

**Minutes of Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee Meeting held on  
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> October 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 D Weeks (Chairman, Property)  
Councillor R Rush  
Councillor B Tolley  
Councillor Miss C Holt  
Councillor Dr M Ireland  
Councillor Mrs S Parkins

**Other Members Present:** Councillor P Vachon  
Councillor Mrs V Cushing

**In Attendance:** 1 member of the public  
Mr J McGahey (Park-Keeper)  
Mrs E James (Town Clerk)

	<b>Action</b>
401 <b><u>Apologies for Absence</u></b> - Apologies were presented on behalf of Cllrs Goffey and Cummings	
402 <b><u>Deferment of Business</u></b> – None	
403 <b><u>Mr McGahey, Park-Keeper</u></b> – James McGahey, the recently appointed Park-Keeper was welcomed, introduced and asked to present any plans he may have at this time. He explained that one of his priorities over the winter was the renovation of the benches, using Oak from previously fallen/felled trees within the park where possible.  Other suggestions brought to the Council were the provision of a graffiti wall in one of the shelters on a trial basis, asking the community for suggestions of what they would like to see in the park, nature boards and trails in the woods and park.  Mr McGahey to work on the proposals for future consideration of the Committee and was thanked for his ideas and attending the meeting.	J McGahey
404 <b><u>Members' Questions</u></b> – Cllr Weekes asked if the fair, who were currently using Simmons Park, could be asked to leave room outside the college for vehicles to turn. Mr McGahey agreed to investigate.  Cllr Weekes passed the Clerk a knitted 'Town Cryer' figure which had been knitted for and donated to the Council by a local lady, Jane. The item would be displayed in reception.	J McGahey  Clerk
405 <b><u>Minutes</u></b> - The minutes of the Parks Committee meeting held on 18 <sup>th</sup> June 2018 had previously been approved. Minutes of the meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2018 were <b>APPROVED</b> and signed by the Chairman on the proposition of Cllr Ireland, seconded Cllr Yelland.	

406	<b>Matters Arising –</b>	
406.1	<u>Simmons Park Car Parking Charges</u> – The Clerk advised that a notice had to be published in the OkeTimes, the cost of this being £168.30 +VAT. On the proposition of Cllr Leech, seconded by Cllr Ireland it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to continue with the amendment to the parking charges.	Clerk
406.2	<u>Putting Green</u> – Cllr Vachon and the Clerk would progress provision of a sign for the Green over the winter. Cllr Marsh advised that the members were pleased with the new flags.	Cllr Vachon/ Clerk
406.3	<u>Sports Track Proposal</u> – There was no update to report	
406.4	<u>Play Area Floor Surfacing</u> – The bid for grant funding from Awards for All had been rejected. Resurfacing of the area to be progressed and included on the next agenda.	J McGahey/ Clerk
406.5	<u>Compostable Dog Excrement Bags</u> – A discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of using these or similar bags. To be further discussed.	
406.6	<u>Bowling Club Agreement</u> – A verbal response had been received indicating that the club would contribute to the costs of maintaining or replacing the pump in the future and suggesting that it be removed over the winter. Removal of the pump to be facilitated by J McGahey. On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Weekes, it was <b>RESOLVED</b> the Clerk write to the club suggesting a 50/50 split of any future costs.	J McGahey  Clerk
406.7	<u>Sculpture</u> – Cllr Marsh reported on a recent presentation by the artist. Following consideration regarding several aspects of the design, on the proposition of Cllr Parkins, seconded Cllr Ireland (2 against, 1 abstention) it was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the proposal be taken forward for further discussion, particularly in respect of the theme and location.	Clerk
407	<b>Bookings</b> – The Committee noted that the Fair was in Simmons Park between 14 <sup>th</sup> to 21 <sup>st</sup> October.	
408	<b>Simmons Park Car Parking, ‘Free after 3’</b> – On the proposition of Cllr Weekes, seconded by Cllr Leech, it was <b>RESOLVED</b> that parking in Simmons Park would be ‘free after 3’ as in previous years throughout December.	Clerk
409	<b>Clapps Wood Footpath Closure</b> – The Committee noted that the footpath through the woods would be closed to the public for 24 hours commencing at 0800 on Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2018.	J McGahey
410	<b>Noticeboards</b> – Cllr Ireland to suggest suitable locations for a noticeboard for discussion at the next meeting.	Cllr Ireland
411	<b>Waste Bin</b> – It was agreed to move this item of business to Part 2	
412	<b>Apprenticeship</b> – On the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded by Cllr Ireland, it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to progress with investigation into offering an apprenticeship in the Park.	Clerk
413	<b>Payment of Invoices</b> – It was agreed to move this item to Part 2.	

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

- (i) **Children's Centre** (Cllr Leech) – A list of services currently provided by the Centre was awaited by Cllr Leech.
- (ii) **North Dartmoor Search & Rescue Group** (Cllr Ireland) – A Ten Tors Managers Day had recently been held which was reported as being excellent.
- (iii) **Okehampton Community Archive** (Cllr Holt) – The last meeting was on 12<sup>th</sup> September, the next scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> November. Okehampton Show had been busy and consideration would be given to the possibility of needing more space next year. A coffee morning had been held on 15<sup>th</sup> September, another was planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> November.
- (iv) **Okehampton Community Recreation Association (OCRA)** (Cllr Tolley) – The next meeting was due to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> October.
- (v) **Parklands Leisure Centre Users Group** (Cllr's Leech) – The newly installed DDA hoist had been tested and work to install a new fitness suit upstairs was in progress.
- (vi) **Youth Issues/Room 13** (Cllr Marsh) – No report
- (vii) **Twinning Association** (Cllr Parkins) – Cllr Parkins reported that a recent event held had been very successful and had been attended by Cllrs Marsh and Carpenter.

Mr McGahey and the member of public left the meeting.

**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.

**415** **Waste Bin** – The reasons for the request that the Council take over the emptying of the bin was explained. On the proposition of Cllr Yelland, seconded by Cllr Carpenter (3 against, 1 abstention) it was **RESOLVED** that the Council would pay for it to be emptied.

**416** **Payment of Invoices** – A query was raised about the first item on the list of BACS payments which was explained by the Clerk. An invoice for payment upfront of 50% of the cost of the supply and installation of the new heating boiler was discussed.

On the proposition of Cllr Weekes, seconded by Cllr Marsh (1 abstention), it was **RESOLVED** to approve payment of the schedule.

**417** **All Saints Cemetery Burial Reservation** – A request for the reservation of a burial plot (Row 11, Plot 6) to the left of the grave of Margaret Bricklebank had been received, along with a cheque for 50% of the fees.

On the proposition of Cllr Marsh, seconded by Cllr Leech, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the reservation of the burial plot subject to

**Action**

confirmation from the Vicar that the requested plot is suitable and providing the remainder of the fee was paid by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018.

Clerk

**418** WDBC/Fusion Lease Agreement – No update to report.

**419** Transfer of Assets – An update received from WDBC was read out by the Clerk and it was noted that approval for the transfer would be considered by a meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

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 8.05pm.

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**Councillor Mrs C Marsh**  
**Chairman**

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