

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee Meeting held on
Monday 3rd September 2018 at 7pm in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Okehampton**

Committee Members Present: Councillor Mrs C Marsh (Chairman)
Councillor Mrs J Carpenter (Town Mayor)
Councillor T Leech (Chairman, Planning)
Councillor J Yelland (Chairman, Policy & Resources)
Councillor R Rush
Councillor B Tolley
Councillor Miss C Holt

Other Members Present: Councillor T Cummings
Councillor P Vachon
Councillor Mrs V Cushing

In Attendance: Mrs E James (Town Clerk)
Tom Hills

		Action
267	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies were presented on behalf of Cllrs Ireland, Goffey, Weekes and Parkins	
268	<u>Deferment of Business</u> – None	
269	<u>Visiting Speaker</u> – Tom Hills addressed the Committee about antisocial behaviour, which was generally caused by less than 1% of the young population, and possible ways of working with them to combat the issues. These included the installation of CCTV cameras and consultation with young people to ascertain the type of facilities they would like. Suggestions such as expressive art frames which could be painted over on a regular basis, scratching posts or stones and climbing equipment aimed at those who enjoyed extreme sports. Cllr Marsh brought to the attention of the Committee a number of letters from the primary school children that had been passed to her by the Mayor of WDBC.	
270	<u>Graffiti</u> – This item of business was brought forward to enable discussion whilst Mr Hills was still present. An email received from a member of the public requesting provision in the town for an area in which ‘spray art’ could be practised was read out. Possible locations were discussed as was the necessity to include other local groups, including the College within any further discussions. It was suggested, and agreed, that this issue would be better discussed at the Okehampton Matters meetings which would include the police and other groups.	Cllr Leech
271	<u>Members’ Questions</u> - None	
272	<u>Minutes</u> - The minutes of the Parks Committee meeting held on 18 th June 2018 were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded Cllr Leech.	

273	<u>Matters Arising</u> –	
273.1	<u>Simmons Park Car Parking Charges</u> – To be progressed	Clerk
273.2	<u>Jubilee Bridge</u> – Noted that decoration work was complete.	
273.3	<u>Putting Green</u> – New flags had been received and purchase of a feather type sign was to be progressed for next spring. Cllr Vachon to advise on the design etc.	Cllr Vachon/ Clerk
273.4	<u>Sports Track Proposal</u> – The Clerk reported that a response had been received from the appointed Charity specialist and a WG meeting was to be arranged.	Clerk
273.5	<u>Link Road, Grass Verge Maintenance</u> – The grant application had been approved at 50% of quoted cost and had been turned down as it would have resulted in additional costs to the Council for assets which were not its responsibility.	
273.6	<u>Play Area Floor Surfacing</u> – Decision on the bid for grant funding from Awards for All was awaited.	
273.7	<u>Silent Soldier</u> – The silhouettes had been delivered and it was noted that permission had been received to site them at Fairplace and the Station. It was agreed that the ‘Tommy’ would be located at Fairplace and the ‘Nurse’ at the Station.	Clerk
273.8	<u>Waste Bin in the vicinity of the School</u> – The committee noted that a bin had been purchased and sited near the school crossing as agreed. A further email from a member of the public requesting that a bin be sited in an alternative area near the school was considered. It was agreed that no further action would be taken at this time as there was no evidence of issues in this area.	
273.9	<u>Compostable Dog Excrement Bags</u> – Cllr Rush reiterated previous information presented to the Committee regards costs etc. It was agreed that this be discussed with the new Park-Keeper in due course.	Clerk
273.10	<u>Bowling Club Agreement</u> – A letter and proposed revised agreement was sent to the Club and a response is awaited. To be followed up.	Clerk
274	<u>Bookings</u> – The Committee noted the inflatable theme park event by Bounce Around South West had been cancelled in the interest of public welfare as the risk assessment related to a different venue. An invitation to resubmit the paperwork had been declined. On the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded by Cllr Leech, it was RESOLVED to submit a letter to the Okehampton Times about venue bookings generally.	Clerk
275	<u>Vandalism and Anti-Social Behaviour</u> – Several incidents had been reported in recent months including criminal damage to a parking meter in Simmons Park and graffiti (<i>also see min ref 270 above</i>). Concern raised by a member of the public thinking of purchasing a property in the vicinity had been received.	
276	<u>Noticeboards</u> – In the absence of Cllr Ireland the item was deferred to the next meeting.	Clerk
277	<u>Japanese Knotweed</u> – Known locations listed by the previous Park-	

