

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL – EXTERNAL COMMITTEE
KILN FIELDS RESERVE AND WILDLIFE VENUES SUB-COMMITTEE
NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 06.02.20

PRESENT:

Town Councillors: Mrs. Jean Curteis, Callum Knowles, Russell Parkin (Chair).

Non-Councillors: Dave Bourner, 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 Dr. Lisa Lovelidge and Mrs. Kate Walder.
2. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9TH JANUARY 2020.** The minutes of the meeting held on 9th January were agreed.
3. **MINUTES OF SITE MEETING HELD ON 24TH JANUARY 2020.** The minutes of the site meeting held on 24th January were agreed.
4. **MATTERS ARISING.** It was agreed that the Maintenance Team could cut some of the Ash, Willow and Sycamore Wood and use it for bat boxes and bug hotels.

The drainage at St. Michael's Recreation Ground into the Dene needs digging out. It was suggested that the Town Clerk should bring this up at his next meeting with Michelle Byrne to highlight that Aspire need to do this work.

5. **MEETING HELD BETWEEN THE TOWN CLERK AND REDROW TO DISCUSS THE BOUNDARIES OF KILN FIELD – DEFERRED FROM PREVIOUS MEETING DUE TO BEING INQUORATE.**

A meeting had been held between Redrow, the Town Clerk and Dave Bourner. Redrow would be putting up heras fencing to separate the boundary and it was agreed that we should put up our own post and rail chestnut fencing to separate the boundary and to encourage wildlife to come through as soon as possible. The cost of this fencing is approximately £3105 and this would have to go to Council.

6. **COLIN READER'S ADVICE FOR KILN FIELD, DESIGNATED GRASS VERGES AND DECISIONS ON WHICH PLUG LANTS TO PURCHASE.**

It was agreed that we should take Colin Reader's professional advice on which plants to plant at both Kiln Field and on the designated grass verges and our maintenance team would make the final decisions on quantities and species.

- 7. LARGE LOGS FOR BEES AND REPTILES.** We need some logs and pallets for bug hotels and Kate Walder has kindly offered to donate some logs. Callum Knowles commented that there are quite a few logs and pallets on the Redrow site and suggested that the Town Clerk should liaise with Redrow to ask if we could take some logs and pallets from the site.
- 8. TO REPLACE POND PLANTS WHICH MAY HAVE BEEN LOST DURING THE POND CLEARANCE.** Jon Burnell queried whether many reeds were taken out of the pond during the pond clearance as there is a rare dragonfly in there. It was agreed not to plant anymore reeds this year and to see what comes back. It was reported that Iris's are now coming up.
- 9. SMALLER PATH TOWARDS TILDEN GILL.** Jon Burnell showed the committee a map he had printed from Google Earth showing the path that quite a few people walk on along the back. It was agreed to make smaller paths.
- 10. PRUNING AND RESTORATION OF TWO OR MORE OLD ORIGINAL PEAR TREES TOWARD THE BACK OF KILN FIELD.** Jon Burnell reported that there are 2 pear trees on our land at the back by the gill. One of them is really old and he asked if we could prune and manage them. At the site meeting held on 24th January 2020, Kate Walder was going to find out if the orchard in the corner could be classed as ancient woodland. It was suggested that we protect the apple orchard the other side of the gill.
- 11. BUDGET FOR PLANTS AND FENCING.** Callum Knowles commented that he cannot give Tenterden Town Council a grant as he is specifically excluded from community grants. It must be for specific projects. Funding for the fencing will need to go to Council and the Town Clerk agreed the funding for the plants.
- 12. SUSSEX LUND GRANT APPLICATION.** It was agreed to make a grant application to Sussex Lund to help with funding at Kiln Field.
- 13. DOG POO SITUATION IS NOW URGENT – DOG WARDEN, SOCIAL MEDIA AND NEW SIGNAGE.** The dog poo situation at Kiln Field is now urgent. Callum Knowles suggested that we contact the officer in charge of public safety and enforcement at Ashford Borough Council and speak with them to suggest getting enforcement officers over to Kiln Field. It was also agreed that Richard Harvey should write an article about Kiln Field and the plans we have to get the children involved but the problems we are facing with the amount of irresponsible dog owners and the health risks this poses for the children. Russel Parkin also suggested that a similar article should be put on the front page of the next Newsletter to make the public aware of the problems this is causing.

- 14. INVITATION FROM TRACY BURDETT OF THE SCHOOLS TRUST FOR US TO VISIT THE SCHOOL IN ASSEMBLY TO GIVE A TALK.** Russell Parkin said he would speak to the schools for us. He said we need to do an assessment as regards pond dipping and would also need to fence off a section to stop the children from getting in the pond.
- 15. LITTLE GATE SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT.** Dave and Roger need to assess the suitability of involving Little Gate Farm. Russell suggested that he, Dave Bourner and Roger Finnis should visit Little Gate Farm to assess whether this would be a good idea.
- 16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.** It was suggested to speak to Mike Hill at Kent County Council to request a grant. It was also documented that in November 2019, Kiln Field members who were members of the public were invited to sign a GDPR form agreeing to their email addresses being shared with the other members of the Kiln Field Sub-Committee for ease of communication via email.
- 17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** The date of the next meeting is set for Thursday 26th March 2020.