

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee Meeting held on
Monday 24th July 2017 at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Okehampton**

Committee Members Present: Councillor Mrs C Marsh (Chairman)
Councillor Miss C Holt (Vice Chairman)
Councillor Dr M Ireland
Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Town Mayor)
Councillor T Leech (Chairman, Planning)
Councillor Mrs J Yelland (Vice Chairman, Policy & Resources)
Councillor B Tolley
Councillor D Weekes (Chairman, Property)

Other Members Present: Councillor Mrs V Cushing
Councillor P Vachon

In Attendance: 2 members of the public
E James (Town Clerk)

		Action
120	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies were presented on behalf of Cllr Mrs J Carpenter	
121	<u>Deferment of Business</u> – Members of the public were invited to speak about the Simmons Park sports pitch proposal and an overview of the project was presented, following which questions were posed by the Councillors. <i>(Members of the public left the meeting)</i>	
122	<u>Members' Questions</u> - None	
123	<u>Minutes</u> - An amendment to Min Ref 42.2 the wording <i>'is a subsidiary of Rowland and Anderton - they'</i> being removed, following which the minutes of the Parks Committee meeting held on 5 th June 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded Cllr Yelland.	
124	<u>Matters Arising</u> -	
124.1	CCTV – It was unknown if the system was operating. Further investigation required by Cllr Marsh, David Whitfield, Park-Keeper and Town Clerk. The Police had been informed of an incident whereby dog poo bags had been thrown around, the offenders had been identified and spoken to.	Cllr Marsh, D Whitfield, Clerk
125	<u>Park Bookings</u> - The Committee had received requests for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A request from Band and Bugles Durham Army Cadet Force to use the Park to play on Wednesday 30th August. The request had included the use of chairs for the players which would be located by Cllr Weekes. • A request from RSPB to set up a stand in the park to raise awareness of their conservation work. Date to be advised. • A request DNT Events Ltd to hold an Open Air Cinema event in the park on 9th August, 1800 hrs to 2300hrs. On the proposition of Cllr Weekes, seconded by Cllr Ireland, it was resolved to approve the request subject to the provision of all documentation, insurance, and necessary licences, they would provide their own toilet facilities and there would be a charge 	

	of £100 plus electricity costs. All requests were noted and approved by the Committee subject to provision of the usual insurance liability indemnities and documentation completed.	Clerk
126	<u>Booking Cancellation</u> – The cancellation of a booking in July by Funlands Fair was noted.	
127	<u>Exclusive Burial Rights Policy</u> – The policy, approved at Min Ref 43 on 5 th June 2017, was signed by Cllr's Marsh and Goffey.	Clerk
128	<u>Simmons Car Park Parking Charges</u> – Cllr Cushing suggested that an additional charge for 3 hours parking would be beneficial to those using Parklands and other local facilities. Following a discussion it was agreed that further investigation would be undertaken by Cllr Marsh, and the item included on the next agenda.	Cllr Marsh
129	<u>New Running Track/Football Field Proposal</u> – The proposal and presentation by members of the public earlier in the meeting were discussed. Concerns including long term sustainability, the impact on ecology, the aesthetic value of the park as a whole and the wide range of benefits arising from the natural capital of the site. On the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Leech, it was resolved that further information including a detailed Business Plan, a report on impact to the ecology of the area and the Council's concerns regarding the aesthetics of the proposal be requested.	Clerk
130	<u>Clapps Wood Boundary Maintenance</u> – Consideration was given to correspondence from a member of the public and on the proposition of Cllr Weekes, seconded by Cllr Goffey it was resolved that the following response be sent: i) Regular inspections were made of the trees and no issues had been raised. Any overhanging branches can be removed. ii) A fence can be erected by the member of public on his land.	Clerk
131	<u>Football Club, Maintenance of Grounds</u> – On the proposition of Cllr Goffey, seconded by Cllr Holt it was resolved to make a charge of £52.50, including fuel, to the Football Club, for each cut undertaken by the Town Council. An update from the Park-Keeper was read out by Cllr Marsh for information.	Clerk
132	<u>Members' Reports and Reminder for Agenda Items</u> - (i) Children's Centre (Cllr Leech) – Their 10 th birthday had been reached this month. DCC were again looking to re-let the contract, the existing one having only been in place for approx. 18 months. (ii) North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Group (Cllr Ireland) – The premises in George Street had been vacated. The group had been revising their hill first aid training requirements, were implementing new radio frequencies over the forthcoming year and now had one month off, their training season ending on 25 th July. (iii) Okehampton Community Archive (Cllr Ireland) – A meeting had been held on 20 th July, new boards are being populated with 'Years gone by' photos, the coffee mornings had been well supported,	

Cllr Carpenter had been passed tapes of previous events and a memorial donation in the region of £300 had been received.

- (iv) **Okehampton Community Recreation Association (OCRA)** (Cllr Tolley) – The AGM had been held on 19th July 2017 during which several persons had resigned, including the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, management trustees, and staff members, leaving just four Stakeholder Trustees. OCRA were working to fill the vacancies, an extraordinary meeting would be held asap and an emergency meeting had been arranged for 27th July.
- (v) **Parklands Leisure Centre Users Group** (Cllrs Leech & Marsh) - Cllr Leech reported that WDBC had not been proactive in becoming involved in the user group. A recent issue with the pool floor had been resolved.
- (vi) **Youth Issues/Room 13** (Cllr Marsh) – No report.

133 **Urgent Item** – Cllr Marsh reported on a recent act of vandalism behind Lidl. An ORIG meeting to be held when an offer to pay for the reinstatement of a Lidl CCTV camera covering the area. Cllr Goffey advised that Hatherleigh skate park had recently suffered a spate of vandalism, the graffiti markings being similar to those being discussed. This would be highlighted to the Police. Cllr Ireland reported that a length of wall at Ball Hill had also been pulled down recently.

Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Chairman