sent to Ashford Borough Council as owners of the site, for funds of £5000 towards the cost of the works.

- 7. TREE HEALTH AND SAFETY AUDIT.** The quote of £2,304 from TreeCycle Limited for the work on the trees was accepted by the committee.
- 8. POND CLEARANCE QUOTES.** The committee had received three pond clearance quotes: £9230 from DGLD Excavations; £6725 from FGS Pilcher Limited and £4,200 from CrownCare & General. The committee agreed that we should accept the quote from Donald Duffus at DGLD Excavations Limited. This is on the recommendation of Roger Finniss, a member of our Maintenance Team for the reasons that DGLD's quote was the most comprehensive as it includes security fencing and sanitation, Roger knows the quality of Donald's work, he wasn't afraid to ask questions and he is local.
- 9. POLICY FOR REMOVAL AND/OR REPLACEMENT OF BUSHES/SHRUBS.** It was decided to defer this until the new gardener commences work, to get their guidance on this.
- 10. GRASS VERGES – UPDATE ON KCC APPROVAL.** An email had been received from Paul Woodhatch at KCC regarding leaving some of the verges to wildflowers. Paul advised that they had checked the verges on their database and that there is a need to maintain some visibility splays on some of the verges for road safety. The footpaths would also need to be kept clear of obstruction. Paul attached plans showing which verges we had selected to be left and other possible areas. The committee agreed which areas would be suitable and would report this back to KCC. We would need to get the signs up advising the public of the designated areas as soon as possible.
- 11. MOWING AND BALING OF KILN FIELD, THE BOTTOM OF ST. MICHAEL'S REC AND THE GRASS VERGE IN FRONT OF THE FOOTBALL PITCH, APPLIEDORE ROAD.** Roger Finniss reported that there was an urgent requirement for mowing and baling of Kiln Field, the bottom of St. Michael's Recreation Ground and the grass verge in front of the football pitch in Appledore Road. In Kiln Field there is mainly knapweed with some ragwort which needs disposing of, cutting and then baling green. Roger recommended requesting a quote for the work from Tom Hope, a local farmer or if he was unavailable to approach Henry Edwards. Callum Knowles advised that the cost for this would come out of the Caretaker Scheme.
- 12. KENT'S PLAN BEE – KCC'S POLLINATOR ACTION PLAN (TO NOTE).** Noted.
- 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.** Roger Finniss reported that oil or fat had been poured on an area in the Millennium Gardens killing 2 large shrubs. These have been replaced with native hedging along the fence.

Jean Sugden and Nikki Gooch will contact Tracy Burdett at the Schools Trust to arrange a visit to the school to have a chat with the children about why we

are doing the Nature Reserve and how they can get involved and get the children to visit Kiln Field before any works start so that they can see how it progresses.

It was suggested that we contact Hadlow College to enquire as to whether anybody is doing an ecology or conservation course and would like to get involved with Kiln Field as a project.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING. To be arranged.