

Minutes of a Meeting of the Okehampton Town Council Parks Committee
held on Monday 27 January 2014 at 7.00 pm
in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Okehampton

Committee Members Present: Councillor Mrs C Marsh (Chair)
Councillor Dr M Ireland (Vice Chair)
Councillor K Ball
Councillor P Vachon
Councillor D Weekes
Councillor M Davies (Town Mayor)
Councillor A Leech (Chair, Planning)
Councillor Mrs M McDonald (Chair, P & R)
Councillor Mrs J Goffey (Chair, Property)

Other Members Present: Councillor B Stephens
Councillor Mrs J Yelland

In Attendance: Mrs J Gillard (Deputising for Town Clerk)
Mr D Whitfield (Park Keeper)

407. Apologies for Absence - Apologies for absence were presented on behalf of Councillor T Cummings.

408. Deferment of Business (for comment by the public) - There were two members of the public present. Mr R Flexman advised Councillors that the dog litter bin in Fatherford Lane was regularly overflowing and suggested an additional bin is required at the same site. The Chair advised Mr Flexman the issue would be added to the agenda for discussion later in the meeting.

409. Members' Questions - There were no questions from Members regarding the workings of the Committee.

410. Minutes - The minutes of the Parks Committee meetings held on Monday 4 November 2013 and Monday 2 December 2013 were approved and signed by the Chair on the proposition of Councillor M Ireland and seconded by Councillor M Davies.

411. Urgent Item - The Acting Clerk advised that a claims notification form had been received from Russell Worth Personal Injury Solicitors in connection with an accident to one of their clients in Simmons Park on 31 December. The Council's Insurers had been advised and the matter is now in their hands for progression.

412. Matters Arising -

412.1 Notice Board - No update.

412.2 Sophia Simmons' Memorial - The Acting Clerk advised up-to-date photographs had been forwarded to the restorers McNeilage Conservation and a response was awaited from them on the options for the way forward.

- 412.3 Lighting Park/Leisure Centre** - The Park-keeper advised that all lights were now in working order.
- 412.4 Complaint Re Car Park (Minute 290)** - The Chair advised she had met with representatives from the Fair and they have agreed to, in future, marshal the area that was causing safety concerns.
- 412.5 Park Bookings** - Councillors resolved to accept the request for booking of a charity dog show in Simmons Park on 5 July 2014.
- 413. Open Spaces** - The Chair requested this be discussed in Part Two of the meeting. All Councillors in favour.
- 414. Waste Bins and Public Use** - The Park-keeper advised that local residents were using the park litter bins for household waste. It was resolved that signs be placed on the bins advising they were not for household waste and letters be sent to the relevant households. Proposed by Councillor K Ball and seconded by Councillor Mrs J Goffey. All Councillors in favour.
- 415. Tennis Court Agreement** - The Chair advised that West Devon Borough Council wanted to terminate the current agreement between the College, West Devon Borough Council, Tennis Club and Okehampton Town Council. The Chair explained some of the suggested options for the way forward discussed by the Tennis Club. It was resolved these ideas required more detailed consideration. On the proposal of Councillor M Davies and seconded by Councillor A Leech it was agreed these suggestions be circulated to Councillors prior to the next Parks Committee meeting and the item be revisited at the next meeting.
- 416. Advertising in Park** - (Personal interest declared by Councillor D Weekes). The Chair advised there was a large Pizza Express sign on the outside of the football club building wall. She felt it was not in keeping with the park surroundings and it was agreed that Councillors should view the signage prior to the next Parks Committee meeting when a decision would be made as to whether a request for its removal was appropriate.
- 417. West Devon Strategic Leisure Review** - The Chair advised West Devon were now going down the soft marketing route to see who may be interested in the ongoing running of the Centre.
- 418. Alcohol Free Zones** - The Chair advised a request had been received to review the boundary of this area from a resident. It was agreed to investigate the costings and procedures required to make any amendments and revisit at the next Parks meeting.
- 419. Dog Bins** - The issue of dog fouling and emptying of bins was acknowledged by all Councillors. It was agreed the Acting Clerk refer to West Devon Borough Council to confirm the current emptying arrangements and also to ascertain whether these arrangements were being adhered to by the contractors.

420. Members' Reports -

- (i) Parklands Leisure Centre Users' Group - Chair advised meeting was held last week where the majority of the time was spent looking at cleanliness of various areas, the providers being fully aware of the issues.
- (ii) Okehampton Community Recreation Association - Councillor Mrs C Marsh advised the official opening was 8 February.
- (iii) North Dartmoor Search and Rescue Group - Councillor M Ireland advised a meeting was being held to discuss the potential new Ten Tors routes which were being changed to reduce the number of river crossings.
- (iv) Tennis Court Management - discussed earlier in meeting.
- (v) Okehampton Community Archive - Councillor P Vachon advised the AGM was held last week, the officers re-elected. There is a need to fund-raise for the group and they are requesting that other groups from the community contact them in order the First World War commemoration in the town be co-ordinated.
- (vi) Carnival Committee - no report, AGM due to take place in February.
- (vii) Youth Issues/Room 13 - no report.
- (viii) Children's Centre - Councillor A Leech advised a meeting due 11 February.

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 items as they involve the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information. Proposed by Councillor Mrs M McDonald, seconded by Councillor M Ireland.

421. Open Spaces

Meeting closed 8.43 pm.

Councillor Mrs C Marsh
Chairman