

**TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL – EXTERNAL COMMITTEE**  
**KILN FIELDS RESERVE AND WILDLIFE VENUES SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 05.07.19**

**PRESENT:**

**Town Councillors:** Mrs. Jean Curteis, Mr. Callum Knowles, Dr. Lisa Lovelidge (Chair), Mrs. Pam Smith

**Non-Councillors:** Roger Finniss, Nikki Gooch, Jean Sugden

**Tenterden Town Council Staff:** Lesley Owers taking notes.

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Vicki Bance, John Burnell, John Crawford, Kate Walder.
- 2. ELECTION OF CHAIR.** Dr. Lisa Lovelidge was elected as Chair.
- 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.** The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.
- 4. MATTERS ARISING.** Following the Site Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019, Phil Cook, the Tree Officer at Ashford Borough Council agreed that there was a need for willow management around the pond. The trees around the culvert would need to be removed first. The logs would be put in piles for bugs and the willow chippings would be used for paths and landscaping. Prior to the pond clearance and the removal of the willow trees, residents should be kept fully informed about any work to be carried out at Kiln Field by laminated updates being displayed on the gate at the entrance to Kiln Field. It was also suggested to speak to Sanctuary Homes, as they have a Notice Board at the bottom of Priory Way and to ask if we could put information notices for residents on there.
- 5. GREAT CRESTED NEWTS EDNA SAMPLING SURVEY RESULTS.** The Great Crested Newts eDNA sampling survey results came back as negative. This only shows that the great crested newts have not used the pond in the last few weeks.
- 6. FIRST DRAFT OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN FROM KWT.** KWT emailed through the first draft of the Management Plan. Committee members should read this and forward any comments to Lesley who will then pass them on to KWT.
- 7. TREE HEALTH AND SAFETY AUDIT FOR ADDING TO MAINTENANCE PLAN:** A tree health and safety audit was carried out on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019 and we are awaiting the results.

- 8. INSURANCE COVER FOR KILNFIELD.** We have received confirmation from WPS Insurance that the Kiln Field Nature Reserve is now included under the Council's liability insurance.
- 9. ADOPTION OF GREENSPACE TO CHALK AVENUE IN ST. MICHAEL'S.** The Town Clerk was concerned that if TTC adopted the greenspace to Chalk Avenue in St. Michael's we would be responsible for the maintenance of any services. Kent County Council owns the covenant but it is still the responsibility of Ashford Borough Council. Callum Knowles suggested having a 25 year lease from Ashford Borough Council, the same as the land at Kiln Field, as the landlord would retain its obligations for the services and we would have a maintenance plan.
- 10. GRASS VERGES – UPDATE FROM KCC.** TTC has been corresponding with KCC in relation to permission to leave the grass verges to wildflowers and is waiting for their reply. Until we receive permission from KCC, our maintenance team are still mowing the grass verges except for the verge in Appledore Road in front of the Homewood Playing Field. Dr. Lisa Lovelidge will contact Plantlife to discuss the best way to leave the verges as natural as possible. It was reported that at the last Caretakers' Meeting it was suggested to merge the Caretakers' Committee and the Kiln Field Committee but this has yet to go to Council.
- 11. 'PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG' SIGN FOR FENCE.** The 'Pick Up After Your Dog' sign to be put on the fence at Kiln Field was ordered on 17<sup>th</sup> June and we are awaiting delivery.
- 12. POND CLEARANCE.** Three separate contractors have visited the Kiln Field site to give us a quote for the pond clearance work. We have received quotes from two of them and are awaiting the third. This will be carried out in the winter months.
- 13. INTERPRETATION BOARDS.** It was agreed that it was too soon to purchase an interpretation board at this stage.
- 14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.** It was reported that the signs on the bins need replacing.

Callum Knowles advised that he had received an email from Tracy Burdett at the Schools Trust and that she was very keen to get the children involved in Kiln Field. As Callum is extremely busy he asked if another committee member could contact Tracy to arrange to go to the school to have a chat with the children about why we are doing the Nature Reserve in Kiln Field and how they can get involved. Nikki Gooch and Jean Sugden would do this but thought it would be best to leave it until the new school term in September. They will contact Tracy direct.

It was reported that the 'A' boards outside Leigh Green need removing as there are so many. TTC will arrange for letters to be sent to the relevant businesses.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** To be confirmed.