

TENTERDEN TOWN COUNCIL – EXTERNAL COMMITTEE
KILN FIELDS RESERVE AND WILDLIFE VENUES SUB-COMMITTEE
NOTES OF A SITE MEETING HELD ON 26.11.20

PRESENT:

Town Councillors: Mrs. Jean Curteis (Chair).

Non-Councillors: Roger Finniss.

Tenterden Town Council Staff: Phil Burgess and Lesley Owers taking notes.

Due to the meeting being inquorate the two sub-committee members could only make suggestions to go the next External meeting.

- 1. ELECTION OF CHAIR.** Jean Curteis was voted as chair.
- 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Apologies for absence were received from Dave Bourner, Peter Friend Dr. Lisa Lovelidge and Mrs. Kate Walder.
- 3. MINUTES OF SITE MEETING HELD ON 7TH AUGUST 2020.** The minutes of the site meeting held on 7th August were agreed.
- 4. MATTERS ARISING.** When the contractors arrived on site to install the pond dipping platform we received a call to say that the platform needed to go parallel rather than perpendicular to the bank as there was a very thick (750mm) layer of silt further out in the pond. The contractors then encountered more problems with the stability of the bank and had to move the platform further in by a metre. The result is a very solid platform and a shallower fall on the disabled friendly path to the pond but we will need to organise an extension to the platform to accommodate dryer weather when the water level is low. Although this represents more expense, the platform (which will be in a T shape) will accommodate more children at the water's edge.
ACTION: To request a quotation from Marmax for the extension and a further quotation from the contractor for the installation.
- 5. UPDATE FROM MAINTENANCE TEAM ON WORK CARRIED OUT SINCE LAST MEETING.**
 - 6 Hazel trees have been planted in the woodland to establish a coppice area for interest for the children.
 - The meadow has been mown and cuttings collected, leaving the perimeter area for wildlife cover which will be mown again in the Spring.
 - The sliding gates on the culverts have been installed.

- All mature plants have been moved out of the Millennium Gardens to the maintenance site at St. Michael's, ready for planting in Kiln Field in the Spring.
- The Himalayan Balsam has been eradicated for this year and the team have planted Dogwood and Dog Rose in the dead hedge near to the northern border along the footpath near the bridge and footpath leading to Sandy Lane.
- When permission is granted to cut down the Oak Tree, that wood will be used to make a bridge over the stream from the Ancient Woodland.

6. APPROVAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF 8 ALDER TREES FROM THE WOODLAND TRUST AS RECOMMENDED BY FRANKIE WOODGATE.

Frankie Woodgate carried out tree safety clearance of the woodland. She felled any leaning, windblown or diseased trees, thinned through the overstorey in order to allow more light to the woodland floor and to create dappled shade along the stream edge and reinstated the coppice species along the boundary bank that borders the field edge. Frankie suggested that we buy 8 Alder trees from the Woodland Trust to replace some of the trees which had to be removed. The cost of one tree is £8.95 and a pack of 16 trees is only £35.95. Jean and Roger made a suggestion that the other 8 trees could be planted at St. Michael's Recreation Ground.

ACTION: To take to the next External meeting for approval.

7. APPROVAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF 2 TRAIL CAMERAS TO ENABLE US TO RECORD ANY ANIMAL ACTIVITY IN THE WOODLAND/POND AREA AS SUGGESTED BY FRANKIE WOODGATE AND RECOMMENDED BY DAVE BOURNER.

Frankie suggested that trail cameras (movement activated) would be a good idea so that we can record any wildlife visits to the woodland. Dave Bourner suggested that we should purchase 2 cameras. Jean and Roger agreed that this would be a good idea.

ACTION: To take to the next External meeting for approval.

8. APPROVAL FOR THE PURCHASE OF 4 BAT BOXES FOR INSTALLATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SO AS TO ACCUSTOM ANY BATS PRESENT IN THE AREA AS RECOMMENDED BY PETE ETHERIDGE.

Pete Etheridge advised that Kiln Field has a lot of potential to become an important unlit foraging area for bats within the local area. Installation of bat boxes to provide further roosting opportunities, as well as implementing the recommendations of the Management Plan, should result in an increase in bat diversity & abundance in the future. Pete has suggested that we purchase 1 woodcrete box, as they last a lot longer than normal wooden boxes at a cost of £76.02 and as many of the Harlech Woodstone Bat Boxes as our budget would allow. The sub-committee suggested the initial purchase of 2 of these boxes at a cost of £17.48 each. We already have 1 bat box which Roger Finniss kindly made and donated to Kiln Field.

ACTION: To take to the next External meeting for approval.

- 9. DECISION ON THE TYPE AND COLOUR OF AGGREGATE TO BE USED ON THE FOOTPATH DOWN TO THE POND DIPPING PLATFORM.** A decision on the type and colour of aggregate to be used on the footpath down to the pond dipping platform had to be made at the site meeting as Ray Sargent was already in the process of excavation. There would be an MOT base, then a tarmac course and then the finishing coat would go on top. Jean, Roger and Dave Bourner (who had looked at the samples prior to the meeting) made the decision that we needed a bonded gravel (porous) and they chose Daltex Amber Gold for the colour, which would blend in well with the surroundings at Kiln Field.
- 10. APPROVAL FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A FIRM, CLEAN, WHEELCHAIR FRIENDLY ENTRANCE ALONGSIDE THE EXISTING 5 BAR GATE, AT THE ENTRANCE TO KILN FIELD.** It was suggested that the 5 bar gate would not need replacing but that the entrance alongside the gate would need to be widened and block paved to ensure that we have a smooth entrance for wheelchair and mobility scooter access. We have received permission from the immediate neighbours to carry out this work which the maintenance team will commence as soon as possible.
- 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.** None.
- 12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.** To be advised.

SUGGESTIONS TO THE EXTERNAL COMMITTEE:

- (i) To agree to the purchase of 16 Alder trees - 8 to replace the trees which were removed by Frankie Woodgate whilst clearing the woodland at Kiln Field and 8 to plant at St. Michael's Recreation Ground - £35.95.
- (ii) To agree to the purchase of 2 trail cameras to enable the recording of any animal activity in the woodland/pond area - £81.32.
- (iii) To agree to the purchase of 3 bat boxes for installation as soon as possible - £110.98.
- (iv) To agree to the quotation received from Marmax for the recycled materials for the extension of the pond dipping platform - £1492.83.
- (v) To agree to the quotation from Holwood Ground Maintenance for the installation of the extension of the pond dipping platform - £1260.

Total Expenditure: £2981.08