

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee Meeting held on
Monday 9th April 2018 at 7pm in the Council Chamber,
Town Hall, Okehampton**

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

Other Members Present: Councillor Mrs V Cushing
Councillor P Vachon
Councillor Mrs S Parkins

In Attendance: E James (Town Clerk)
5 Members of the Public

	Action
628 <u>Apologies for Absence</u> - Apologies were presented on behalf of Cllr's Cushing and Yelland.	
629 <u>Deferment of Business</u> – None	
630 <u>Members' Questions</u> - None	
631 <u>Minutes</u> - The minutes of the Parks Committee meeting held on 5 th February 2018 were APPROVED and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Cllr Carpenter, seconded Cllr Ireland.	
632 <u>Matters Arising</u> –	
632.1 <u>Simmons Park Car Parking Charges</u> – Most recent advice from WDBC, in contradiction of initial advice, was to obtain legal advice from them at a cost of approximately £180 to check the documentation. On the proposition of Cllr Goffey, seconded by Cllr Leech it was RESOLVED to obtain legal advice from WDBC as recommended and at a cost of approximately £180.	Clerk
632.2 <u>Jubilee Bridge</u> – Noted that redecoration work was anticipated to recommence in June.	
632.3 <u>Putting Green</u> – Score cards to be provided by the Town Council and flags to be repainted.	Clerk
On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Tolley, it was RESOLVED to suspend standing orders to allow members of the public to speak regarding the next item of business.	
633 <u>Sports Track Proposal</u> – Cllr's Weekes, Tolley and Marsh declared an interest and members of the public were invited to speak regarding this item of business which related to a proposal to provide a 3G football pitch and running track in part of Simmons Park.	

The benefits to Okehampton College, the football club and the community were explained by representatives from the College and football club, as were problems caused by members of the public walking across the football pitch. Phased plans to fence in the College and associated playing fields were explained to the Committee, being an Ofsted requirement.
(Cllr Parkins arrived)

Council Members posed questions and raised concerns; including the fencing off of areas of the park making them unusable by members of the community, the proposed height of the fence which would likely be around 3m, the potential effects on wildlife from lighting amongst others, and future cost implications.

More research regarding the potential effects on the ecology of the area was required. It was noted that no provision had been made for access by disabled persons to watch games, and that access to the area by other community groups needed further consideration.

Cllr Marsh advised that legal advice was being sought with regards to the land and its charitable status. A decision was deferred until this had been clarified.

(4 members of the public left the meeting)

On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Leech, it was **RESOLVED** to reinstate Standing Orders to allow the meeting to continue.

- 634** **Dog Excrement** – Cllr Rush reported upon the possible supply of compostable dog excrement bags by the Town Council. Further investigation to be undertaken for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee.
(A member of the public arrived)

Cllr Rush

Permission to site a dog waste bin on grassland near The Glen had been considered by Cornwall Housing Association and objected, the verge on the opposite side of the road having been suggested.

The Clerk advised that the Highways Officer had been asked to ascertain if the proposed location was suitable and a response was awaited.

Clerk

- 635** **Bequest to the Town Council** – The use of a sum of money willed to the Council had been confirmed that it could be ring-fenced and put towards a bandstand or something similar providing that a small memorial in remembrance be supplied.

Clerk

- 636** **Grass Verge Maintenance** – A request for assistance with the maintenance of grass verges along the Link Road had been received from the Highways Officer. Funding for this work could be applied for from the Highway Maintenance Community Enhancement Grant.

On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Marsh, it was **RESOLVED** to assist on an annual basis, providing that grant funding to cover the costs could be obtained.

Clerk

- 637** **Art UK's Sculpture Project** – On the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded by Cllr Goffey, it was **RESOLVED** 4 items be submitted for inclusion in the project: Bronze boy fishing, Bronze statue at the hospital, statue of Jim the Walker and Deer and Fawn in Simmons Park.

Clerk

638 **Mini Beast Day** – A suggestion had been made by a local parish council that a Mini Beast Day be held in Simmons Park in the summer, hosted by a professional who had been approached. Further information would be ascertained.

Cllr Goffey

639 **Members' Reports and Reminder for Agenda Items -**

- (i) **Children's Centre** (Cllr Leech) – No update had been received since a new manager had been appointed.
- (ii) **North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Group** (Cllr Ireland) – Life support training was continuing. In addition navigation training was complete and water rescue training was in progress. The group was working towards the Ten Tors event.
- (iii) **Okehampton Community Archive** (Cllr Holt) – Cllr Holt reported that 2 successful coffee mornings had been held and it was hoped to have a larger tent at Okehampton Show this year.
- (iv) **Okehampton Community Recreation Association (OCRA)** (Cllr Tolley) – A Trustees Meeting and an Extraordinary General Meeting had been held and it was agreed that OCRA would change status from an unincorporated charity to a foundation model charitable incorporated organisation (CIO).
- (v) **Parklands Leisure Centre Users Group** (Cllr's Leech & Marsh) – Both Cllr's had missed the last meeting, but issues had been reported by users including the pool floor and the standard of cleaning. The turnstile's had been installed, there was only 1 toilet (male) in the café area; ladies had to go into the main centre.

Room was being made for a cabinet that the Putting Club could use to display cups and trophies in.
- (vi) **Youth Issues/Room 13** (Cllr Marsh) – It was hoped that a skateboard/bike group would convene.

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 Ireland, seconded by Cllr Leech.

640 **WDBC/Fusion Lease Agreement** – The agreement was being progressed by Solicitors.

641 **Transfer of Assets** – The transfer was being progressed by Solicitors.

642 **Simmons Park Car Parking Permit** – Full payment in respect of a permit issued by others had been received as had an apology.

Action

On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded Cllr Goffey, it was **RESOLVED** to exit Part Two. The meeting closed at 8.23pm.

Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Chairman