

**TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL – EXTERNAL COMMITTEE**  
**KILN FIELDS RESERVE AND WILDLIFE VENUES SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**NOTES OF A MEETING HELD ON 20.05.19**

**PRESENT:**

**Town Councillors:** Mrs. J. Curteis (Chair), Mr C. Knowles, Dr. L. Lovelidge

**Non-Councillors:** Vicki Bance, Tracy Burdett, John Burnell, Jean Sugden

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

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** J. Crawford, Mrs N. Gooch, Mrs. P. Smith and Mrs. C Walder.
- 2. CO-OPTION OF NIKKI GOOCH AND JEAN SUGDEN AS RESIDENT MEMBERS.** Callum Knowles and Lisa Lovelidge proposed that Jean Sugden and Nikki Gooch join the Kiln Field Sub-Committee as resident members. As Nikki Gooch was absent it was agreed to defer her co-option until she was present at the next meeting.
- 3. INTRODUCTION TO TRACY BURDETT FROM THE SCHOOLS TRUST.** Callum Knowles welcomed Tracy Burdett from the Schools Trust to the meeting and gave her a brief introduction on the history and future plans for Kiln Field. The Schools Trust would take a consultative role and as Kent Wildlife Trust put proposals forward, things could be constructed around it and children from both the infants and the juniors would be included. It would be like having a living classroom. It would be good for the children to get involved and take ownership of the countryside and to learn about wildlife and form a bond with green spaces. Tracy said she attends TST meetings at Homewood and will try to bring Homewood in on this. Callum advised Tracy that the Committee meets once every 6 weeks and suggested that a meeting on site would be a good idea.
- 4. MINUTES OF MEETING ON MARCH 18<sup>TH</sup>.** The minutes of the last meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> March were agreed.
- 5. MATTERS ARISING.** None.
- 6. UPDATE ON NATURE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN.** An email had been received from Camilla Blackburn at KWT advising that she was working on the first draft of the management plan but had put forward some points for discussion at the meeting:

- A tree safety survey needs to be carried out as a priority. This will be included with the Tree Management Plan.

**Action:** TTC will organise.

- The pond will need some clearance work if it is to retain its function as a balancing pond, as great crested newts are known to have used this pond and it was recommended that an eDNA test is carried out between 15<sup>th</sup> April and 30<sup>th</sup> June. KWT could provide us with a quote for this work. Silt from the pond would have to be disposed of in an appropriate way. KWT would like to know what Planning Conditions were put on the site in relation to the Nature Reserve as the silt could be spread on to the grassland. Callum advised that there is a Covenant on the Lease that the land is solely used for recreational use and in the Master Lease that there is a suitable Management Plan. There is a Covenant on a water pipe inside the gate to Kiln Field and the land cannot be built on.

**Action:** To obtain some quotes from contractors for the pond clearance work.

- There are some invasive species present on the site, notably Himalayan balsam.

**Action:** The maintenance team at TTC will remove the Himalayan balsam from the site.

- KWT asked for confirmation of how the main grassland/meadow is being managed as a hay cut is needed. Advised the maintenance team cut the grass once a year (in October) and the pathways every 3-4 weeks.
- KWT asked how the hedgerows were being managed. The hedges either side of the gate are maintained by the residents and the rest of the hedges on the righthand side are maintained by the maintenance team.

KWT advised they had found 18 early purple orchids spikes on the southern boundary.

- 7. UPDATE ON GRANT FUNDING:** Callum Knowles reported that he can give grants from Ashford Borough Council and that there are larger grants to go for. Guy Day has given a couple of thousand pounds. There is about £800

from the Redrow Section 106 Agreement and Callum will give £500. Vincent Ganley had made an application for a Sussex Lund grant but there was no update on this.

- 8. WILDFLOWERS ON VERGES.** It was agreed that the verges to be left to wildflowers should be identified, signs should be put up as soon as possible so that people know why the verges have been left and there should be a press release advising the public. It was decided that the first selection of verges would be between the football field in the Appledore Road, down the left hand side to the Belgar trackway and also the verge at the back of St. Michael's Recreation Ground. It was suggested to trim the edges of the verges so they looked tidier and it was clear they were being managed. The verges in front of people's houses would not be included. If the maintenance team have any problems or suggestions they should let us know.

**Action:** The maintenance team would start this as soon as possible and signs would be ordered and placed on the verges as soon as possible.

- 9. WILDLIFE AND PLANT LIFE LISTS PROVIDED BY JON BURNELL.** Jon Burnell's Wildlife and Plant Life Lists were shown to the group. Jon has many more species to add and lots of photos and he will email these to the Town Hall for circulation to the group.

**Action:** Lesley to email the current Wildlife and Plant Life list to the group. Jon Burnell will continue to send his lists through and will email his wildlife photographs too.

- 10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.** Jean Sugden asked what her role was to be in the group. Callum suggested that Jean should bring her knowledge to the group.

It was suggested that we enquire about adoption of the land at the entrance to Chalk Avenue on the righthand side to leave to nature and to create a wildlife area. Callum asked if TTC could email Mike Hill at KCC to enquire whether this would be possible.

**Action:** Lesley would send an email to Mike Hill at KCC.

- 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:** Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May at 5.30 p.m.