- Keeper, David Whitfield, were noted by the Committee and an additional area, in the vicinity of Knowle Quarry was noted. A copy of the list to be forwarded to the new Park-Keeper for his information and action as necessary. On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Leech, Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council to be notified of areas within their boundary. Clerk
- 278** **Sculpture** – On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Cummings it was **RESOLVED** to invite the member of public who submitted the proposal to the next meeting of the Committee and to request that he bring a sample of his work. Clerk
- 279** **All Saints Cemetery** – On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Yelland, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the request for coloured roses on a headstone. Clerk
- 280** **Water Extraction Licence Inspection Visit** – The report received from the environment agency was noted.
- 281** **Simmons Park Parking Permits** – On the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded by Cllr Holt, it was **RESOLVED** to permit the issuing of shorter term permits at the daily parking rate on request.
- 282** **Allotments** – Cllr Marsh declared an interest in this item of business. Correspondence from Okehampton United Charities regarding costs for the running of the allotments was noted.
- 283** **Payment of Invoices** –
- 283.1** On the proposition of Cllr Holt, seconded Cllr Carpenter, the schedule of payments was **APPROVED**.
- 283.2** On the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded Cllr Carpenter, the schedule of payments made during August to prevent late payment charges being incurred was **APPROVED**.
- 284** **Urgent Items** – Cllr Marsh brought the following items to the attention of the Committee:
- RoSPA play equipment inspection training required by the Park-Keeper
 - Report to the Clerk of a member of the public attacked by a dog in Simmons Park on 31st August.
- 285** **Members' Reports and Reminder for Agenda Items** -
- (i) **Children's Centre** (Cllr Leech) – No update to report.
 - (ii) **North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Group** (Cllr Ireland) – No report
 - (iii) **Okehampton Community Archive** (Cllr Holt) – The last meeting was on 18th July, the next was scheduled for 12th September. 2 coffee mornings had been held since the last report and the tent at Okehampton Show had been well attended.
 - (iv) **Okehampton Community Recreation Association (OCRA)** (Cllr Tolley) – Several meetings had been held since the last report, and some reorganisation of the association was in progress.
 - (v) **Parklands Leisure Centre Users Group** (Cllr's Leech) – Some

issues had been resolved; exercise equipment and air conditioning upstairs had been replaced. There was still an issue with the pool floor which was scheduled to be repaired during September and the lift had been repaired. A hoist for pool access was on site and installation was awaited.

A motion to suspend Standing Order 3 (z) to permit extension of the meeting was proposed by Cllr Marsh, seconded Cllr Leech, and agreed.

(vi) **Youth Issues/Room 13** (Cllr Marsh) – No report

(vii) **Twining Association** (Cllr Parkins) – No report

PART TWO ITEMS

It was **RESOLVED** that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it involves the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information. Proposed by Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Leech.

	Action
286 <u>WDBC/Fusion Lease Agreement</u> – It was understood by the Clerk that progress was now being made.	
287 <u>Transfer of Assets</u> – Cllr Marsh and the Clerk had met with a WDBC Officer and it was anticipated that the transfer could be complete by the end of 2018, although another of the assets had been removed from the package by WDBC.	
288 <u>Staffing Update</u> – Mr J McGahey had been appointed as the new Park-Keeper and was due to take up the position on 10 th September. It was agreed that he be invited to the next Committee meeting to meet Councillors. The Clerk advised that a meeting of the Personnel Committee would be called within the next few weeks to discuss other issues.	
289 <u>Urgent Item</u> – Cllr Marsh advised that an offer to purchase wood in the parks compound had been accepted.	

On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded Cllr Yelland, it was **RESOLVED** to exit Part Two and ratify decisions made in Part Two.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Chairman